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## HeadLines

This week, I was rather taken with the story I heard about the man who was seeking spiritual enlightenment and was convinced that he would be sent a sign of what to do with his life. One day he saw a cat lying under a tree. On closer inspection, he realised that the cat had no legs. Moving closer, he was surprised to see a fox approaching with a rabbit in its mouth who fed it to the cat. (As you can see not a fable for vegetarians this one!)

He had his answer. He would find his own place under a tree and trust in God to provide for him. He waited and waited. Nothing happened. He was starving. Eventually, he gave in and threw himself on the mercy of a local monastery where a monk welcomed him and offered him a bowl of broth to tide him over until suppertime. The man accepted gratefully and said "Perhaps this is what was meant to be: I would seek out sustenance and God would provide for me through you." "I don't think so" said the monk. "You derived the wrong message from what God showed you. You were meant to be the fox!"

How many of us think that what we see, our world view, must be right? I often do, I admit, and it is humbling to be made to think in a different way or see what someone else is seeing. This is a vital skill for Headteachers. As the great Rodgers and Hammerstein song says: "if you become a teacher by your pupils you'll be taught"(a prize to the person who can tell me the song and the show). Another skill to be treasured is standing firm on what one believes and what are fixed as the principles and practices of the school. I regret that I am still in receipt of letters, admittedly only a few, which aim to change school policy on uniform or behaviour for the sake of individual students who have nose piercings or similar! That isn't going to happen and I really do appreciate all the parents who are so supportive of us and back us up accordingly so that the school can focus on its real work.

The school motto is 'Esse Quam Videri'. Prior to googling it, I had no idea that it was the legend of so many schools and colleges and families and sororities throughout the world. I did know that Cicero had coined the phrase a couple of thousand years ago and I was vaguely aware that the state of North Carolina had it as its motto on its coat of arms. Now there's nothing like a Latin motto to give a spot of kudos to a school but it makes even better sense when it is followed as a guide to the ethos of the school. I like the motto, probably even better than the one at my last place: 'Quidquid agas prudenter agas'(whatever you do, do it well) or the one I learned in my own schooldays: 'Non sibi sed deo et alteri'(not ourselves but God and others). The translation of 'To be rather than to seem ...to be' strikes a chord about living our lives as they should be lived and to be judged by our actions not our image. I'd like to think that this school can get better and better at being the school it aspires to be with the help of everyone reading the newsletter. I certainly don't want it to be more like the cynically run place described by Machievelli when he turns Cicero on his head and suggests a better line is 'to seem rather than to be...' How many politicians can you think of where that was the case?

The inspection of Art this week revealed again that this place doesn't seem to be good, it is. Other indicators abound but I would draw your attention to the success of Rachel Lotts from 8 Nettleden in a national Science competition run by IChemE. She came top out of fifteen hundred entries and was awarded an iPod nano and five hundred pounds of Science equipment for the school. Printed below is Rachel's winning poem which is super. Well done, Rachel and well done to all those students and staff who make the school motto live and breathe.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

**For Excellent English GCSE Coursework:** Abigail Acors 11L, Amy Berloth 11C, Abigail Bryce 11F, Matthew Gill 11A, Paige Minns 11L, Sidonie Reid 11N, Graham Taylor 11P, Sean Taylor 11F, Natalie Atkinson 11C, Kelly Egerton 11A, Kenny Mitchell 11A, Max Farrelly 11N, Charlotte Fletcher 11N, Sehrush Hussain 11F, Holly Moxon 11A, Rekiya Shah 11F, Charlotte Chappell 11C, Taylor Jones 11C.

**For Excellent Work in Geography:** Sophie Kinley 7A, Talisa James 7A, Eliza Dickinson 7P.

**For Excellent Work in Science:** Rachel Lotts 8N.

## Whynotchemeng Poetry Competition, National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) 2009

For NSEW 2009, Whynotchemeng asked Science teachers to perform the 'top ten flash bang demos' to their Key Stage 3 students, and then asked those students to write an illustrated poem based on their observations and feelings.

