



# The Hemel Hempstead School

## News

4 July 2008

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

### HeadLines

It's a funny old job sometimes. One moment you are teaching 180 students to dance the Viennese Waltz and the next moment you are discussing the roof of Heath Barn. Then it's a meeting with other headteachers followed by interviews for support staff, a discussion about the state of catering and a forum with staff about which second specialism we might choose. That's not to mention the many letters and emails received every day, the students who have 'crossed a line too far' and must be seen by the Head, the students who deserve commendations and my congratulations, the letters of thanks to staff, the phone calls from parents...in a week like this, the school day is a long day: with House Music on Monday and twilight training for staff on Tuesday and a meeting of the full governing body on Wednesday.

I was reading an article in the Headteacher's Digest stating that over half of headteachers could retire within four years. The NCSL's research claims a way forward is for Heads to run groups of schools or for more non-teachers to be appointed. Understandably, many headteachers and the teacher unions disagree with this and say 'Being a Headteacher is about leading learning'. They also said that the pressures headteachers face are intense and unreasonable.

Well, to the disappointment of some who at the very least would like a new and innovative Headlines writer, I am not seeking early retirement. In the year following Ofsted and much improved results, I am seeking to focus our attention on what is sometimes called pedagogy: the art of teaching and learning. We will share the best practice in the school and we will develop best practice through research and benchmarking and innovation. We will also address the issues raised by Ofsted in February.

Ofsted says, of all schools, that strong leadership, a strong sense of identity and honest self assessment make schools successful. They noted that the best schools nationally have traditional uniforms, house systems and involve pupils in decision-making. The best headteachers are able to give difficult messages, improve staff structures and emphasise the message that change is fundamental. Whatever we think of Ofsted's views, this school matches up to many of the success criteria, but we believe that we are capable of better.

It's a point I ponder on my 77 mile journey to work which counts as my 'dedicated headteacher time', dreaded by Leadership Team sometimes because it results in Miss Samwell's A1 or A421 or M1 ideas being announced to them at 8.10 am every morning.

Recently, Barack Obama borrowed one of those ideas. Well I have no proof, but I am convinced that when he used the example that I borrowed from 'Winnie the Pooh' about seven years ago which was then borrowed by another Head for a national conference which then reappeared over the next two years at conferences, he was plagiarising my Christmas message of 2001. Accompanied by a picture of Christopher Robin dragging Pooh down the stairs head first the text reads: 'Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.'

It's a metaphor for the rationale for change in a school and there's a lesson there for any headteacher or would-be president. Being a headteacher is a dream job. It's not for the faint hearted, but enjoying the likes of our House Music or watching Year 8 boys and girls dance to the music of Strauss or seeing outstanding lessons as I have done this week or looking at the magnificent art work on show in the GCSE and A level exhibition, compensates for a thousand conversations about the state of Heath Barn's roof.

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**

#### LOST PROPERTY

Have you recently mislaid any of the following items?

- mobile phone – black Sagem my411x Orange (handed in on Sports Day)
- Creative MP3 player
- mobile phone - Sony Ericsson Walkman silver/grey
- mobile phone – Vodafone Samsung black with pink charm
- mobile phone – Vodafone Samsung black/silver pebble shape
- black 'Red or Dead' glasses case with contents

If you think any of these items could be yours please contact Student Services before the end of term.

#### Exam Results

Exam Results Days are as follows:

14th August 2008 GCE Results  
21st August 2008 GCSE Results

Results will be available in the HALL from 10 am. Students MUST collect their results in person. If someone is collecting them on your behalf, please provide them with a signed letter of authority otherwise they will NOT be released.

*Mrs McCausland, Examinations Officer*

## The Carbon Challenge Roadshow

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June a group of people from BP came to our school to talk to us about various aspects such as energy sources, climate change and the effect it has on us.

First of all we were given a remote to answer an interactive quiz. The quiz asked questions such as 'do we feel that we need to be concerned about global warming?' and 'do you turn off electrical appliances when not in use?' After the quiz ended, we were put together in our forms and sent to different rooms around the school to work on challenges that were given to us.

Once in a classroom my form, Chalfont, was split into small groups to work on boards with labels that we needed to arrange to show the order in which global warming and CO2 occurs. Soon after that, in the same groups we all had to advertise an imaginary college that is based on storing renewable energy. The best group to advertise it was then nominated to present their work to the other forms once we returned to the hall. This was the same with the other forms.

