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### HeadLines

The first week in December heralds a time of familiarity and unfamiliar territory. We start to hear the much loved carols and somewhat more irritating Christmas songs whilst the rounds of festivities and gift purchasing are in full flow. Reality TV programmes, drawing to an end just before the holiday, occupy the unintellectual parts of our brains successfully whilst that question beloved of hair stylists, shop assistants and people in bus queues rings out: 'Are you ready for Christmas, then?'

It would not be surprising if many of us had tried to shut out the tragic news of the past week and gravitated to the lighter items... which were admittedly quite hard to find. It was uplifting to hear the current US Secretary of State playing Brahms beautifully to the Queen at Buckingham Palace but the supposed pathos of ruined trips to Lapland theme parks retreated into insignificance beside tales of financial ruin, homeless families and our seeming inability to protect children from harm, but most of all beside the graphic footage of the Mumbai massacre. With the niece of a friend caught in the conflict at the Taj Palace, cowering in her room as the sound of the gunmen's footsteps and gunshots came ever closer, being rescued before being overcome by smoke on the burning floor (but not before her partner had fallen sixty feet resulting in a broken back and paralysis) the news which often seems so remote came knocking at my door. What is the world coming to? What happened to the view I held when experiencing the message of the nativity story in days gone by? No room at the inn? I think I believed in a society where there would always be room at the inn and there would always be a star which guided us to hope reborn.

This term has been a term of change for us at HHS. We have reorganised into a true house system. Whilst I would welcome views on how we can improve the structure and its functions, the change has been made and will remain. New staff and students have settled into the school and there are many success stories of which to be proud. Work on school buildings, standards of catering and cleaning and the emergence of student voice have progressed, building on our pleasing OfSTED report and examination outcomes. Every day in every classroom, something positive happens: lessons are learned that equip our youngsters to be exceptional citizens of the world. When some, a small percentage of the school population, stray into choppy waters and fail to adhere to the principles by which we live in a civilised society, action is taken swiftly ... and so it should be in order to enable everyone to feel safe and able to learn.

This week, the choirs and musical groups of the school have been rehearsing for the Christmas Concert and for the Carol Service. I always think that these last few weeks of term are like opening a window or a door in an Advent calendar each day, looking into a scene of tradition and innovation. Despite scenes of doom and dread which permeated the week, I was able to feel uplifted by the eloquent words of hope uttered by the president elect of the USA, by the attitude of my friend's niece who thought of herself as 'one of the lucky ones' and by the enthusiasm of our students and staff who are so keen to present us with an exceptional musical performance which encapsulates the true meaning of advent. The meaning of advent, it was said by R S Thomas, is 'in the waiting.'

Certainly, I intend to wait for those moments that describe what it is to be human in the twenty first century and determine how we can all play our part to ensure a future worth cherishing.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

#### HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

*For Excellent Work in Dance:* Lucy Harding 10F, Zoe Harbour 10P, Sam Flowerdew 10N, Eloise Phillips 10F, Eleanor Hughes 10C, Laura Dowse 10P.

*For Consistently Excellent Project Work in Art:* Olivia Bauldreay 9N

*For Outstanding Project Work in Art:* Lucy Bridger 8A, Olivia Church 8A, Grace Masters 8A, Levi Smith 8A, Joe Garner 8L, Danny Richards 8C.

### PTA News

Recently the HHSA has given to the school:  
£800 to Mr Sutton for tents and rucksacks for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme  
£150 to the History Department for recording equipment  
£800 towards Speech Night

We fully intend to carry on raising money in 2009. The Summer Fair is already in the planning stage. We have lots of good ideas already, but if you can think of anything to help raise more money we will listen with very open ears.

Next meeting is Tuesday 20th January 2009 at 7pm in the Library.  
**Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), email s.stallworthy@sky.com**

#### Dates for Your Diary

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

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

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

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

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

15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 11 Mock Exams in Class

16<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol Service, St John's Church, Boxmoor, 7 pm

18<sup>th</sup> Dec Speech Day, 7.30 pm - school finishes at 1.25 pm for most students (see Gold Letter 86)

19<sup>th</sup> Dec Mistletoe Day

Last day of term, school finishes at 1.20 pm (see Gold Letter 86)

#### Additional Language

Students whose first language is other than English may have the opportunity to take a GCSE or A level in that language. If this is of interest to you please contact Mrs Ramnarine at school.

**Library Notice:** The Library will be closed all day on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.  
*Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian*

## Maths Stars of the Month for November

**Year 7:** Georgia Totten 7F, Charlie Hoskins 7P, Ryan Olliffe 7C, Jamie Lewis 7L, Wilf Stepto 7N, Danielle Griffin-Fair 7C, Lauren Stone 7P, Georgina Bartlett 7C.

**Year 8:** Millie Gulley 8N, Beth Bellis 8N, Luke Harris 8C, Chloe Hann 8F, Anna Wales 8C, Hollie Clarke 8P, Daisy Steward 8P.

**Year 9:** Bradley Keeley 9C, Adam Amamou 9A, Billy Soden 9P, Eleanor Pinnock 9C, Jack Joyce 9C, Ashleigh O'Sullivan 9L, James Price 9A.

**Year 10:** Sarah Kay 10A, Ashley Needs-Mayoss 10L, Sophie Clayton 10L, Bethany Doona 10L, Joe Gibbs 10A, Charlotte Waugh 10A, Daniel Dewhurst 10C, James Storkey-Jewiarz 10A.

