



HeadLines

On this rather beautiful autumnal day, I find my thoughts turning to the thought-provoking assemblies conducted by Mrs Mangan this week on the theme of Hallowtide. My own assemblies next week will have remembrance as their theme and whilst assemblies earlier in the term have been upbeat and focused on topics such as achievement and leadership, we have entered a period of reflection in a religious and moral context where our assemblies end with a minute or two of silent reflection. It has been thought-provoking this week for the students to think beyond Halloween and beyond Bonfire Night to All Souls Day, All Hallows' Eve and All Saints Day; to explore a range of deeper thoughts and feelings about their place in the world as well as their responses to the 'ultimate questions' of life.

This half term is awash with events of academia and entertainment, but we will always find time to consider the spiritual aspects too.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Blue Week

Wednesday 7th Nov Visit by Roman Legion to 7L, N, P
Thursday 8th Nov Years 12/13 Senior Maths Challenge
Fri 9th Nov Visit by Roman Legion to 7A, C F

Gold Week

Thurs 15th Nov Year 11 Parents' Consultation
Year 12 General Studies Day

Uniform Reminder

As the weather gets chillier, it is useful to remind everyone that coats worn to school should be plain black or navy blue, with no obvious logos. Grey, brown or dark green coats are NOT acceptable. Please do not make expensive mistakes!

If students wish to wear warm hats, scarves or gloves, these too should be plain black or navy. A recent fashion for exotic, tufted hats and vividly-coloured gloves is not really appropriate school wear! Obviously, as a matter of good manners, we would not expect coats, hats, scarves or gloves to be worn in classrooms.

Ms N Darby

Election of Parent Governors

I am pleased to announce that following the Parent Governor Election on Friday 12th October, Mr Richard Kinley and Mr Marcus Swift have been elected to serve as Parent Governors on the Governing Body of The Hemel Hempstead School for a term of four years.

Sandra J Samwell

Road Safety

Parents/Guardians should not be driving onto the school premises in the morning to drop students off as there is one way traffic entering school at that time. To avoid congestion students should either be dropped off at the Sports Centre car park or on Beechfield Road.

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Quiz Night: Saturday 3rd November, 7 pm

This is tomorrow and will be held in the Sixth Form study centre and will be hosted by Mr Chappelow. There will be a raffle during the evening. Mr Chappelow has asked if each team can bring a 'Guy' with them as part of their team. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening!

Jumble Sale: Saturday 17th November at 10 am

Please contact Mrs Stallworthy on the number below if you have any jumble. We would also appreciate any help either on Friday 16th after school or selling on the day.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th November at 7 pm in the Library, all welcome.

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

Black History Week Quiz

I am pleased to announce that the winners of the Black History quiz are:

Lower School	8C
Upper School	10N
Year 7	Paige Baah, 7F
Staff	Mrs A Allen and Teaching Assistants

Mrs L Abbott

A plea to Year 12 students

If you studied History at GCSE you may have forgotten to return your text book. It is called Modern World History for AQA specification B. Please check at home and if you have this book return it to any History teacher. Thank you.

Mr J Chappelow, History Department

House Drama Festival – 6th November 2007

This Tuesday sees one of the most popular events in the House Calendar – House Drama. As ever, House Drama will be held in the School Hall beginning at 7pm with an anticipated finish of 9:15pm. Tickets are selling rapidly and it is strongly advisable to buy tickets before the event as it is likely to be a sell-out occasion. Tickets cost £2 and are available from Student Services at break and lunchtimes. The increase in price is due to the need to fund more awards linked to the House Cup

I look forward to seeing many of you at the event.

Mr J Mitchell

School Production—‘Our Town’

The next school production will be ‘Our Town’, a play by Thornton Wilder. Rehearsals have already begun for this. The Drama Department is also taking part in the National Theatre Connexions Festival again and the performance will be in the spring term.

A new theatre company, yet to be named, has been formed for students in Year 6 from local primary schools and Years 7 and 8 from our school. Auditions took place before half term and students will have been informed if they have been successful. The first meeting is next Wednesday. Performances will be held at the Dance and Drama Festival in the summer term and at other occasions during the year.

Miss S Keen, Drama Department

Diwali

Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, starts on 9th November and lasts for five days. It is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia and is also the occasion for celebrations by Jains and Sikhs as well as Hindus.

It is a great favourite with children because of the lights, fireworks and sweets involved. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance, although the actual legends that go with the festival are different in different parts of India.

Two Goddesses in particular are celebrated at Diwali: Lakshmi and Kali. In a recent editorial, The Times of India summed up the modern meaning of Diwali: “Regardless of the mythological explanation one prefers, what the festival of lights really stands for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple—and some not so simple—joys of life.”

Mrs J Ramnarine

Headteacher Commendations

For excellent work in Child Development: Joshua Hoskins 10A.

For excellent work in Music: Laura Dowse 9P, Bethany Lall 9L, Melissa Livingston 9N, Josephine Mills 9N.

For excellent work in English: Rebecca Wood, Elizabeth Ballard 9L, Eloise Phillips 9F, Fay Breed 9N, Sarah Kinley, Laura Dowse 9P.

Smartcards

Due to our supplier lowering their costs for producing smartcards, from October 2007 the cost of a replacement card will now be £3.50 or £4 including plastic holder.

School Bursar

FIXTURES

Saturday 3rd November

Football v JFK: Years 7—9 (H) and Year 10 (A)

Monday 5th November

U14 County Cup Basketball v St Martins (A)

Tuesday 6th November

Years 7 and 8 Mini league Football @ Cavendish

Wednesday 7th November

U19 Basketball ESBB (H) v Notre Dame

Friday 9th November

Sports Tour Quiz, 7.30pm in the School Hall.

Sports Tour Quiz

Please come along to our Sports Tour fundraiser quiz. This will be held on Friday 9th November in the School Hall. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 for an adult and £5 for students and include supper. Everyone is welcome!

Miss E Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter No. 55	Year 12/13 Art Trip to Paris
Letter No. 56	Year 11 Parents’ Consultation Evening
Letter No. 57	Year 7 Trip to Natural History Museum
Letter No. 58	Year 13 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Letter No. 59	Year 9 ‘Tempest’ performance

Gold Letters are also available via our website— www.hhs.herts.sch.uk



School answerphone for sickness or absence

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