Once that was finished, the people from BP finished off by leaving us all a message to try and organise activities to raise funds that would go to help making Hemel Hempstead reduce its carbon footprint.

*Anthony Power 8C*

The Carbon Challenge Roadshow was an interesting workshop based on how we can reduce our carbon footprint, as a school and individually. We did several activities including a fun interactive quiz with handheld buzzers. Then we investigated all the ways that carbon dioxide is released and how we can reduce our CO2 emissions. Overall I thought it was a very educational workshop with ideas to reduce our CO2 footprint that we could all take into consideration. Thank you BP Carbon Challenge!

*Jordan Kelly, 8P*

## Year 11 Prom

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June Year 11 came of age. Anyone who has ever doubted the behaviour of teenagers should have been at Bushey Police Club to witness just how responsible and adult they can be if they are given the chance.

It really was a beautiful evening. The girls, as usual, were very glamorous in some amazing dresses and the boys were so smart. They arrived in a number of different ways, from the ubiquitous 'Limo' to a Quad Bike!

The venue had been decorated in blue and gold ribbons, flowers and balloons and looked stunning, a fact that was not lost on the one hundred and fifty-five guests.

The night was topped off by the DJ playing music which enticed them all onto the dance floor for the majority of the evening. Whilst not dancing they were queuing for photographs to be taken as lasting memories of their friendship groups. These were taken by Jenny Cooper Photography ([www.jennycooperphotography.co.uk](http://www.jennycooperphotography.co.uk)) and can be viewed and purchased from July 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.myeventpictures.biz](http://www.myeventpictures.biz) password HHSPROM. I am sure that there will be some really good pictures.

I should like to thank the Prom Committee, especially Natalie Pigott, Emma Saunders, Katie Gillingham and Mark Allday, for their hard work in making this special event happen.

I would also like to thank Ms Blake and Mr Green, along with numerous parents, who gave their time and whose help was invaluable. Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of staff who took the time and trouble to come and support the event – it was much appreciated.

A very special thanks to Year 11 for proving that they really are a great year group and thank you so much for my wonderful gift.

*Mrs G Cracknell*

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

**For excellent Dance Skills:** Shona Berloth 8F, Paige Young 8C, Chloe Conroy 8L, Hollie Bishop 8A, Brittany Woods 8A, Jack Benedetti-Smith 8N, Katie Towse 8C, Amelie Lecouche 8P, Lauren Dempsey 8L, Stephanie Foster 8L, Charlie Monks 8F, Louise Donovan 8N, Alex Eykelbosch 8F, Sarah Grover 8P, George Fripp 8L, Noah Jones 8L, Christian Schramm 8P, Ross Taylor 8A, Kieran North 8N, James Shaw 8L, Callum Fletcher 8N, Millie Fuller 8F, Billy Soden 8P, Jesse Toms 8L, Andrew Pestaille 8P.

**For excellent work in Science:** Holly Woolatt 7P, Daisy Stewart 7P, Hollie Clarke 7P, Mary Pattinson 7P, Jessica Miller 7P, Ellenor Ward 7P, Penny Taylor 7P, Callum Harbour 7P, Richard Metcalf 7P.

**For excellent work in French:** Priya Odedra 9F, Eloise Phillips 9F, Sarah Kinley 9P, Laura Dowse 9P, Bridget Philpott 9P.

**For exceptional performance in Drama productions:** Sarah Goodwin 8A, Louise Donovan 8N, Lorenzo Bellini 7L, Tara Keith 7F, Ellen Milligan 7F.

**For exceptional commitment to Drama:** Lois Moore 8N, Adam Naylor 7L, Lucy Wiseman 7P.

**For excellent work in Art:** Rebecca Armorgie 9A, May Critchfield 9L, Chloe Cavanagh 9A, Naomi Messenger 9P.

Sarah Cosgrove, Amber Lane, Ellen Rogers, Callie Waters, Jodie Hardcastle 7C.

Emma D'Amery, Zoe Dennis, Dionne Donaldson, Alice Markham, Lizzie Merrill, Robyn Wheeler, Lorenzo Bellini, Jake Brown 7L.

