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HeadLines

I write these lines on the eve of the Fun Run which is always a wonderfully uplifting day; this year, funds raised will go to Breast Cancer charities, hence the exhortation to wear something pink.

Far be it from me to enquire whether regular readers were wearing red, blue, orange, green or other significant colours on election night. It seems that we may have to wear more multi-coloured ties and badges from henceforth to indicate our political allegiance. Interesting times leading me to two lines of rumination in this week's headlines. The first is to ponder on what the expected cuts and arrival of the new Education Secretary will mean for this school and education nationally. From Tony Blair's 'Education, education, education' statement and an era in which specialist schools, academies and Ofsted took centre stage to what? No doubt, we will start to hear some detail shortly, beyond the bare bones of the manifesto and the resolution that front line services in health and education will not be cut. I would strongly advise Michael Gove to listen carefully to the wisdom of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the collective experience of headteachers before he launches into anything. A previous Conservative secretary of state, Kenneth Baker, had a kind of day named after him and actually, that's one of the few legacies to survive whereas other conservative policies of the past which had a certain 'je ne sais quoi' included grant maintained and more independent state sector schools which helped to bring about a rise in standards and a reform of local authorities. Whatever the policy changes, any tightening of fiscal constraints is going to have an effect on schools for our success is not just dependent on the money allocated to us directly but on the continuation of strategies such as 'Building Schools for the Future' and the certainty of our young people having jobs to go to. We await developments with interest.

The second line of rumination is to compare building a cabinet with assembling a Senior Leadership Team in a school: to whom should be allotted the relevant portfolios of responsibility? Not that I am planning to play David Cameron to Mr Jordan's Nick Clegg especially after them being referred to in today's tabloids as anything from the 'Ant and Dec of politics' to the 'new power couple' to 'two peas from a very privileged pod' and I am certainly not trying to emulate the only woman who has occupied the prime-ministerial position although my impression of her almost emulates my much feted Su-Bo impersonation in terms of its level of mediocrity!

Last week, we held interviews to appoint a new Assistant Headteacher. Following the receipt of nearly fifty applications and two days of interviews, we appointed Miss Gail May to the post. I am delighted with this appointment and wish Miss May every success as do we all, I am sure. This week, we start the process of looking again at the main work of senior leadership in the school and allocating the priority tasks for next year as well as reallocating roles and responsibilities. Fortunately, Miss May joins a united team with no hint of coalition or artificially conjoined factions so that the ability of the school to deliver its vision for the improved achievement of the students is secure.

As Martin Luther King said 'The time is always right to do that which is right' although there are times when Stendahl's words about the best shepherd being the one who persuades the sheep that his interests and theirs are the same might be the ones that ring truest in this week of political turmoil.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



arts colleges

ARTS NEWS

AS Theatre Studies Performances

An appreciative audience was recently treated to the AS Theatre Studies examination performances. These consisted of three short plays specifically selected to showcase the individual and diverse talents of the students taking the examination.

The first of these was the incredible 'Female Transport' by Steve Gooch. Set aboard a ship transporting female convicts to Australia, this play required impassioned and mature performances from the students, especially those who were playing the convicts. Helena Mansbridge, Harriet Bullock, Amy Mairs, Laura Blastock, Megan Impey and Polly Taylor rose to this challenge with aplomb and met the needs of each character superbly. Their overseers, each as evil and devious as the other in his own way, were played equally well by Jacob Brown, Joe Welton and Andy King. With the unique dynamics of the Drama Huts playing their own part in creating a suitably dark, fetid and creaking atmosphere, this was a really moving performance which triggered a huge range of emotions. Congratulations to Mrs Heale on another directorial triumph.

The second play was of a different hue altogether. A light comedy, although not without deep and dark Gothic shading, this told the tall tale of 'Edward Gant's Amazing Feats Of Loneliness' by Anthony Neilson. Joseph Wilson portrayed the eponymous Gant and was suitably enigmatic and mysterious. His merry band of ensemble players, comfortably shifting between parts and dropping in and out of what purported to be the play to address the audience directly, were Blair Shun, Sam Fyfe and Chloe Simpkins. They took the brave decision to adopt foreign accents for many of the parts and their consistency and confidence when doing so was an impressive feature of this performance, which was directed most effectively by Miss Smith.

