



HeadLines

Welcome to the new academic year at The Hemel Hempstead School! What a start to the year we have had. A level and GCSE results reached new heights with more students than ever before gaining top grades and ensuring their progression to higher education or Sixth Form. This is wonderful news for us and fantastic news for those students. We have consolidated our reputation as a school of excellence and quality of which we are justly proud. Whether you are the parent of a child starting at The Hemel Hempstead School for the first time or whether your association with the school goes back many years, I am sure that you will wish to celebrate our success. Well done to our staff. Thank you to governors and parents for their support, but mainly, many congratulations to our illustrious students!

May I also welcome new members of staff to our midst. We have a new Deputy Headteacher, Tim Jordan, who was previously at Roundwood Park School. Mr Jordan will be a great asset to our school as will Andy Stuart and Gary Mullings, our new Assistant Headteachers. You will meet these senior staff at various events over the course of this year. We wish them every success in their new roles.

Other new staff include:

Teaching Staff:

Mrs A Argent-Wenz	Science
Miss S Billinge	Dance
Mrs J Burgess	Maths
Ms J Dent	Child Development
Mrs I Evans	English
Ms S Kydd	Drama
Mrs S Lutz	Returning to Modern Foreign Languages
Miss A Neale	Geography
Mrs E Poynton	Child Development
Mrs K Saunders	Science
Miss K Smith	Drama

Support Staff:

Mrs A Hayward	Personnel Manager
Mr A Mellars	IT Support
Mrs L Duncan	Learning Supervisor
Mrs K Kwok	Learning Supervisor
Mr M Hayball	Theatre Technician
Miss A Large	Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Mathimugarajah	Teaching Assistant
Mrs R Postoyko	Teaching Assistant
Mr K Varndell	Teaching Assistant

So we begin a new academic year. I expect all our students to arrive punctually at the school every day in perfect uniform ready for a rich and rewarding time of learning. Welcome back!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

The following article about A Level results appeared in the Gazette on 16th August:
Summer 2007 has proved to be another exceptional year for Advanced Level results at The Hemel Hempstead School.

A record breaking 100% pass rate crowned a year of achievement for the Sixth Formers of this specialist Performing Arts School with a strong track record of academic achievement. Particular success stories for individual students included the four A grades gained by John Holloway, Victoria Stagg, Anthony George and Carly Welton and the three A grades attained by Natasha Burke, Matthew King, Sara Siseci, Charlotte Benton, Robert Powell, Tom Saunders and Christopher Wales. Both Victoria and Charlotte's results mean that they are able to take up their places at Oxford University and at Queen's College, Cambridge to read History and English respectively. Other students have matched or exceeded the points required for their chosen places at top universities.

Headteacher, Sandra Samwell, said: "We could not be more delighted with these outstanding results. I would pay tribute to the commitment and dedication of so many students who have not only been successful in their academic work but have also played such a major part in the wider life of this thriving school. I would also wish to applaud our wonderful teachers who inspired and engaged the students in such an effective way.

With three quarters of the students achieving top grades, a total of 138 A and B grades alongside an improved average point score per student and by subject, all the indications are that this ever popular and increasingly successful Dacorum school continues to maintain its position as one of the leading specialist schools in the country.

"We are very proud of our students and their marvellous achievements. This is a glowing testament to the hard work of the students and staff supported by parents and governors. The 76th year of the school's history has started on a high note!" said Miss Samwell.

Quote of the week: "Your most valuable asset in learning is a positive attitude." Bobbi DePorter

The following article about GCSE results appeared in the Gazette on 23rd August:
Record GCSE results of 84% at 5 A*-C are being celebrated at The Hemel Hempstead School today. Following the exceptional results of last year, the school has improved by a further 5%, an 11% increase over two years.

With more than 100 students achieving 9 or more high grade passes and results running at 76% when English and Mathematics are included, this popular and successful Hertfordshire School has further established its reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching and learning.

Strong individual performances included Edward Gardner's 12 passes at A and B grade including 10 A*s. Other students who attained 9 or more passes at A*, A and B grades were Zoe Wills, Jenny Tucker, Louise Terry, Lindsay Smith, Sarah Haddow, Rebecca Annis and Peter Boysons. Headteacher, Sandra Samwell, said "We knew that the results were going to be our best ever but even I am amazed at the wonderful outcomes across the board in every subject and for nearly every student. The standard of our teaching is outstanding, but our teachers have really outshone themselves this year. I am very proud of them and delighted for our students, many of whom will progress to our Sixth Form."

When GMTV visited the school on Thursday morning for a live broadcast of their breakfast show, questions were posed concerning whether GCSEs are easier than they once were and whether schools are masking their failure to address English and Maths' skills with vocational results. Miss Samwell was quick to rebut both arguments: "Whilst we perceive our 5 A*-C rate as a very important indicator of our success, it is absolutely crucial that we enable the majority of our students to gain English and Mathematics at C grade or above. We have focused on this area more than any other in this academic year and it has paid off with a 12% improvement in results. This will have a massive effect on the ability of our students to move forward to A level success and higher education places. Are GCSEs easier? I know that the quality of teaching in this school is better than it has ever been and it was always very good. The improvement in teaching standards has been reflected up and down the country as has the commitment of students to their studies. That has proved to be the 'major factor' in the stunning results we have seen at the Hemel Hempstead School."

