



# The Hemel Hempstead School

## News

27 February 2009

[www.hhs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hhs.herts.sch.uk)

### HeadLines

I have been privileged to see our students in glorious mass performance mode twice this week. And I found myself making a Kate Winslett style speech yesterday afternoon at the Hertfordshire Development Centre at Stevenage thanking everyone who had contributed to the success of our Year 7s who performed a brilliant piece of Drama/Dance /Music to 200 or so delegates at the county's Gifted and Talented Conference. Arriving just after 10 am and working with Year 6s from Aboyne Lodge, St Albans, by 1.30 pm they had a half hour presentation which could have graced any stage in the country. The inspirational work of theatre company Doyl'y Arts who led our summer schools, ably aided and abetted by our own Head of Dance, Sharon Sepala, combined to produce a piece of the highest quality much applauded by the large audience who were amazed that so much had been achieved from scratch in such a short space of time.

Miss Sepala is the common denominator with the other event to make me proud this week. On Monday, we competed at The Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage for the Rock Challenge honours this year. One hundred of our students danced their hearts out with the issue based piece: 'It doesn't have to happen' about the carrying of knives and the tragedy that ensues. Although they won a number of awards, we came third overall. In a completely unbiased way, I say 'We was robbed' but I have to commend Miss Sepala and Miss Billinge and the team for their exceptional efforts and the beauty and skill of their dance. It was super and deserving of a place in the national finals.

You will be pleased to hear that this week we received the final 'green light' for our second specialism plans. I had a letter from the DCSF telling me that we have Science and Mathematics AND Gifted and Talented as our additional specialisms and that the extra funding will appear in April. Good news indeed.

Finally, may I commend our Sports Leaders: our older students who have worked so wonderfully with younger students from primary schools on various activities. They have shown maturity and expertise in doing this and have shown themselves and the school in the best possible light whilst helping the children to enjoy their sport. Well done to all our students who think of others and help them to grow into responsible citizens of the world!

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**

### HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATION

#### *For Excellent Work in English*

Lucy Bridger 8A, Nicola Kennett 8N.

#### *For Excellence in Sports Leadership*

Asa Foster 10F, Alexandra Hatt 10L, Alexander Dukes 10L, Alexander Blake 10f, Barnaby Brown 10N, Jake Territt 10C, Jake Bannister 10A, Luke Wartnaby-Lamb 10P, James Tavener 10P, Graham Green 10P, Adam King 10C, David Lloyd 10N, Courtney Hart 10N, Rachael Tiller 11P, Tyler Foster 11F, Ricky Khan 11P, Douglas Rutherford 11C, Matthew Church 11P, Joshua Harris 11C, James Brown 11L, Melissa Hardy 10C, Rebecca Armorgie 10A, Rebecca Wood 10A, Rebecca Walsham 10L, Holly Ashburner 10F, Philippa Hill 10A, Evangeline Baker 10F, Ellen Walkley 10A, Denika Roberts 10L, Naomi Messenger 10P, Yana Fawcett 10P, Polly Daniels 10C, Jessica Richards 10L, Amy Howard 10A, Bethany Doona 10L, Jade Dempsey 10C, Natalie Reid 10L.

### Dates for Your Diary

#### \*\*\*Blue Week\*\*\*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar** Year 11 German Seminar  
Year 12 Geography Field Trip Meeting, 5 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar** Year 11 Art exam preparation trip to London
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** World Maths Day  
Year 11 Extra-curricular Art trip to The National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar** House Book Challenge for World Book Day,  
Library at lunchtime  
Comic Relief 'X Factor' competition, 7 pm

#### \*\*\*Gold Week\*\*\*

- 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Mar** National Science Week
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mar** Year 11 French Seminar
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mar** Year 13 BTEC Variety Show
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mar** Year 11 Revision Evening
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mar** **House Science**  
Watford Palace Theatre touring production of  
'Lysistrata'

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Pullman, Rowling, Meyer, Paolini... Literature is surely enjoying a golden age, and perhaps never more so than in the world of young adults. We will be celebrating World Book Day next week with a number of activities throughout the school. Reading will be the theme of main school assemblies during the week. Year 7 and Year 8 students will get the chance to show off their knowledge of literature, win points for their House - and pit their wits against a surely invincible staff team - by taking part in our House Book Challenge on Thursday lunchtime in the library.

