



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

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HeadLines

In speaking to someone recently about the history of secondary schools in Hemel Hempstead, I was struck by both the many changes that had happened over the years and the changing fortunes of school success which seemingly turn on a dime! The Grammar and Secondary Moderns have come and gone. Particular schools have reached a zenith and then their star has faded in one way or another. It happens in every town in the country. What we also find are the schools which have survived the turbulence of successions of headteachers or local difficulties or financial struggles or national initiatives emerge strong and confident because their 'house is built on rock, not on sand'.

Our school is one such example. It has preserved a unique place in the psyche of Hemel Hempstead. It has a reputation. That can be a blessing and a curse. In our case, in this golden year of achievement for the school, it is a blessing. Our reputation is based on tradition, a record of success and the affection that generations of former students, teachers and parents have for the school. We saw this in our 75th Anniversary year and I see it, as my third year at the school draws to a close, in numerous ways. I have been privileged to become a friend of several old girls and boys of the school who value their connection and allegiance to the school. I am also honoured to know Jim Shackley who represents so much that is good and true about this place. Jim celebrates his 90th birthday in a few weeks' time and was one of the original teachers here in the 1930s. Jim; we salute you and wish you a very happy birthday and look forward to continuing our association with you!

The school is very different from the way it was in Jim's day but it also retains a central moral core and purpose: belief in the education of all to the very best standards. Our School Development Plan contains aspirational targets. These are not 'pipe dreams'; they encapsulate the view that our students are capable of excellence on a world scale, that the highest standards are attainable – for all!

On that note, I close the Headlines by congratulating the director Miss Keen, together with staff and students who took the National Theatre Connections' play 'It Snows' to Hampstead Theatre on Wednesday night, Miss Lang and Miss Billinge, their team of dancers, technicians and helpers who took 'Labelled' to the national finals premier league of 'Rock Challenge' at Portsmouth recently and to Miss Bevan, her team, all the 'additional staff helpers' and all the students who competed so brilliantly in the District Sports yesterday.

Sandra Samwell. Headteacher

PTA News

SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 14th JUNE 2008 – 2pm

If you have raffle tickets still at home, can you please return the stubs and money as soon as possible so they are included in the draw.

AUCTION

We will be holding an auction at the fair with the following items up for bids:

A signed WATFORD FC pennant

A signed photograph of Theo Walcott

Tottenham Hotspur Shirt signed by Robbie Keane.

Bids will be taken at any time leading up to the fair and on the day.

We still require donations from you to help swell the Tombola stall, cakes to sell and most important of all your HELP.

We would love to see you on the day, and we will help you spend your money.

Lots of attractions have been booked including our own version of Hemel's Got Talent, which is being organised by Miss Samwell.

BBQ is once again being cooked by Mrs Cracknell & Mr Chappelow, aided by Mr Stuart and Miss Black.

We really hope to see you there.

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

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For excellent work and for being great ambassadors for the school: Amourette Alainia 10A, Ryan Campbell 10F, Max Dwight 10L, Amy French 10F, Sam Fyfe 10C, Natalie Kemp 10N, Amy Mairs 10N, Helena Mansbridge 10C, Sarah Nicholls 10N, Sidonie Reid 10N, Matthew Reynolds 10A, Blair Shun 10N, Chloe Simpkins 10A, James Stratford 10L.

For excellent work in Biology: Shannon Rance 8F.

Parental Forum

The next Parental Forum will take place on **Wednesday 11th June (6.30pm)** in the Library. Our forums meet on a half termly basis and are open to all parents. At our last forum, we discussed a range of issues regarding communication with parents and the input from those who attended the meeting has proved extremely valuable in our planning for next year. I will give some feedback on this at the June forum. The focus for our next meeting is **homework**. If you have views on this subject which you would like to share with us, you are most welcome to attend. I would be very grateful if you could contact my PA, Mrs Coe, to indicate your interest in attending. If you would like to propose a topic for future meetings, please contact us in the same way. I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

Mr Jordan, Deputy Headteacher



arts colleges

'HEMEL'S GOT TALENT'

Students (and parents or staff?) with a talent for singing or dancing or football skills or juggling or playing an instrument or anything else (!) are invited to perform their act on the afternoon of 14th June at the Summer Fair. Please contact Miss Samwell via school (01442 390100) if you are interested in performing a two/three minute act, or drop a note to Miss Samwell into reception, giving your name, a contact number and the nature of your act.

It's all in the name of good fun and there will be Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Piers Morgan look-alikes paid to judge your efforts.
Miss S Samwell

Special Offer for Year 11 Prom

Toni&Guy Hairdressing in the Marlowes are offering our students 20% off a cut and blowdry for the Year 11 Prom. If you are planning to make an appointment, please collect a coupon from Student Services and telephone Toni&Guy on 01442 233300 or 07980 723212. There are a limited number of coupons available, so don't delay in collecting yours!