All of the Year 8 students took part in a joint English and Science lesson and wrote poems about the demonstrations they saw. The best poems were then entered for this competition.

They received a whopping 1568 entries from secondary schools all over the UK and the winner and runners-up were chosen by Kate Bellingham, National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Careers Co-ordinator and former BBC Tomorrow's World presenter.

As Miss Samwell has already told you in her Headlines, Rachel Lotts (8N) won this National Competition. Her poem and videos of the demonstrations can be viewed at [www.whynotchemeng.com](http://www.whynotchemeng.com).

Rachel has won herself an iPod nano and £500 for the school to spend on science equipment.

Well done Rachel!

*Miss J Harris, Learning Leader Science*

## The dragons dance of fire!

Turning the gas handle,  
Taps left on,  
Making the sound of a hissing snake.  
The green slime,  
Rising to the top of the world,  
Bubbles forming a tower.  
The bubbles bounce into the air,  
I take a deep breath and await the magic.

One by one  
Some bubbles pop,  
And leave a drop of  
Soap behind.  
Where have they gone?  
They'd vanished!

Teachers all around,  
One holding out their hand.  
They slice half the tower and  
Lay it in their hands,  
Like they were slicing  
Some butter.  
The half of the tower lays in her hand  
Awaiting to be lit by a match.

Suddenly,  
The match swims forward  
And lights the bubbles  
Forming a ring of fire  
Floating like a cloud  
On the ceiling.

24 children sit in silence,  
Watching the orange glow dance  
From the mouth of a breathing dragon.  
Their eyes follow the movement  
Of the sphere shapes  
Sharply turning into a blitz of fire,  
Kissing the ceiling  
Roaming alive and free.

The breeze rushes over our heads,  
Hitting our cheeks like a gust of wind  
But hotter and smoother.  
My heart pounding...  
But its over.  
Scary but exciting,  
The experience sleeps in my mind  
For eternity.

*by Rachel Lotts 8N*

## Mathematics Stars of the Month for April

**Year 7:** Megan Heath 7C, Joe Nicholls 7P, Robert Smith 7A, Tawny James 7N, Josh Snow 7P, George O'Dell 7F, Hayley Scott 7L, Zoe Bothwell 7C.

**Year 8:** Tiffany Harrison 8L, Jess Delany 8N, Conor Blake 8A, Philippa Gobby 8A, Jamie McIvor 8A, Amy Walters 8N, Charlie Ausden 8C.

**Year 9:** Owain Jordan-Smith 9A, Cale Tilford 9C, James Nicks 9C, Olivia Bauldrey 9N, Holly Walker 9N, Shona Berloth 9F.

**Year 10:** Maeve McLaughlin 10N, Maisie Shadbolt 10A, Roshana Ramsay 10P, Sharmin Sultana 10F, Taylor Robinson 10A, Carrie Smith 10F, Emily Toseland 10L, Kieran Storrie 10N.

**Year 11:** Amelie Doona 11C, Suzie Kirton 11A, Amber-Jay Unwin 11A, Rikki Khan 11P.

Congratulations to all the Maths Stars for April – keep up the excellent work!

*Miss L Jackson, Mathematics Department*

## Maths Puzzle of the Month

Congratulations to our April winners: **Amelie Lecoeuche 9P** and **Sophie Kinley 7A**. Please come to the Maths office for your prizes.

### April Solution:

First, Phil and Karen go across with the flashlight (2 minutes are used up.)

Karen takes the flashlight back across to the others (4 minutes are now used up.)

Stinky and Bubba go across with the flashlight (14 minutes are now used up.)

Phil takes the flashlight back to the other side (15 minutes are now used up.)

Karen and Phil cross for the last time (17 minutes are now used up.)

## Puzzle of the Month for May

Please see the puzzle diagram displayed in each Mathematics classroom.

Can you rearrange the squares so that each row and each column has exactly one of each colour and exactly one of each shape?

(For example, you cannot have two red squares in a row... and you cannot have two triangles in a column.)

