



# The Hemel Hempstead School

## News

27 November 2008

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

### HeadLines

Following my headlines of a few weeks ago, some people assumed that I had actually moved permanently to these parts. Sadly, that has proved not to be the case. The house market has been unfavourable to me, but I am sure that a passing millionaire will purchase my pad shortly. In the meantime, the travelling weather has taken a turn for the worse. Freezing temperatures and close encounters with gritters have made the journey rather more challenging.

But at least I am warmly encased in a modern car. Our PE and Sports staff have been less fortunate of late and I must applaud them for their resilience and good humour in the face of chilling winds and driving rain. The woolly hats have become more obvious, but the fixtures and extra curricular efforts have remained true and numerous. I must also commend our students who participate in so many outdoor sporting events even at this time of year.

Many of you will have seen the photo in 'The Gazette' last week of our PE teacher Paul Bryson beaming deservedly beside the Under 13 Dacorum footballers who had maintained an unbeaten record through many matches and were due to play Peterborough for a place in the last 16. Whether or not Darren Ferguson has any influence over my home town team, I am sure that no affiliation could make me wish for anything other than victory for our lads. Nine of the squad are from HHS and I am sure that we all wish them every success in their next match. As Paul Bryson said: "We absolutely steam-rolled them." I have not used that phrase in assemblies or staff meetings thus far but I am going to look for an opportunity to do so!

Whilst we are looking for students to praise, I would like to commend Sam Messenger for having the courage and the wherewithal to start a Christian Union in school. It has launched successfully and they are looking to contribute to the school's appreciation of Christmas. Well done, Sam.

And no, I am not going in for the kind of political correctness which leads me to refer to 'the winter festival.' Christmas is a fine word just as Diwali or Eid are fine words. I want us to be inclusive and embracing of the cultures which construct our universe but I also want us, in this school, to engage in the best of traditions. Next week sees the start of advent, a time of hope and anticipation. As we enter the last weeks of the school term, we look forward to our Carol Service and Christmas concert, our Mistletoe Day and our special Christmas assemblies. Our charity and generosity come to the fore as illustrated in Christina Rossetti's words

'What can I give him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part---  
But what I can I give Him?  
Give my heart'

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

### PTA News

*Our next meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7 pm in the Library. We would love to see you there.*

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

### Library Notice

A big thank you to Year 8 parents who donated almost £200 worth of books to the Library at the recent Parents' Evening. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Year 7 free books have now been distributed during English lessons or registration. If you have not received your book, please come to the Library to collect it.

Please make sure that any orders from the Scholastic C2C brochure have been handed in to the Library by the end of the school day on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

*Mrs Krajewski, Librarian*



arts colleges

### Tate Modern and Globe Trip

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November, the Art and English departments took Year 9 to Tate Modern and The Globe.

Students spent half of the day at Tate Modern, where they were taken around the gallery in small intimate groups questioning the merit of various pieces and the techniques of the artists they have been studying in class. Having the opportunity to appreciate pieces that they had previously discussed in lessons seemed to inspire and enthuse the students even more.

Whilst at The Globe students toured the theatre with a professional actor, learning about the history of The Globe, the notion of 'penny stinkards' as well as the lowly life of an actor during Tudor England! They then had a drama workshop where students were up and about and actively exploring Shakespeare's language. One group were privileged enough to see a group of actors on stage running through their lines with their director.

Special thanks have to be given to Mrs Lane for organising the trip; it was a resounding success and Year 9 'did themselves proud'.

*Ms Redfern*

## Mgezwa School Partnership

During half term four members of staff, Mrs Abbott, Miss Bevan, Miss Black and Miss Keen visited out partnership school at Mgezwa in South Africa. The PE teachers developed the Young Sports Leader Scheme with two pupils from Mgezwa, Pretty and Freedom, who proved to be talented organisers and referees. They also organised games with the intention of including 30 pupils. The enthusiasm was such, however, that children abandoned their lessons to join in and something like 200 finally took part.