Calendar of Religious Festivals

The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival
Sunday 8th June

This festival is most notable now for the great dragon boat races, which take place between slim rowing boats (sometimes 100 feet long) shaped like dragons. People also go down to the rivers to picnic and celebrate on boats. Originally the festival commemorated the suicide by drowning of the poet and statesman Ch'u Yuan in about 279 BCE.

*Mrs J Ramnarine***Tesco Computers For Schools Vouchers**

Thank you for your help in collecting and donating Tesco vouchers to our school. The most recent voucher scheme has now ended. If you have any further vouchers, we would be grateful if you would send them in to school as soon as possible.
IT Department

Dates for Your Diary*****Gold Week*****

9th & 10th Jun English Dept. Gifted and Talented Masterclass
11th Jun Yr 10 Science Modules
Parents' Forum 6.30 pm in Library (please see further details on previous page)
12th Jun eSafety Parents' Information Evening (see Gold Letter 174)
13th Jun FUN RUN
13th-16th Jun Yr 10 D of E Bronze Expedition

*****Blue Week*****

16th & 17th Jun Yr 7 Geography trips to Chilterns
17th Yr 8 Science Carbon Challenge Roadshow
18th Yr 12 Biology pre-fieldtrip meeting (Yr 13 trip)
5.30 pm in Library
Yr 9 Lake District trip information evening
7 pm in Sixth Form Study Centre
19th Yrs 10/11 Geography pre-fieldtrip meeting
5.30 pm in Library

Summer Term Calendar amendments:

The House Music Festival has moved to Monday 30th June.
Years 7, 8 and 9 Prizegivings have moved to Friday 4th July.
Year 10 Prizegiving has moved to Friday 11th July.

Sport

FIXTURES

Mon 9th Yrs 8/10 County League Match 6 @ Jarman Park 3.30 – 6.45 pm

Tue 10th Yr 10 Cricket v Cavendish (H) 3.30 – 6.30 pm

Yrs 7/9 Athletics @ Jarman Park 3.30 – 6.45 pm

Thu 12th Yrs 9/10 Rounders @ Ashlyns 3.30 pm

Fri 13th FUNRUN!

RESULTS

Yr 7 County Cup Cricket v Watford Boys School – lost

Yr 7 District Cup Cricket v Longdean - won

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to Anthony Serrano, who left the school three years ago, on achieving his Level 3 Football Referee Award. Anthony is one of 20 referees in the country to be fast-tracked and he will be refereeing football Conference League games next season with the possibility of refereeing football league games within one year. It is Anthony's ambition to join the elite group of referees who operate in the English Premier League.

This is a great achievement in such a short time. Anthony began refereeing at the age of 15 whilst at school, after attending a course that is open to anybody at the school. The next course starts in September. Anybody interested in attending should see Mr Cracknell for details.

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys Athletics team on qualifying for the regional knockout stage of the English Schools Track and Field Cup competition. The regional stage will take place on Monday 16th June in Cambridge.

The annual Fun Run will be taking place on Friday, 13th June. This year sees a slight change to the route; the run will be around three miles shorter than in previous years.

Sponsorship forms have been given to students in PE lessons this week. We will be raising money for a number of causes this year, including Marie Curie Cancer Fund, our partnership school in South Africa, the Minibus Appeal, and the PE Department. Any money raised will be gratefully received.

Students are allowed to wear fancy dress for the event but it must be appropriate, practical and comfortable. Sensible footwear is essential. If you have any spare, clean, empty water bottles/containers, please bring them into the PE Department before Friday 13th June in order to equip the water stations dotted along the route.

Any pupils unable to participate must bring a note to Miss Bevan before the morning of the run. Anybody who is not a current student at HHS but would like to run, should contact Miss Bevan at the school by Thursday 12th June.

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 174 eSafety Information Evening for parents

Letter 183 Yr 11 End of year administration

Letter 184 Yr 12 Higher Education Convention

Letter 185 'It Snows' Drama Production at the Hampstead Theatre

Letter 186 Yr 9 Lake District trip

Letter 187 Yr 10 Work Experience Placements

Letter 188 Honduras trip 2009

Letter 189 Yr 8 Science Carbon Challenge Roadshow

Maths Department - Stars of the Month for May

Year 7: Jade Gardiner, Alex Underhill, Kirsty Javins, Jamie Smith.

Year 8: Mark Cowley, Matthew Prowse, Aaron Lloyd, Sydney Clark.

Year 9: Catherine Smith, Pippa Fay, Sam Flowerdew, Jake Territt, Charlotte Board, Lauren Sumner, Ollie Edwards.

Year 10: Polly Taylor, Natalie Kemp, Daniel Smart, Liam Twyford, Sam Beasley, Michael Wadlow.

Year 11: Tom Todd, Katie Woodham, Charlotte Dibley, Arfana Sadique.

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.



