



HeadLines

A Headteacher is not usually nervous about appearing in public. It goes with the territory. Last Friday night was an exception. I had given my word that I would perform a song in the X Factor for Children in Need. What was the likelihood of snow cancelling the show? Would I knock myself out tripping over the steps and be carried away to hospital? But no, the moment came and despite rumours being rife among the Year 10s that I was going to breakdance and a small 'fan club' in Year 11 who were keen to drown me out, I was able to sing the song I had written, as was Mr Miller, whilst the staff choir sang 'Tragedy' which was not a tribute to my performance.

I could have said 'No'. So could the many other staff who helped and supported on a cold Friday evening after a very busy week. But they didn't. Why? Well, the good cause for which the event raised £900 or so is one answer. But the main reason was the enthusiasm and passion of a young man called Matthew Gill who oversaw the event from start to finish. He was inspirational and ensured that the evening was well organised and good-natured. There were also some marvellous performances from the real acts which delighted the large audience. I drove home to the fens breathing a sigh of relief that I only had OfSTED to worry about for a few weeks but also marvelling at how the influence of one Year 10 student can yield such wonderful results for the school. Well done Matthew!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Blue Week

Mon 3rd and Tues 4th Dec	Year 11 Art Mock Exam
Weds 5th Dec	Year 13 Design Conference
Thurs 6th Dec	Year 12 Parents' Consultation Evening

Gold Week

Mon 10th Dec	Years 10/12 Clothes Show Trip
Mon 10th– Thurs 20th Dec	Year 11 Mock Exams
Tues 11th Dec	Carol Service at St Johns Church
Weds 12th Dec	Year 10 COPE Trip

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2007

Roast Turkey, Sausage, Stuffing and Gravy
or

Vegetarian Feast
Seasonal Vegetables
Christmas Pudding or Mince Pie with
Custard or Ice-cream

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

The meal will be served on Thursday 20th December 2007. Tickets must be purchased in advance at a cost of £3. They can be bought by cash or cheque but not Smartcard and will be available to buy from Monday 3rd–Friday 7th December at Breakfast Club or lunchtime only.

Mrs J Davis, Catering Manager

Quote of the Week: "Some see things as they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were and ask why not?"
George Bernard Shaw

PTA NEWS

Family Portraits Day — 2nd December 2007

Don't forget to have your photo taken if you have booked an appointment.

Next meeting: Monday 21st January 2008 in the Library.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHTSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), Email: s.stallworthy@sky.com

Disability Survey

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Parents who took the time to complete the Parental Disability Survey this term. The results of this survey will be used to inform the Disability Access Plan for Students as well as the Disability Equality Scheme for all users of the Hemel Hempstead School site. If you wish to find out about either scheme or require more information about the results of the survey please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Parking and Vehicles around the School Site

One issue that did arise from the Disability Survey was parking and the general use of motor vehicles around the school site. It is often the case that during school functions e.g. Parental Consultation Evenings, parking on double yellow lines, pavements and grass verges causes problems for disabled persons and other site users. This also happens when cars are parked on the pavement near the Technology building, meaning that the disabled parking area cannot be used. In addition, I would also like to remind parents that when picking up and 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). Recently the situation around these points has become very dangerous, particularly by the Heath Lane gates where cars are often parked opposite, at a point where buses are stopping to collect students at the end of the day. 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 of our students safe. Many thanks.

Mr G Mullings, Assistant Headteacher

Simon Cowell — Eat your heart out!

If Simon, Sharon, Danni and Louis are desperately trying to find the talent in the X Factor finalists on ITV1, they should have been in the school hall last Friday evening. Under the stupendous guidance of Matthew Gill, 10A, our ten X Factor finalists amazed an audience of over 200, all to raise money for Children in Need. Matthew conceived the idea of The Hemel Hempstead School X Factor, organised a panel of judges, arranged the auditions and put together and compered the final. This was a fantastic achievement by Matthew and he deserves many congratulations for all his hard work. In terms of the finalists themselves, all of them earned the praise of the judges on the night. Year 7 students 'The Rockers', Ben and George, raised a few cheers with their song and dance act. Ian Patrick, Year 12, showed his skill on the air guitar whilst belting out a U2 number and Charlie Goodall, Year 7, produced an outstanding solo performance. Once all the acts had performed, the audience got to vote for their favourite three acts (no chance of phone vote rigging here). Whilst the votes were being counted the audience were 'entertained' by performances from Mr Miller, the Staff Choir, and Miss Samwell, who received a standing ovation! Finally, Matt Gill opened the results envelope and in third place was Rosie Hoskins, second place Polly Taylor and the first Hemel Hempstead School X Factor champion was Thea Simpkins. Thea's performance was a stunning performance of 'Hero' by Mariah Carey. She captivated the audience and certainly deserved the champion's trophy.

