



The Hemel Hempstead School

News

Issue 696

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www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

A very happy 2009 to all our readers!

As is compulsory in schools, one of our boilers broke down on the first day of term resulting in a very cold main hall and surrounding areas. All is mended now. As a result of the cold and, possibly, some ill-advised New Year resolutions, some eccentricities of dress have manifested themselves. Please read the note on uniform elsewhere in the newsletter as we would like to start the year on a smart and consistent note.

What will 2009 bring for us? What changes can the school expect?

- Our second specialism of Science and Mathematics will become a reality
- Our work with gifted and talented children will be more prevalent in school and we will achieve further recognition at county and national level for our efforts
- Results will improve further and more students will be able to access their Post-16 choices
- The House structure will enhance our work and we will see more achievement generated from the 'schools within a school' system
- High quality staff will be retained and more excellent staff will be appointed
- Several excellent productions, including the school musical at the end of the month, will be seen
- Sporting success will operate at an ever higher level
- Links with schools locally and internationally will strengthen
- Student voice and student leadership will become central to everything we do in the school
- The school will look better in terms of cleanliness, decoration, refurbishment and further new buildings
- School catering will be transformed with a new look dining area and food of superb quality and value

Overall, the school will continue to be a centre of excellence. In our recent 'RAISEonline', which compares us with schools nationally, we find ourselves in the top 5% on many indicators. That is fantastic for a school such as ours and benefits all students.

I hope that you all received some wonderful gifts from Santa. Whilst I was a little unsure about the diamond encrusted dustpan and brush set I received, I was happier with the jewellery, the 'Singing in the Rain' jigsaw and the countless books. I now know all about Dawn French, Julie Walters and Roger Moore from their biographies but I am concerned that on reading my gift of '1001 Movies to See Before you Die', I had seen all but a few. Is this a sign of something foreboding?

Hopefully, I will be blessed with the opportunity to greet you every week via these newsletters. I know that the international, national and local news may not be what we want to hear as the year progresses but I am sure that there will be many positives to celebrate at HHS.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

School Uniform - a Reminder

We are a school with a strict uniform policy, believing that the students' pride in belonging to The Hemel Hempstead School should be reflected in the way they wear their uniform. Unfortunately, over the recent cold snap, some students have become lax about wearing the uniform correctly. We are addressing this in school, but would be grateful if parents would help to reinforce this message and check that the correct uniform is provided. The key points are:

- Coats, hats, scarves and gloves should be **plain** navy or black, and removed indoors
- Proper shoes should be worn, not trainers, boots or canvas shoes
- No nail varnish or jewellery, apart from watches and/or plain ear studs (one only in each ear)
- Girls' tights should be **plain** black or navy and without any socks worn under the tights. Tights may be 'natural' in the Summer term only.

If there is any problem in providing the uniform for your child, please contact your child's form tutor or Student Achievement Leader in the first instance.

Dropping off and collecting students from school

When dropping off or collecting your children from school please be courteous to local residents and **do not** park across their driveways. Thank you.

Library Notice

From 11 January Books For Schools tokens will appear every day in The Times and The Sunday Times. We can exchange these tokens for free books of our choice from a catalogue of 170 titles. There will be 12 tokens printed each week and with books starting at just 10 tokens you don't have to be a regular Times reader to make a difference to our collection. Tokens can be deposited in the collection boxes in Student Services, Reception and the Library. With your help we can make a real difference to our Library, ensuring that students have access to some of the very best titles available to help them to read and improve their literacy.

Mrs E Krajewski, Librarian

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 90 Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening

Letter 91 Dacorum Technology Tournament

Letter 92 D of E Gold Practice Expedition

Letter 93 Years 12/13 Mathematics in Action

All Gold Letters can be viewed on our website: 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



School Production – ‘Anything Goes’
Wed 28th, Thurs 29th Fri 30th and Sat 31st January
at 7.30 pm

Tickets for this year’s musical, ‘Anything Goes’, will go on sale next week. They will be available, initially for the cast, on Monday 12th January and for the general public from Wednesday 14th January. Tickets cost £7.50 (£5 concessions) and will be available from Student Services at break and lunchtimes.

Mrs D Heale, Subject Leader: Drama

Maths Puzzle of the Month

The winners of last month’s puzzle ‘the silver line’ were Sam Acors 7A and Charlie Mayhew 7C. Well done. They both got the correct answer of £125. There were other correct entries so well done to those people too. Here’s how you reach this answer. A 10p coin is approximately 2cm in diameter and 25m is 2500cm, so if we see how many 2cm fit into 2500cm that will tell us the number of coins, which is 1250, and as they are 10ps that means we have £125.