The final play was, in some ways, the most challenging of the three. Karel and Josef Capek's 'The Insect Play' is a fable/satire/revue consisting of at least five parts which offers a commentary on life, especially as it unfolded in inter-war Czech society, using anthropomorphised insects. Clearly identifiable as butterflies, crickets, ants, dung-beetles et al were Coco Alaina, Alex Dobby, Natalie Kemp, Sarah Nicholls, Rosie Payne and Rebecca Van De Geest. Ashley Brosnan played the Traveller disturbing the insect world's equilibrium. The section entitled 'Ants' was especially impressive with an army of the creatures on the march, going into battle, firing instructions at each other and creating elaborate political systems. The difficulties of staging this play are widely acknowledged and praise must therefore go to Miss Keen for managing to achieve this.

Mr Jordan

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Excellent Work in History: Lauren Kempster 9A

School Exams for Years 7 -10

This is just a reminder that school end-of-year exams start immediately after half term. Nearly all exams are taken in lesson time, so there is no disruption to the day for most students and we have been spending at least some lessons this week (10th – 14th May) teaching specific study skills to various year groups.

We would ask you to encourage your child to do all of any revision set for homework over the next two weeks and to put in some extra revision over the holiday. It is really important that we are able to gauge accurately how much progress every individual has made over the last year and these exam results are one of the most important indicators for us.

We are also aware, however, that for some students exam time can be very stressful. Please do let your child's Form Tutor or Head of House know if your son or daughter is suffering from undue anxiety and we will see what we can do to build confidence and allay fears.

Finally, we would like to wish all students taking examinations the very best of luck. We hope they achieve the success they deserve.

Heads of House

Applications for student leadership posts – 2010/11

The application process for student leadership posts for the 2010/11 academic year is now underway. Application packs for both House Captain and Leading Student posts are available from Student Services, the Heads of House Office, the school website as well as from the line managers for the Leading Student posts.

The deadline for applications for Leading Student posts is Friday 28th May. Applications need to be handed in to Student Services and the selection process will begin straight after the May half term. All of these roles, with the exception of the Duty posts, are open to all students.

The deadline for applications for House Captain posts is the end of the Summer Term. Applications need to be handed in to Student Services and the interview process will take place early in the Autumn Term. These posts are available to those students who will be in Year 12 in 2010/11.

If you have any questions, please see either myself or, in the case of Leading Students, Ms Darby. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mr Mitchell

**World Fashion Show
Sunday 18th July
at The Hemel Hempstead School**

HSBC Employees

I have been told by HSBC that we would be suitable for their 'matched funding' project if we have any HSBC employees involved with the fundraiser for Mgezwa Partnership and Stoke Mandeville on 18th July.

If there are any parents employed by HSBC who would be willing to help please contact myself or Mrs Ramnarine at the school as soon as possible.

Mrs Botha

Dates for Your Diary



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

16th –17th Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Practice Expedition

18th May-30th June GCSE Examinations*

18th May-22nd June AS Examinations*

18th May Year 7 (A,C,F) RE visit to Hindu Temple
Year 10 Business Studies visit
Year 10 RE GCSE
Year 10 German Exchange Parent Information Evening

19th Year 7 (L,N,P) RE visit to Hindu Temple

21st Year 10 Science Module

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

23rd – 24th Years 11/12 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold/Silver planning

24th HHSa meeting, 6 pm, Library

25th – 30th Year 10 German Exchange visit to Germany

25th Year 7 Parent/Pupil Maths Workshop

26th Year 10 Resistant Materials exam

27th Years 7/8 Cricket trip to Lords

28th Year 10 Science Module

Year 10 Applied Business exam

Primary Schools Gym Competition in Hall

**Practical examinations may take place outside of this date range*

LIBRARY NOTICE

Orders from the C2C Scholastic brochure need to be handed in to the Library by the end of the day on Monday 17 May.

Thank you.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian

PTA News

The following items have been funded by HHSa since the beginning of September 2009:

- Drama Department - TV and Audio Boomblasters
- Humanities Department - TV
- PE Department - Six Table Tennis Tables and Basketball kit
- Art Department - Photographic equipment
- Library - Seven additional Beanbags
- Music Department - Six Xylophones and accessories

We will continue raising money for much needed extras for our students.