Staff will also be trying to outwit the students in 'The One I Love' competition, where students have to match the teacher to their favourite book. Students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will all receive a £1 book token, courtesy of the organisers of World Book Day, to buy one of the special World Book Day publications or put towards spending on a book of their choice.

The week promises to be a fun and informative way of celebrating reading. Do encourage everyone to take part!

*Miss R Akeroyd, Literacy Co-ordinator*

## Parking and Vehicles around the School Site

Parents are reminded that when visiting the school, picking up or dropping off students by car, they should **NOT** enter the school site (unless the student has a physical disability) and should **NOT STOP** or **PARK** near to either entrance (Heath Lane or Anchor Lane). Some of the local roads are narrow and consideration must be given to the residents and any emergency or delivery vehicles that may need to access the roads.

Students may be dropped off and collected from Beechfield Road, (taking care not to block residents' driveways), or the Sports Centre car park in Heath Lane. If everybody follows these guidelines then we should be able to ensure that the flow of traffic around the school is reasonable at all times, that all users can access the site effectively and, most importantly, that we are able to keep all our students safe. Many thanks.

**Vacancy: Laboratory Assistant**  
**H1 £7.22 per hour**  
**Monday – Friday, 3 to 5 pm, term time only**

We are looking for a reliable and conscientious person to assist our Laboratory Technician team. Duties will include washing glassware, putting away specialist equipment, ensuring that storage areas are secured and locked and cleaning laboratory surfaces after experiments. There will also be some administrative duties.

The ideal candidate will be someone with knowledge of the importance of Health and Safety. Some laboratory experience would be an advantage but is not essential.

Please apply via letter of application and Hertfordshire Support Staff Appointment and Person Specification forms, (available on our website) to Mrs S Cooper, Headteacher's PA.

Closing date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## World Maths Day – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Next Wednesday is World Maths Day. As a school we are taking part in this massive world event where students play against each other in mental arithmetic games. Each game lasts for just 60 seconds and questions are appropriately levelled for different ages and abilities. Last year students from 150 countries across the globe answered 182,455,169 questions during the 48 hours of World Maths Day.

Every student has been registered for this event and should have been given their personal registration details by their Maths teachers. It is possible to go onto [www.worldmathsday.com](http://www.worldmathsday.com) to practise before the actual event. Can I urge parents to encourage their children to have a practise run before next Wednesday and to take the opportunity to call into one of the ICT suites during World Maths Day to compete (if they do not have a Maths lesson or ICT lesson that day).

Hopefully, we will be part of another world record and, maybe, win some prizes!

*Miss G May, Learning Leader: Mathematics*

### Comic Relief X Factor Competition

The X Factor is back! The auditions were a great success and after much deliberation the judges have selected a final 10 contestants. The X Factor Live Final will be taking place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm in the School Hall. The night will consist of performances from each of the final 10 plus some special staff acts! With Red Nose Day just around the corner all profits from the night will go to Comic Relief. Please come along and support the 'Final 10' special acts and this worthy cause. Tickets cost £3 and can be bought from Student Services now.

*Matt Gill 11A*

### Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 130** Rock Challenge
- Letter 131** Year 12 visit to Houses of Parliament
- Letter 132** Year 11 Art visit to The National Portrait Gallery and The National Gallery
- Letter 133** Year 11 Art visit to Tate Britain and The National Portrait Gallery
- Letter 134** Year 10 Work Experience
- Letter 135** Year 11 'How to get your grade C in Maths' course
- Letter 136** Year 13 Drama trip to 'Twelfth Night'
- Letter 137** Year 11 French Conference
- Letter 138** Year 11 German Conference
- Letter 139** Years 7/8 Athletics Coaching
- Letter 140** Year 12 Art visit to Tate Modern
- Letter 141** Year 10 Religious Studies GCSE Exam

*All Gold Letters can be viewed on our website:  
[www.hhs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hhs.herts.sch.uk)*

School policies can be viewed on our website under 'about HHS/School Policies'. If you require a hard copy of any of the policies please get in touch with the School Office.