Next month’s puzzle is now displayed in the department so please have a go. Here it is ...

Family Photo

In a family photo you see

- 1 grandfather
- 1 grandmother
- 2 fathers
- 2 mothers
- 6 children
- 4 grandchildren
- 2 sisters
- 2 brothers
- 3 sons
- 3 daughters
- 1 father-in-law
- 1 mother-in-law
- 1 daughter-in-law

What’s the fewest number of people possible that are in the photo?

Good Luck from the Maths Department. *Miss C Bandle*

Stars of the Month for December

Year 7: Ethan Mills 7L, Amy Coe 7F, Lucy O’Dell 7L, Elouise Kimmance 7N, Maisie Wright 7C, Sophie Kinley 7A, Sophia Amamou 7P, Lindsey Duke 7A.

Year 8: Adam Zambardi 8C, Chloe Bradley 8N, Mark Baldwin 8N, Kristian Fomes 8L, Sonia Odedra 8F, Matthew Bateman 8L, Nick Mawer 8F.

Year 9: Rebecca Martin 9C, Alex Burgess 9C, Ella McKenzie 9F, Niamh Ginger 9P, Elizabeth Naylor 9F, Jessica Sear 9A, Ben Catt 9N.

Year 10: Jack Hoar 10C, Joe Gibbs 10A, Charlotte Edmonds 10P, Alice Head 10C, Philippa Carr 10P, Alex Hatt 10L, Amy Howard 10A, Dean Barnett 10N.

Year 11: Amy Capel 11L, Josh Hoskins 11A, Jake Walker 11L, Lucia Benedetti-Smith 11F, Rosie Payne 11N, Sunel Bailey 11F.

Dates for Your Diary



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

15th Jan Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30 – 7 pm

*****Gold Week*****

23rd Jan Year 11 Post-16 Careers/Options Forum

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 12th Jan

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

Tues 13th Jan

Yr 8 Girls Basketball v Longdean (A) 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Weds 14th Jan

Yr 7 Hockey v JFK (H) 3.30 – 5 pm

Yr 7 County Cup Soccer quarter final v Kings Langley (H) 2 – 4 pm

Thurs 15th Jan

U13 County League Basketball v Westfield (A) 3.30 – 6 pm

Yr 8 Girls Basketball v Bridgewater (H) 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Sat 17th Jan

Yrs 7 – 10 Soccer v Adeyfield venues tbc

U13 Dacorum Schools v Northampton National Cup last 16 8 am – 1 pm

RESULTS

1st XI District Cup Soccer quarter final v Adeyfield won 2-1

Yr 7 County Cup Soccer v John Warner won 6-2

Mr P Bryson, PE Department

SPORTS NEWS

Shelley Netball

On a cold, bleak morning the brave students of HHS went to play netball in the Watford Sunday Netball League. It was cold! Shelley 6 played first and although losing to division leaders Cosmic, and missing injured Molly Blake, still gave a good account of themselves. Next to play were Shelley Juniors. What an amazing display of netball. It was a pleasure to umpire their match. The final score of Shelley Juniors 42, Parkstreet 11 says it all. It was great to see Charlie Bartlett back on court again, working with Francesca Quinn, Shona Berloth and Alex Eykelbosch.

The last round saw Shelley 4 versus Shelley 5. Although Shelley 4 went ahead at the first quarter, Shelley 5 worked hard, closing the gap and losing by only four goals, to gain a point. Some fine play by Alice McQuade, Amy Berloth and Amber Bartlett helped to secure the Shelley 4 win. Shelley 5 are all ex HHS students who formed a team this season and are remembering their skills training well.

Well played everybody, on such a miserable day.

Mrs K Worrell MBE

Christian Union

Christian Union meets in M6 on Thursday lunchtimes. All are welcome.

Sam Messenger 12P

PTA News

Jumble Sale

Saturday 21st March 10am

Please begin to sort out your unwanted clothes and household items for the Jumble Sale. We are able to store them now.

If you received any unwanted Christmas gifts we could really use them for our summer fair tombola stall.

Summer Fair

The event has been arranged for Saturday May 16th.

If you would like to run your own stall, or know someone who would, please get in touch.

We have lots of things planned already including Hemel’s Got Talent, which Miss Samwell will be hosting.

Our Sports Leaders are putting together a tournament for our linked Primary schools’ Year 6 students.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 20th January 2009 at 7pm in the Library.

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