Charlotte Board 9C, Mica Parker 9L, Bethany Lall 9L, Mel Livingstone 9N, Josie Mills 9N, Laura Dowse 9P.

**For excellent work in Dance:** Miles Cantlon 7L, Joshua Windsor 7L, Lorenzo Bellini 7L, Ryan Georgiou 7L, Scott Smith 7L, Abbey Everett 9A, Jo Mitchell 9P, Charlotte Morrissey 9L, Georgina Ellis 9F, Sharmin Sultana 9F, Katie Mogan 9F, Maddy Gofford 9N, Natalie Reid 9L, Rebecca Walsham 9L.

**For excellent performance in the Fun Run:** Ross Taylor 8A, Kieran North 8N, Max Farrelly 10N, Christian Schramm 8P, Ollie Edwards 9N, Rory Tinker 7P, Jack Eykelbosch 8P, Cauley Woodrow 8L, Bradley Penhallow 9L, Daniel Twine 10P, Sam Izzard 8L, Adam King 9C, Josh Harris 10C, Rebecca Armorgie 9A, Jack Morrell 8L.

**For record breaking at Sports Day 2008:** Jess Minter 7C, Louis Mayhew 7L, Ben McFarlane Barnes 7L, Alex Eykelbosch 8F, Sarah Grover 8P, Jack Eykelbosch 8P, Sarah Kinley 9P, Rebecca Armorgie 9A, Ellie Phillips 9F, Courtney Hart 9N (2 records broken).



arts colleges

## BIG ARTS WEEK

Last week HHS celebrated our annual Big Arts Week and we hope that students enjoyed some of the opportunities provided. The week began with a packed Monday: all our Year 7 students took part in a Gospel workshop organised by Mrs Ramnarine. It was wonderful to expose students to this particular choral style and they seemed to have a lot of fun. Their hard work was enjoyed by everyone who heard their truly uplifting performance on Wednesday, and again on Friday.

We were very lucky to secure the talents of three of our former students who now work in the 'industry'. Helen Eames, a professional make up artist, ran a make up demonstration for students which resulted in some rather grisly looking students strolling around school period 5. It was fascinating to watch her transform our volunteers and the students thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration.

Andrew Bird and Matthew Hayball (AB Lighting) set up and demonstrated a pyrotechnic and lighting display that included opportunities for students to gain some hands on experience with some very expensive and impressive 'toys'. Our technical theatre crew in particular benefited from their workshop and have hopefully picked up some tips for the musical next year!

Tuesday was reserved for our Dacorum Dance Drama festival, an event that celebrated the talents of our feeder and partnership schools. In the afternoon we enjoyed performances from Woodfield, Collett, Southill and Pixies Hill and our own Key Stage 3 students. It was fantastic to see all these students rise to the challenge and support each other's talents. We were also treated to the debut performance of Big Little Theatre Company, a new venture at HHS that combines the talents of Year 6 students with our own Year 7 and 8 students. Their production of A Midsummer Nights Dream was a joy to watch and we were very proud of all the students who performed.

The evening performance included performances from Longdean, Reverb, Big Little Theatre Company, GCSE Drama and Dance students and BTEC Performing Arts students. The quality of the work was superb and it was exciting to see such a range of performance packed into one evening. I would like to thank all the parents and friends who came to support our students and I'm sure they would agree that it was a most entertaining and rewarding evening.

Throughout the rest of the week, some Key Stage 3 Music students attended a Samba workshop, culminating in a very up beat lunchtime performance – al fresco. Students with hopes of a recording career made full use of the facilities at Heath Barn recording their own CDs. Art students in Year 12 benefited from working with a visiting artist all day on Friday and Year 12 students busked at break time. Dance workshops were run at lunchtimes and the Art Department opened its doors to Rangoli and Chinese writing workshops throughout the week.

The biggest problem was fitting it all in! Teachers in all departments included Performing Arts techniques in their own lessons but I think the prize there must go to MFL who organised a waltzing lesson with Miss Samwell for all of Year 8! Strictly Come Dancing is alive and well at HHS!

Thank you to everyone in the Performing Arts team and throughout the whole school for all your efforts and support. It is always a privilege to celebrate the exceptional talents of our students and to give them opportunities to try something new.