*S J Samwell*

**Sickness/absence line** Please will all parents contact us daily if your child is sick, going to be late in due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our sickness/absence line on 01442 390103 by 9am if possible.

### English Department Learning Leader Commendations for February

Dean Barnett 10N  
Sophie Wilkinson 10F  
Anna Wales 8C  
Daniel Ford 8N  
Paige Baah 8F  
Ellie Ward 8P



### Cycling to school

If you wish your child to cycle to school please request the appropriate application form from Student Services. On production of the completed form and sight of a Herts Road Safety/Cycling Proficiency Certificate a cycle permit will be issued. Students who do not have a permit should not be cycling to school.

## PTA News

### JUMBLE SALE SATURDAY 21st March

Now is a good time to empty those wardrobes, cupboards, lofts etc and gather all your unwanted sellable items for our jumble sale. So please get rummaging and help us raise lots of money for all those extras we give to the school.

### Summer Fair

The event has been arranged for Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to run your own stall, or know someone who would, please get in touch. We have lots of things planned already including Hemel's Got Talent, which Miss Samwell will be hosting. Our Sports Leaders are putting together a tournament for our linked Primary schools' Year 6 students.

Next meeting: Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7pm in the Library

**Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), email [s.stallworthy@sky.com](mailto:s.stallworthy@sky.com)**



# SPORT

## FIXTURES

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar** U19 County League Basketball v St Columba's College (H) 3.30 – 6 pm

U13 Basketball v Sandringham (A) 3.30 – 6 pm

**Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** Yr 7 Girls Football Mini League @ Cavendish 3.30 – 5 pm

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Mar** U15 County League Basketball v St Columba's College (H) 3.30 – 5.30 pm

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Mar** Football v St Columba's College 9 – 11 am

Yr 7 A + B (H)

Yr 8 (H)

Yr 9 (A)

Yr 10 (A)

## SPORTS NEWS

### Shelley Netball

On a much warmer, sunny day the Watford Netball League matches were played at half term. Shelley 6 met Dacorum Youth 4 and at the end of a well-balanced match were nine goals down. However, Shelley 5 met Connexions Ice to come away with a great win of 43 to 23 goals. Shelley Juniors continued with a win of 43-32 against Connexions Vipers. Finally, Shelley 4 met Gadeside 4, but although losing by 3 goals, gained a vital point. Some good play by all those present.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March the Shelley Coaching Centre will have a sporting champion, Karen Atkinson, visiting and coaching all evening. Many dignitaries will be present who wish to meet the players, volunteers, umpires and parents, as well as watching Karen in action. It should be a great evening.

*Mrs K Worrell MBE*

### SSCO Multi Skills Day and Gymnastics Festival

On 11<sup>th</sup> February Years 10 and 11 Sports BTEC students went to Dacorum Sports Centre to take part in a SSCO (School Sports Co-ordinator) Multi Skills day, which involved Year 1 students from eight local primary schools including Belswains, South Hill and Gade Valley. We found this an enjoyable experience and would be happy to take part again. At times we felt challenged to get our point across to the younger ones, but managed to get over this with various techniques that we had learnt in our lessons and been taught on the day. We think this was a well-organised event and things like this should happen more often. This was a tiring day but worth it in the end!

On 12<sup>th</sup> February the Year 10 Games Sports Leaders' group hosted a gymnastics festival at The Hemel Hempstead School for Year 1 and Year 2 students. We did a circuit of different activities that included rolls, balances, jumps and travelling movements and then put the skills we learnt into a routine. The students really enjoyed the event, as did we, and we hope to do more events like this in the future.

*Years 10 and 11 Sports Leaders*

Both sets of Sports Leaders represented the school fantastically during both events and were a real credit to themselves. They displayed excellent coaching skills and were able to motivate and inspire the young people they were working with. Well done to all of you involved!

*Miss N Black, PE Department*