Well done to all those who went through the nerve-racking auditions, congratulations to all the fantastic finalists and a huge thank you to Matt Gill for being the mastermind behind such an excellent event and for raising around £900 for Children in Need.

*Miss F Dayton
(not normally an X Factor fan until last Friday!)*

Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition

The RAF at Halton again hosted the local Rotary Young Chef Competition on Thursday 22nd November. All secondary schools in Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted were invited to take part in this challenging experience for Year 10 students studying Food Technology. The winners of the first round cooked their recipes under the watchful eye of the RAF judges who were impressed with the skill and composure of the young contestants who cooked a main and a sweet course for two people which cost under £12. The two finalists from our school were Jordan Connolly and Natalie Carter.

The owner of The Boxmoor Lodge Hotel, Mr Andrew Rickett, presented certificates to all contestants and the prize of a meal for four to the winner. He noted that the standard of cooking and health and safety awareness was superb and that the students' knowledge of healthy food was increasing each year.

Sergeant Andy Gray told the audience that RAF Halton is the place where talented students join them to be trained for a career in the catering corps of the RAF. He congratulated the contestants on their skill and designs and was impressed with their final dishes.

Well done to both Natalie and Jordan. Although they worked very hard and produced an excellent standard of dishes, they were pipped to the post by a student from Abbots Hill School.

Mrs A Walker, Head of Design and Technology

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 70	Year 11 Mock Exams
Letter 71	Year 12 Interim Reports
Letter 72	Year 10 Mock Exams
Letter 75	Year 8 Informed Consent Statement
Letter 76	Year 9 Vocational Courses
Letter 77	Year 13 Design Trip
Letter 78	Year 10/11 Geography Trip
Letter 79	Year 10/11 COPE Trip

FIXTURES

Monday 3rd December: C/C Basketball U15 v SCC (H)
Tuesday 4th December: U13 Basketball v SCC (A)
Wednesday 5th December: U16 Basketball v St Georges (H)
Thursday 6th December: U14 Football v St Martins (A)
 U13 County League Basketball v Bridgewater (H)
Saturday 8th December: District Cross Country

RESULTS

Year 9 Netball v Kings Langley won 16-5
 Year 10 Netball v Kings Langley won 16-4
 Year 11 Basketball v County Upper won 86-74

General Information

Next weekend will find us competing in the annual District cross-country competition on Saturday 8th December at the Field of Hope in Gadebridge. Squads have been selected and will be displayed on the PE noticeboards. All athletes should check the notice boards carefully for squad selection and meeting times. Good Luck!

Our Year 10 and 11 Sports Leaders have also been very busy over the past few weeks, organising and leading sports festivals and leading sports practices at local primary schools. The Sports Festivals have been fantastic occasions with many primary school students enjoying a variety of activities. The Sports Leaders have conducted themselves very professionally throughout and have been a credit to the department and the school. Well done!

Miss E Bevan, PE Department

MODERN LANGUAGES NEWS

Don't forget to collect your French and German magazines from the Languages Office. The second issues have arrived!

Mrs S Lutz, Modern Foreign Languages Department

'Gifted and Talented' ICT CLUB

The ICT department is offering KS3 students the chance to further develop their ICT skills in a weekly 'G&T' workshop. These workshops will be held on Friday lunchtimes from 1.40-2.10pm in IT2. Students will be expected to work in teams in order to solve ICT related problems. The first project will be to develop a useful ICT resource for a particular end-user, such as a website that could be used by a teacher in a lesson. The workshops will be open to all Year 7, 8 & 9 students who have a strong interest in ICT. If you are interested please speak to me as soon as possible. The first meeting will be on Friday 7th December.

Mr Miller, ICT Department

Year 7 Science Trip

Here are some of the comments made by Year 7 students after going to the Natural History Museum on 19th November:

"We went to the Dino place where we saw lots of dinosaurs and dino-skeletons. The interesting and scary bit was when we saw the moving dinosaur; luckily it wasn't real! Later we explored the dino-store gift shop then went to the human biology department. It wasn't exactly pleasant, but interesting. After that we watched different things pop up and flash. For some activities you had to move levers. It was funny and fun." **Alice Cook and Levi Smith, 7A**

"We saw dinosaurs, dead animals and learnt about energy. In the energy section we had to fill in a booklet. The answers were in the exhibits so we had to look closely. We learnt about food chains and what insects you might find in your house." **Ellen Rogers, 7C**

"The first part of the museum I visited was the Ecology Department, where we filled out sheets. Then we saw creepy crawlies and I saw a giant robotic scorpion which was moving every few seconds. After that we went to the gift shop where I bought a painting by numbers set." **Isabelle Posner, 7C**

The first things we looked at were a variety of different rocks and stones. Then we saw some dinosaur skeletons and a huge model Tyrannosaurus Rex that moved its head and roared. We also looked at many different species of mammal, for example, zebras, giraffes and elephants. That was probably my favourite bit. Next we went to the museum shop before