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HeadLines

I heard on the radio yesterday morning that kindness is infectious and that an act of altruism can trigger an effect as does the fluttering of butterfly wings or as chaos theory tells me 'small differences in the initial condition of a dynamical system may produce large variations in the long term behaviour of the system'.

Historically, schools have expended much energy on modifying minor aspects of misbehaviour in order to prevent major outbreaks of indiscipline. Just as some aspects of economic theory have rested on the 'look after the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves' premise, so schools have exhorted students to be punctual, wear correct uniform, stand up and sit down at the correct moment and so forth. Seemingly meaningless minutiae of regulation actually provide a clear and consistent framework of discipline: right and wrong painted on a cameo. Thus pupils down the ages have railed against these small-scale rules as was so vividly illustrated in 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13¾' when he led the protest for the right to wear red socks in his school....mainly, of course, to impress the exotic and elusive Pandora.

Can such seemingly insignificant acts have an effect for the better? Certainly, some of the heroes and heroines I have admired over the years have not necessarily been proponents of the massive, overwhelming act which in 'one fell swoop' changes the world. I always liked the story of Gladys Aylward who with dogged determination chipped away at the Chinese tradition of foot binding and whose courage, much enhanced by the romanticised portrayal by Ingrid Bergman in 'Inn of the Sixth Happiness', inspired generations of schoolgirls to seek the missionary life.

Over the past week, I have had to deal with another 'Facebook' incident. Some students of this school signed up for or were 'added as friends' to a site which was vile and disgusting in the extreme. Now the site has been removed and those students are no longer linked to such a site. Unfortunately, it isn't as simple as that. We leave an internet trail, an historic trail which once initiated cannot be stopped. The box of Pandora, after whom Adrian's girlfriend was named, is open and cannot be closed. Some parents do not allow their children to have computers in their rooms or to be on social networking sites which they cannot see. Some add themselves as 'friends' to their child's Facebook account. In that small act, lives, yes 'lives', and reputations can be saved. If you have been following the stories of young people committing suicide and the young woman who was murdered by the thirty three year old lover posing as a 'fit' nineteen year old, you will know that I am not exaggerating to make a point. If you have any questions or concerns about internet safety, do not hesitate to get in touch with me or our Head of IT in charge of e-safety, Mrs Lynne Head.

The human mind is flexible and suggestible; recent research indicates that students who were shown pictures of the letter A prior to taking tests did infinitely better than those who were shown the letter F. Perhaps, we'll try that *and* giving candidates bananas prior to GCSEs this summer!

In the meantime, I recommend that you undertake as many random acts of kindness as possible; without the luxury of a large research team, I can guarantee that it will cause you and the recipients to be much happier people.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent Work in Science

Robert Pattinson, Elizabeth Ellis, Lucy Naylor, Abigail Miller and Joshua Evans 7L, Lucy O'Dell 8L, Tammy James and Elouise Kimmance 8N.

For Excellent Work in Art

Jasmin Thompson 7C, Lauren Stone 8P.



ARTS NEWS

Congratulations to the students who performed at the Mayor's Civic Reception last Friday at Pendley Manor. They did the school proud and delivered entertainment of a really high quality.
Mrs Bailey and Mrs Heale

Visits and Visitors

We were pleased to play host this week to Charlene Taylor, a trainee teacher from a neighbouring school who was looking at how Dance is taught here. We are very proud of our Dance Department, and always welcome the chance both to show others and to learn from them.

Next week we are looking forward to the visit of our Artsmark Gold validator, who is coming in to look at our facilities and to talk to our students and staff. Luckily she has decided to come on the morning of the 16th March, as in the afternoon the Music staff will be out on a trip taking Key Stage 3 students to hear a professional orchestra play in Watford. More news on this trip next time.
Ms Darby, Assistant Headteacher

A/AS Level Recital Evening

There will be an A/AS Level Recital Evening in Heath Barn on Tuesday 23rd March, starting at 7.30 pm. Admission is free of charge.
Mrs Bailey, Director of Music

The Hemel Hempstead School World Fashion Show

Are you able to donate any clothing, jewellery and handbags for our students to 'redesign' for the forthcoming Fashion Show? If so, please bring your donations to Student Services. Thank you in advance for your help, which is greatly appreciated.
Mrs Ramnarine and Mrs Botha

Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio Vaccinations

Vaccinations will take place in school on Wednesday 17th March for Year 10 students and for any Year 11 students who missed the opportunity last year.

Please may I remind parents/guardians to return the blue consent forms as soon as possible. Many thanks.
Matron

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 151 Year 12 Mock Geographical Skills Examination
Letter 152 Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
Letter 153 Year 8 Maths Set 1 Watford Football Club trip
Letter 154 Year 8 Maths Set 5 Watford Football Club trip
Letter 155 Year 7 Student/Parent Mathematics Workshop
Letter 156 Key Stage 4 Easter Revision Sessions
Letter 157 Sixth Form Easter Revision Sessions
Letter 158 'Wear it orange' in aid of the National Osteoporosis Society
Letter 159 AS/A2 PE Revision
Letter 160 GCSE PE Revision
*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.