Make sure your solution is clear; you may need coloured pens or pencils!

All entries should be submitted to your Maths teacher by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

*Mrs O Okusanya, Mathematics Department*

## GRAPHIC PRODUCTS - INNOVATIVE CHALLENGE

### IMPORTANT REMINDER - CHANGE OF EXAM DATE

This exam will now take place as follows:

Session 1	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> May	12 pm start
Session 2	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	9 am start
Review	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	11.30 am

*Examinations Office*

# PTA News

## Quiz Night

Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Sixth Form Study Centre.

Mr Chappelow has arranged a Quiz Night for the HHSA. Tickets cost just £4 per person. Teams of up to 8 please.

We are not including food this time, but please bring along your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle.

As we have had to cancel the summer fair we need to raise funds in other ways. So please get a team together and come along for a real fun evening for very little cost. Flyers have been sent out with students, so please search for them.

We really look forward to seeing you there.

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am, school car park

Book fair/sale and car boot sale in the car park (in the dining room if raining).

We are holding the above event as a fundraiser for the HHSA.

We really need donations of books and DVDs; if you can donate some please contact the number below.

Entry is £5 for sellers and free to buyers. Please come along and join us and help raise much needed funds.

We have recently donated £500 to the Science Department towards costs for the Honduras trip.

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



## Dates for Your Diary

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

11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>

Year 8 Biology visits to Boxmoor Trust

11<sup>th</sup> Year 12 Art Exam

County League Athletics 3.30 – 6 pm

12<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> Jun GCSE Examinations

12<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> Jun AS Examinations

12<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 RS GCSE Exam

13<sup>th</sup> May English Schools Track and Field Cup

14<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 Catering Exam

Year 10 Triple Biology Module

15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 D of E Bronze Practice Expedition

15<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 Catering Exam

16<sup>th</sup> May HHS Quiz Night

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

18<sup>th</sup> May Year 10 (Groups Ma1 and Ma8) GCSE

Maths Exam

19<sup>th</sup> May Year 8 Girls Third HPV Vaccination

20<sup>th</sup> May Year 11 Drama Theatre trip

22<sup>nd</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> Jun A2 Examinations

24<sup>th</sup> May Years 11 and 12 D of E Training Day

**HALF TERM Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

## \*\*Summer Calendar Amendment\*\*

Please note that the first day of the Autumn Term for students is *Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September* (not 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept as published in the Summer Calendar distributed last week) and the INSET day (when school is open for staff only) is *Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September*.

### Students Ties

New/replacement ties may be purchased from Student Services at a cost of £6.50.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> May County Athletics league 3 @ Watford

4-6pm

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> May Yr 9 & 10 Rounders @ Ashlyns

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> May English School Athletics Cup

10.30pm Start @ Jarmans Park

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> May Yr 7 & 8 Rounders @ Kings Langley

School

### RESULTS

U18 District Football Cup - Won the cup against

Longdean - well done boys, an excellent achievement!

*Mrs N Moore, PE Department*

### SPORTS NEWS

#### East Region Youth Swimming Championships

Congratulations to Alex Hatt 10L who competed for her club, the Barracudas, for the first time at this level of competition last weekend. She gained her club's highest place result in the 50m breaststroke, where she made the final finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place. This was a tremendous result and a time of 36.96 is a magnificent time for a 25m pool, let alone a 50m one. It was such a close race that the five girls who finished between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place were all within 0.5 second of each other. Well done Alex!

*Miss N Black, PE Department*

### Heath Lane Nursery

Parents are asked to remind their children, just as we will remind the students in assemblies, that it is unacceptable to use Heath Lane Nursery as a short cut or a thoroughfare or as a play area. This is a matter of serious concern and trespassers will be dealt with appropriately.

*S J Samwell*

### Gold Letters issued recently:

**Letter 192** Year 9 Team Challenge Week

**Letter 193** Year 11 Exam Leave Arrangements

**Letter 194** Year 8 Ecology Field Trip

*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.