Miss Keen worked on a Drama project preparing scenes from 'Cry, The Beloved Country'. Pupils were rather worried when they began the lessons by sticking sticky tape to their faces but were extremely pleased when they understood that they were creating masks. They experienced for the first time the pleasure of acting a play rather than just reading it and also learned that when the script says 'crowd' more than one person needs to speak!

I was able to collect vivid first hand accounts of what it was like to be a black South African during the time of Apartheid and will use these to teach our Year 8 pupils. A visit to the birthplace of Nelson Mandela was a moving experience for our teachers and the Mgezwa staff who accompanied us.

We all found the visit gave us unique and life changing experiences, ranging from teaching a class of 140 pupils to attending a pre-school graduation ceremony with 5 year old children in caps and gowns. The staff and pupils at Mgezwa were unfailingly friendly, welcoming and generous.

We believe that the partnership can offer immense benefits to both schools and hope that it continues to flourish.

*Mrs L Abbott, Learning Leader History*



### Gold Letters issued recently:

*Letter 79* Year 12 Parents' Consultation

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

## SPORT



### Fixtures

#### Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

Yr 7 Football Nutella 5-a-side tournament @ Tring School 4 – 6pm

#### Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Yr 7 District Netball Tournament @ Astley Cooper

Yr 8 District Netball Tournament @ Adeyfield

U15 County League Basketball v St Columba's College (H)

U16 English Schools Basketball v Biddenham (A)

#### Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

U14 County League Basketball v Longdean (A)

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football v Dr Challoners (venue tbc)

Yr 7 and 8 Girls Basketball v Bridgewater (H)

#### Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

Yr 9 District Netball Tournament @ Astley Cooper

Yr 10 District Netball Tournament @ Adeyfield

U16 County League Basketball v Longdean (A)

U13 Dacorum Schools Football v Peterborough (A) 4.30 pm meet at HHS

#### Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

District Cross-Country @ Field of Hope

### Results

Yr 7 Netball v Bridgewater: 'A' team won 15-10

'B' team won 17-0

Yr 7 Netball v Cavendish: Yellow v Cav A won 7-4

Yellow v Cav B lost 4-2

Red v Cav A lost 7-2

Red v Cav B won 9-1

Well done to all those involved. The District Tournament is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. I would like to wish all the girls involved the very best of luck.

Yr 8 Netball : v Cavendish won 7-2

v Adeyfield won 15-0

v Bridgewater lost 4-5

The Year 8 girls played fantastically. We look forward to the District tournament next week. Can we retain our title?

Yr 7 English Schools Football v Cliff Hall lost 1-0

Yr 8 Basketball v Bridgewater won 64-54

Yr 9 County Cup Football v Sheredes won 4-3

Football v JFK: Yr 7 won 2-1, Yr 8 won 3-2

Yr 9 lost 7-2, Yr 10 won 3-2

1<sup>st</sup> XI County Cup Football v John Warner won 3-2

*Mr P Bryson, PE Department*

### Dates for Your Diary

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

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Year 11 Mock Art Exam

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Year 9 Diploma Information Evening 7.30 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Years 12/13 Dance trip to Laban Dance Centre

Year 10 BTEC Sport to 'Body Worlds' Exhibition

4<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 12 Parents Consultation Evening

5<sup>th</sup> Dec CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 11 Mock Exams in Hall

8<sup>th</sup> Years 12/13 Textiles visit to Clothes Show

10<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 13 English Literature Conference

11<sup>th</sup> Dec Ecuador trip meeting, Sixth Form Centre, 7 pm

12<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 10 Triple Science Lecture in London

#### Calendar update:

*Christmas Carol Service - Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December*



### CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December

Roast Turkey, Sausage, Stuffing and Gravy

or

Vegetarian Option

Seasonal Vegetables

Festive Dessert

Jacket Potatoes, Sandwiches, Pizzas and Paninis will also be available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance at a cost of £3.50. They can be bought by cash or cheque but *not* by Smartcard and will be available to buy from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December in the Canteen at Breakfast Club or lunchtime only.

*Mrs L Borrowdale, Catering Manager*