*Mrs Heale*

### Dates for Your Diary



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

7 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 6 Mathland
	Yr 8 Gifted and Talented Science Activity
8 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 6 Mathland
8 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 10 French Exchange students here
9 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Cross Curricular 'Olympics' Day
10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 6 Taster Day
	Yr 10 Science (group 10B) trip to Bovington Nursery
11 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 10 Prizegiving, School Hall, 10 am
11 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 9 Lake District Trip
	Yr 9 Team Challenge Week
	D of E Gold and Silver Expeditions
12 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 10 History trip to Munich

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

14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Work Related Learning/Enterprise Week
14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Yr 12 UCAS day
18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Last day of term – school finishes at 1.30 pm

### Chinese Paper Art at Big Arts Week

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June I went to the Chinese Paper Art workshop at lunchtime. It was really interesting – I learnt to make a canoe and a little purse, and I made a bouncing frog! The other shapes shown were very intricate and colourful. It made a nice change from calligraphy!

*Amelie Lecoeuche 8P*

### 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.

# SPORT



## Fixtures

Mon 7 Jul Year 10 Cricket V Astley Cooper (A) 3.30 – 6.30 pm  
 Thur 10 Jul Year 7 Boys and Girls Dodgeball Competition @ Tring School. 4 pm  
 Fri 11 Jul Year 9 Lake District Trip leaves

## Results

Year 10 Cricket v Potten End Cricket Club – Peter Wright Trophy Semi-Final – lost by 12 runs.

## Sports News

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June the Year 10 cricket team played Potten End Cricket Club in the semi-final of the Peter Wright Memorial Trophy. Having won the toss, Hemel captain Ricky Khan decided to field first. Potten End put on a big score as Hemel struggled to oust their opening batsman. Some wayward bowling coupled with good batting saw Potten End put on a score of 138-6. Hemel put on a very strong fightback, matching Potten End over for over until the 16<sup>th</sup> over where the run rate started to fall behind. Despite some excellent batting, including a number of sixes sent over the clubhouse by Ricky Khan, Hemel fell just short of the required score, with 126-6. Highlights of the game include Akeel Hussain's bowling figures of 4 wickets for just 9 runs, including a great bowl and catch for one of the wickets, and Ricky Khan making his first half-century for the school this year. Well done to all the boys who played for putting on such an entertaining game of cricket.

Squad: S Hayball, L Blyth, R Khan, L McLeod, G Loosely, A Hussain, U Gul, J Bryson, J Allen, M.Farrelly, J Fraser.

## Sports Day Results 2008

### Year Group Winners

Year 7 Girls	Ashridge	49 Points
Year 7 Boys	Latimer	46 Points
Year 8 Girls	Pendley	52 Points
Year 8 Boys	Nettleden	64 Points
Year 9 Girls	Flaunden	44 Points
Year 9 Boys	Pendley	58 Points
Year 10 Girls	Latimer	48 Points
Year 10 Boys	Chalfont	58 Points

### Overall House Winners

1 <sup>st</sup>	Pendley	371 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nettleden	353.5 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Latimer	330.5 Points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Flaunden	326.5 Points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Chalfont	319.5 Points
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ashridge	291 Points

### Records

Event	Name	Form	Old Record	New Record
Year 7 Girls Javelin	Jess Minter	7C	16.29	16.34
Year 7 Boys Long Jump	Louis Mayhew	7L	4.34	4.38
Year 7 Boys 200m	Ben McFarlane Barnes	7L	29.3	27.1
Year 7 Boys Relay	Latimer		58.6	57.7
Year 8 Girls 1500m	Alex Eykelbosch Sarah Grover	8F 8P	6.16.0	5.41.1
Year 8 Boys 800m	Jack Eykelbosch	8P	2.38	2.35.0
Year 9 Girls 800m	Sarah Kinley	9P	2.47.5	2.45.8
Year 9 Girls 1500m	Rebecca Armorgie	9A	5.46.2	5.24.2
Year 9 Girls 200m	Ellie Phillips	9F	28.9	28.1
Year 9 Boys 100m	Courtney Hart	9N	12.6	11.8
Year 9 Boys Long Jump	Courtney Hart	9N	5.70	6.20

Congratulations to all the athletes who competed at this year's Sports Day. It was a fantastic day with many excellent performances both on the track and in the field. Well done to all the record breakers, a fantastic achievement!