Dates for Your Diary

Blue Week

- 15th – 19th Mar** Science Week
- 15th Mar** Year 10 Maths Team Challenge at Longdean School
Years 12/13 Dance Exam Performance
- 16th Mar** Years 7/8/9 Music to BBC
Year 9 visit by Young Shakespeare Company
Year 13 Fire Service Life Skills talk
- 17th Mar** Year 10 Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio vaccinations
Year 11 Catering exam evaluation P2
Go4Set Science Celebration Day
HOUSE SCIENCE
- 18th Mar** Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening
- 19th Mar** Year 9 History visit to the Somme
Year 11 Catering exam evaluation P1
Key Stage 2 Dance Competition in Hall, 2.30pm
Years 7/8 Disco
- 20th Mar** Charity Quiz Night
- 21st Mar** Year 10 D of E Bronze Competency

Gold Week

- 22nd – 26th Mar** Year 12 Geography Field Trip
- 22nd Mar** Year 7 Parents/Students' Maths Workshop Evening
Year 11 Revision Evening
- 22nd and 23rd Mar** Year 11 Music Performance exams
- 23rd Mar** Recital Evening at Heath Barn, 7.30 pm
- 24th Mar** Year 12 Oxbridge Conference
Year 10 Diploma Consultation Evening
Years 11/12/13 Dacorum History Society talk
- 25th Mar** Year 13 Art trip to Tate Modern
Year 12 Parents Higher Education Information Evening
- 26th Mar** Year 11 Business Studies visit to town centre
- 27th Mar** Years 12/13 Dance Practical
- 27th – 29th** Years 12/13 MFL German trip to Berlin

Science Week Activity

On Monday 15th March a selected group of 80 students from across Years 7,8,9 and 10 will be involved in the Faber Maunsell Egg Challenge as part of our special science week activities.
Miss Whitehouse

PTA News

JUMBLE SALE TOMORROW at 10am

If you still have items you would like to donate to the Jumble Sale you may bring them along to the School Hall tomorrow morning – no later than 9 am please.

THEATRE TRIPS

If you would like to be on our database, then please send an e-mail to the following address – hhsatheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk. As this account has been newly set up, it would also help if all present members of our database could send an e-mail to this address so that we can be certain that we have your correct details.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th April, Library, 6 pm

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

SPORT



Fixtures

Mon 15th March

Year 8 Girls Hockey v Kings Langley (H)

Weds 17th March

Year 7 & 8 District Swimming Gala (Tring)

Year 7 & 8 District League Netball v Cavendish (A)

Thurs 18th March

Year 8, 9 & Senior District League Netball v Berkhamsted

Collegiate 4.30 pm (A)

Year 7 Girls Basketball v Bridgewater (H)

Results

Year 7 v Abbots Hill A lost 12 - 7, B lost 11 - 4

Year 9 Netball District League v JFK won 27 - 11

U14 Girls County Cup Football v St Albans won 11 - 1

U15 Boys District Cup Football Semi Final v Adeyfield won 5 - 1

Year 9 Netball District Cup Final v Kings Langley won 27 - 5

SPORTS NEWS

It has certainly been a busy week in the PE Department and so it seems it will continue! Football, Netball and Basketball competitions are all coming to an end now and The Hemel Hempstead School are still in with a chance of winning several titles this year.

Congratulations to the Year 9 Girls Netball squad who are continuing their very successful season with yet another win. Last week they continued their unbeaten run in the league with a 27 - 11 win over JFK and yesterday I had the privilege of watching them play in the Cup Final. Played on probably the coldest evening so far, the girls were fantastic. I was impressed by their skill and team work throughout and they eventually won 27 - 5. I would like to wish them the very best for their remaining league games and hope that their unbeaten run continues.

Congratulations to the Year 10 Football squad who beat Adeyfield in the Semi Final of the District Cup on Monday; they will meet Kings Langley School in the Final which will be played in the next couple of weeks. Good luck lads! Good luck also to the Senior squad who will meet JFK in the final of the District Cup in the next few weeks.

The girls Football squads continue to play well with the U14 girls producing a great 11-1 win over St Albans in the County Cup last week. They are now through to the Semi Finals. Yet another side making good progress in a cup competition.

Junior Voice of Football

Congratulations to Jack Benedetti-Smith who has won through to the last five commentators of this year's Junior Voice of Football organised by Sky Sports, Aston Villa Football Club and Visit Birmingham.

He will be recorded commentating on a live reserve team game on Wednesday 10th March and extracts of his commentary will be posted online to be voted for by the public.

We would like to wish Jack well and hope that you will all vote for him, once the details of the judging process have been released.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader PE

Year 9 Netball

After an unbeaten season the Year 9 netball team won the District cup in an impressive final game, winning 27-5! The girls braved a particularly cold day and worked extremely hard to continue their impressive form. Despite a few tumbles on court the girls impressed all with their skillful passes, teamwork and determination to win the cup. I have been so proud to have seen them through this third year as coach and I am certain that with continued form we could go on to win the District League competition too. Well done to all who played and thank you, as always, to our fantastic cheering squad of parents.

Miss Black

Yoga with Santoshni

Yoga classes will be taking place every Thursday from 3.45 pm to 4.45 pm in the Old Gym. These classes are for parents of students of the school and teachers only, costing £4 each session.

Please contact me at school if you would like further information.

Mrs Ramnarine, Diversity Co-ordinator

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.

You are invited to a

QUIZ NIGHT

on Saturday 20th March

at The Hemel Hempstead School

organised by Miss Black

who is running the 2010 Virgin London Marathon
on behalf of the **National Osteoporosis Society**

7 pm for 7.30 pm start

Tickets: £8 per person including fish and chip supper

Maximum of eight people per team

Last entry date: 17th March

To book a team or to join a table please contact Miss Black
at school: 01442 390100