Please help us raise these funds by participating in the events we run, including Theatre Trip visits, Jumble Sales etc. – see details in these newsletters. You can register your interest in Theatre Trips by emailing hhsatheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk

Date of next meeting: Monday 24th May, 6pm in the Library.

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

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 192 Year 12 visit to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Letter 194 Year 9 Team Challenge Week

Letter 195 Year 11 Exam Leave Arrangements

Letter 196 Year 10 Dance Tour to South Africa 2011

Letter 197 Year 7 Geography trip to the Chilterns

*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.

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

- 18th May County League 3 @ Jarman Park
19th May Year 9 Cricket v Longdean (A)
20th May Year 9 Rounders @ Ashlyns
26th May Year 8 Cricket v Cavendish (A)
Year 9 Cricket v Tring (A)
27th May County League 4 @ Watford

RESULTS

- Year 9 Rounders v Ashlyns won 7½- 5½
Year 10 Rounders v Ashlyns won 10 -8
All students should be aware that results from Athletics matches are posted on the PE noticeboards

Sports News

Year 9 Rounders v Ashlyns

This was the girls' first match of the season. It was a fantastic game as all of the girls played really well. Here's to many more wins this season!

Miss Black

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE

A great deal of educational research has been done to demonstrate the link that students with higher attendance rates at school make greater academic progress.

As a school we believe in celebrating student success and effort. Printed below is a list of all students who achieved 100% attendance in the Spring Term. All students achieving 100% will receive certificates through the House system and their names will be entered into a draw at the end of the year to win an ipod Shuffle.

Students are also reminded that attendance of the whole school factors in to the points system for the House Cup.

Congratulations to:

Katie Arthurs 7A	Alice Cook 9A	Ben Garner 11A
Yasmin Brand 7A	Mark Baldwin 9N	Philippa Hill 11A
Daisy Gobby 7A	James Beaumont 9N	Amy-Beth Howard 11A
Jacob Jenkins 7A	Jack Dickinson 10A	Rebecca Wood 11A
Sapphire Blomfield 7C	Danielle Lewis 10A	Amelia Wright 11A
Callum Clarke 7C	Sidra Sadiq 10A	Lajor Cole-Etti 11C
Paige Daly 7C	Yuk Fung Wong 10A	Latir Cole-Etti 11C
Troy Painter 7C	Alex Burgess 10C	Naomi Davis 11C
Shivani Thakrar 7C	Jordan Dukes 10C	Samuel Evans 11C
Ella Tilford 7C	Zachary Farrell 10C	Adam King 11C
Megan Archer 7F	Ivo Murrell 10C	Catherine Smith 11C
Beatrice Bamigboye 7F	Anthony Power 10C	Rebecca Kinchin 11F
Alexander Flowers 7F	Cale Tilford 10C	Katie Mogan 11F
Lewis Frost 7F	Dylan Bransgrove 10F	George Smith 11F
Hayley Keith 7F	Scott Egerton 10F	Sophie Wilkinson 11F
Lauren Shirley 7F	Alex Eykelbosch 10F	Bethany Lall 11L
Thomas Goff 7L	Leigh Harris 10F	James Barnett 11N
Emily Kay 7L	Glen Taylor 10F	Fay Breed 11N
Aaron Porter 7L	Charlie Telling 10F	Matthew Fisher 11P
Millie Shaw 7L	Sam Woffendin 10F	Daniel Vials 11P
William Bell 7N	Nimisha Chundavadra 10L	
Alice Biggerstaff 7N	Katherine Ferguson 10L	
Billy Elborough 7N	Stephanie Foster 10L	
Freddie Hudson 7N	George Fripp 10L	
Joshua McAree 7N	Ashleigh Coe 10N	
Samuel Clark 7P	Lillith Hickling 10N	
Harvey Dean 7P	Adam Malone 10N	
Sarah Scott 8C	Elliott Craven 10P	
Caitlin Filby 8F	Sarah Grover 10P	
Indi Hudson 8F	Jordan Kelly 10P	
Jamie Lewis 8L	Amelie Lecoeuche 10P	
Murray Witherall 8N	Chandni Patel 10P	
	Fergus Tinker 10P	

If any further students believe they have achieved 100% attendance for the Spring Term they should contact Student Services.

Mr Stuart, Assistant Headteacher