**Year 11:** Maddy Dey 11N, Elliot Territt 11N, Rovena Nagy 11L, Rikky Khan 11P, Doug Rutherford 11C, Michael Imrie 11P.

## Maths Puzzle of the Month

Well done to Alex Belcher 11C and Dean Breed 7F who got last month's puzzle right; the most right angles possible in an Octagon is six. Come to the Maths office at break or lunch to collect your prize.

This month's puzzle is now displayed in the department. Why don't you give it a try and see if you can win.

Here it is ...

### Silver Line

A class decides to raise money for charity using a 'silver line'. They invite people to put 10p pieces edge to edge to make a long line. The completed line was 25m long. Roughly how much money did they raise?

Good Luck.

*Miss C Bandle*



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

Roast Turkey, Sausage, Stuffing and Gravy

or

Vegetarian Option  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Festive Dessert

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 until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the Canteen at Breakfast Club or lunchtime only.

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

*Mrs L Borrowdale, Catering Manager*

## Eid-ul-Adha / The Festival of Sacrifice – Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December

This major festival (al-Eid al-Kabeer) marks the end of the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah) on the tenth day of the twelfth month of Dhul-Hijja. The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Pilgrims sacrifice animals at the village of Mina on their way back to Makkah from Mount Arafat (where they have spent the first day of the festival) in commemoration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ishmael. Muslims all over the world sacrifice an animal if they can afford it. The meat is distributed to the poor, and some is shared with relatives and friends.

## Parking and Vehicles around the School Site

Parents are reminded 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). Students may be dropped off and collected from Beechfield Road 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.

# SPORT



## FIXTURES

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

District Cross-Country @ Field of Hope, Gadebridge  
Years 7-11, 9 – 11.30 am (see detailed arrangements below)

### Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

U13 County League Basketball v Queens (H) 3.30 – 5.30 pm

U19 County League Basketball v Longdean (A) 3.30 – 5.30 pm

### Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

Year 7 Netball @ Astley Cooper

Year 8 Netball @ Adeyfield

Year 7 District Cup Soccer v JFK (H) 2 – 3.30 pm

### Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

U13 Girls District Cup Soccer v Adeyfield (H)

U14 District Cup Soccer v JFK (H) 2 – 3.30 pm

U15 District Cup Soccer v JFK (H) 2 – 3.30 pm

### Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec

Year 9 Netball @ Astley Cooper

Year 10 Netball @ Adeyfield

Year 7 A + B Netball v Tring (A)

U19 English Schools Basketball v Ben Allsop, Kings Lynn (A)

### Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec

U13 Girls District Soccer Tournament 1.30 – 4 pm

**Dacorum Cross Country Championships – Field of Hope, Warners End Road – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

	Meet Time	Race Time
Senior Girls	9 am	9.30 am
Senior Boys	9.15 am	9.45 am
Year 9 Girls	9.30 am	10 am
Year 9 Boys	9.45 am	10.15 am
Year 8 Girls	10 am	10.30 am
Year 8 Boys	10.15 am	10.45 am
Year 7 Girls	10.30 am	11 am
Year 7 Boys	10.45 am	11.15 am

Please meet Mr Cracknell at the large oak tree near the start line at the meet time stated above. Spikes or football boots should be worn. Please bring warm clothing and a drink.

*Mr P Bryson, PE Department*

### Netball Results

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Netball team who played in the District Tournament this week. The whole squad played well and were narrowly beaten in the semi final by Berkhamsted Collegiate School. Well done girls!

Pool Matches - v Astley Cooper won 5 - 2

v Longdean won 6 - 0

v Berkhamsted lost 4 - 5

Play Off - v Kings Langley won 4 - 1

Semi Final - v Berkhamsted lost 0 - 2

*Miss E Bevan*

Year 8 played in the District Netball Tournament on Tuesday. They were the Year 7 winners so were hoping to retain their title. The girls played fantastically well in their pool coming in first place after beating Adeyfield 10-0, Bridgewater 8-3 and Kings Langley 10-2. They played a very strong JFK team in the semi finals and won 8-2 which led to a nail biting final, against Kings Langley again. The girls played excellently and won the final 9-4, a real testament to all the hard work they have put in over the last year. I especially want to thank all the parents who have supported the squad and me at practices and matches; special mention to Mr and Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Tyne and Mrs Bellis. Finally, well done to all the girls who played in the final and to the whole squad for the effort they all showed at training.

District Champions again - can we do three???

*Miss N Black*

### Shelley Netball News

What a horrible day for weather! Even so, all the Shelley players turned up and showed great commitment – which is what sport is all about! I only have praise for them as nobody complained, and there were some great winning scores. How about this:-

Shelley 3 v Woodhall win 26 – 17 with some great shooting by Jenna Love

Shelley 4 v Gadeside 5 lost 10-23 but played in icy rain

Shelley 5 v Flamstead Green win 49 – 19 with great shooting and defence

Shelley 6 v Flamstead All Blacks win 26 – 11 with strong shooting and centre court play

Shelley Juniors v Parkstreet Blue win 46 – 9.

What can I say!

Top marks to everybody.

*Mrs K Worrell MBE*

### Gold Letters issued recently:

**Letter 83** Sports Leaders Hoodies

**Letter 84** Years 12/13 History Conference

**Letter 85** Year 10/11 Geography Field Trip

**Letter 86** Arrangements for Speech Day and Last Day of Term

**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*