Dance Auditions

Auditions for Reverb will be held on Monday 10th September from 3.30-5pm in PA1. These are open to students in Years 10-13.

Mrs C Lang

Food Technology—100% pass rate

Congratulations to eight of our previous Year 11 Food Technology students who have passed the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level 2 Award in Nutrition. This is a new award and I am very pleased to congratulate the following students: Jessica Breeze, Bethany Desborough, Sarah Haddow, Laura Roff, Eleanor Rose, Sophie Simmonds, Abigail Watt, Zoe Whelan.

Well done everyone. Please collect your certificates from Mrs Walker in M15.

Mrs A Walker, Head of Technology

Year 8 Hampton Court Trip—19th and 20th September 2007

Arrangements for this trip are well under way. If you have only sent in the permission slip for your child I need to receive the payment by Wednesday 12th September. Information regarding the organisation of this trip will be sent home early next week. If there are any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Mr J Mitchell, History Department



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gold Week

Monday 10th Sept HHSA AGM, 7pm in the Library
Friday 14th Sept Year 11 work experience interviews

Blue Week

Mon 17th-Fri 21st Sept Year 11 Work Experience
Mon 17th and Tues 18th Year 13 Biology Field Trips
Tues 18th Sept Years 12 and 13 Art and Design Trip
Weds 19th and Thurs 20th Year 8 Trips to Hampton Court

Ramadan

13th September to 13th October is the Muslim month of fasting known as Ramadan. We are aware that some of our students will be fasting during this important religious observance. We would be grateful if parents would contact us with any comments or requests. For example, we would be happy to set up a lunchtime prayer room. Iftar will be available free for students and their families who are fasting, on Wednesday 10th October in the school hall at 5.30pm.

Mrs J Ramnarine

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

AGM—All parents/guardians are welcome to attend this meeting which will be held on Monday 10th September at 7pm in the Library.

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

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 answer phone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible**.

Sport

FIXTURES

Saturday 8th September: Year 7 Football Vs Adeyfield
8.45am meet at school

Tuesday 11th September: Under 14 County Football Trials @ Queens 4pm

Wednesday 12th September: Under 15 County Football Trials @ Kings Langley 4pm

Thursday 13th September: Under 16 County Football Trials @ Barclay 4pm, Year 9 Netball Astley Cooper 3.30-6pm, Year 10 Netball Adeyfield 3.30 - 6pm

Friday 14th September: Under 18 County Football Trials @ Queens 4pm

Saturday 15th September: Year 7 & 8 A & B teams Vs Berkhamsted Collegiate

SPORTS NEWS

Welcome back to everyone. Practices will start on Monday 10th September for all year groups and extra-curricular timetables will be put in students' registers and will also be displayed on notice boards.

Miss E Bevan, Head of PE

Assistant and Deputy Headlines!

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to the Hemel Hempstead School community as the new Deputy Headteacher. I am very excited at the prospect of working here, the school having made a wonderful impression on me during the course of the interview process, not least the positive and welcoming attitude of our magnificent students. I have taught in Hertfordshire schools for the past 15 years, beginning my career in the Watford area, before moving on to the St Albans district as an Assistant Head. As Deputy Head my role will include overseeing the timetable and options process, devising an outstanding curriculum which meets the needs of all of our students, deputising for the Head when she is absent, liaising with our partner schools on exciting new developments for students aged 14-19 and working particularly closely with Science and Year 10. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming year and thank you for the warm welcome which I have already received.

Mr T Jordan

It is my greatest privilege to be working at The Hemel Hempstead School as Assistant Headteacher. I have previously worked in Surrey as Head of PE and last year as Head of Upper School. I am a keen sportsman and as such am looking forward to getting involved in the extra-curricular life of the school. There are an amazing number of talented students at The Hemel Hempstead School and I am highly committed to enabling everyone to achieve their full potential in a safe and caring environment. Finally, I have already met a great number of members of the school community and am really looking forward to working with the students, staff and parents.

Mr A Stuart

I am delighted to now be working as part of the Leadership Team at The Hemel Hempstead School. I am in my eleventh year at the School after completing almost five years as Head of Physical Education. My main responsibilities this year will be working with Miss May (Learning Leader for Maths) and Miss Black (Year 8 Student Achievement Leader) in order that all students in these areas continue to achieve their potential. In addition, I also have line management responsibilities for the Examinations Department, the Data Team and the Special Educational Needs Department. Please feel free to contact me at the school concerning any matters relevant to these areas.

Mr G Mullings

Gold Letters issued recently

Letter No. 2 Year 10 Science course
Letter No. 3 Year 10 Triple Science Course
Letter No. 4 Year 11 Science Course
Letter No. 5 Years 9 and 10 Holocaust Play