



# The Hemel Hempstead School

## News

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[www.hhs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hhs.herts.sch.uk)

### HeadLines

'And now the end is near and so I face.....' Oh no, even I cannot start the final newsletter of the academic year with those words... and mean it seriously. Perhaps the better musical link is from Petula Clark's 'The Show is Over' which is much more appropriate for a Performing Arts specialist School.

It's been an eventful year and a very successful and satisfying one; the essence of it was portrayed in the Summer Concert last Friday when the joyous and beautiful singing and playing showed the school at its finest; there were laughter and tears, inexperience rubbing shoulders with the excellence of long practice, but mainly the pleasure of doing one's best following a period of learning and education in its widest sense. I could have selected the District Sports or the recent visit to South Africa by our dancers or any of those activities which make this school special to illustrate my point.

I pay tribute to the whole staff of the school in what they have done this year, above and beyond the call of duty, to make this school terrific. I give praise to the students for their hard work and enthusiasm, particularly singling out the efforts of the House Captains and the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies for leading other students in such an exemplary way. I thank the governors for all they do to ensure that the school and the Headteacher are on the right track; I give particular thanks to our Chair of Governors, Andrew Pennycook, who is standing down from that office after over four highly effective years and wish his successor, Bob Harbour, every success in the future.

I thank you, the parents, for your support throughout the year, and trust that those who have overseen their children through the turbulent teenage and examination years will hear some very good news in August!

Some staff are not returning to us next term. John Ross is returning as a teacher of History but is relinquishing his Assistant Head role. He has been brilliant and we on Senior Leadership Team will miss him very much; generations of sixth formers have good reason to be grateful for his wisdom and commitment. Sue Lutz is moving on to be Director of Languages at a Specialist Language College and we wish her every success as we applaud Natalie Black on her promotion to leadership status following her excellent tenure as Head of Year and Head of House here. In terms of staff who have been here much longer, we say 'farewell' to Ron Goodfellow after 35 years. Head of Physics, master of timetabling and staff absence cover, Ron's inimitable presence will be sorely missed. We also say 'goodbye' to Lynda Abbott who has led History and Sociology to enormous success over the years. The initiator of the 'Hemel at War' project, Lynda has been everything that we would wish in a teacher and Head of Humanities. I spoke of Phil Nash and his retirement last year although he returned to help us out this year: 'have a happy retirement, Phil'. Good wishes go to Sarah Keen on her promotion to Head of Drama at Ashlyns and our best regards go with Stephanie Taylor, Elizabeth Whitehouse, Lydia Jackson and Iain Head who have been with us for relatively short periods of time.

In the first newsletter of the new term, I will welcome those who have joined us anew or taken up new positions in the school hierarchy!

This is the end of my fifth year at the school. I know that I made the right decision in coming here and although this year has been a challenging one following serious illness, I look forward to leading our most admirable staff and students to a bright and illustrious 80<sup>th</sup> year of The Hemel Hempstead School.

Many of you will know that I set great store by our roll of honour, placed above the doors to PA1, which commemorates those former students of the school who have died whilst on active service. Thus far, the names of World War 2 fallen have dominated. Tragically, we will add one more name to the roll, that of Matthew Harrison, a student at this school until 2002, who was killed during his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. Matthew, we send condolences to your family, we salute you and will remember you alongside other alumni of our school.

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**



## ARTS NEWS

### ***Congratulations***

We are always glad to hear of students' achievements outside school – so, well done to Pippa Gobby, Year 9, who recently achieved a pass with merit in LAMDA Speech and Drama exams.

### **The Summer Concert**

It might have been a stiflingly hot evening, which required the strategic placing of electric fans - and even a mobile air-conditioning unit - around the Hall, but once the music started people forgot the oppressive temperatures and the sticky, uncomfortable plastic chairs. As soon as the choir began their lively, joyful rendition of 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough', everyone lucky enough to be in the audience knew we were in for a fantastic evening of wonderful music.

The next item on the programme was 'Music For A Darkened Theatre', performed by the Wind Band. This group has really developed beautifully over the last year or so, producing a dramatic and atmospheric interpretation of the piece, full of colour and changes of mood. Next up was the Junior Sax Quartet, playing Scott Joplin's 'Easy Winners' with good control and focus, following this with Nigel Woods' 'I Believe in We', where they demonstrated excellent control of harmony and tempo. The tradition of outstanding saxophone playing in this school is clearly going to continue for a few years yet.

The String Ensemble kept up the light-hearted mood with 'Soul Bossa Nova', better known to many as the theme from 'Austin Powers'. The students were obviously enjoying themselves as they played with great verve and rhythm. A complete change of atmosphere came with the next item, Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' sung in exquisite four part harmony by the Chamber Choir. Starting with a soprano solo from Bridget Philpott, the haunting melody floated through the Hall as the other voices joined in. The Flute Ensemble which followed maintained the lyricism with a beautiful interpretation of 'Aus Holbergs Zeit-Sarabande' by Grieg.

Sting's popular song 'Fields of Gold' was the choice of the SSA choir, who produced note-perfect three part harmonies in this complex arrangement by Jonathon Wikeley. We were then transported to Spain by the Guitar Ensemble, whose clever fingering produced a sound very redolent of hot summer nights. Next we were whisked off to some nightclub in the American South by the Wind Band, who provided a suitably smoky jazz sound for the atmospheric vocals of Kenny Mitchell in Nina Simone's 'Feeling Good.' Kenny not only sounded, but looked the part, with his black bow tie casually undone around his open collar!

The Recorder Ensemble then gave us two items: first the skipping, interlocking harmonies of 'Rumba' by Matyas Seiber, then 'Six Eight' by the same composer, which was played on four differently pitched recorders. A really interesting and complex offering from what is often an under-rated instrument. A touch of flamenco then entered the programme as the Guitar Ensemble returned, using strumming as well as picking this time for 'El Gato Montes' by Manuel Penella. Finally the choir sent us off to the interval with Tavener's beautiful anthem 'Mother of God Here I Stand' followed by a really bouncy, lively rendition of 'This Little Light of Mine' which got everyone clapping and tapping along.

The second half of the concert got off to a rousing start – and not just because of the jugs of Pimms provided by the School Association at the interval! The Samba Band and choir joined together to provide a brilliant backing sound as Tom Durrant sang Bob Marley's classic 'I Shot the Sheriff'. This was followed by the Funk Band's first appearance, their customary rich, smooth sound showcasing a brilliant trumpet solo by Kat Smith and the vocal talents of Imogen Hudson, Sam Flowerdew and the full choir in 'Still a Friend of Mine'.

An unusual but very impressive item came next – the A level composition of student Malena Zavala. It was a gentle and very beautiful lullaby, 'Take You Away', arranged for three female voices and accompanied by Malena on acoustic guitar. Malena and fellow Sixth Form students Polly Taylor and Emily Hatchett stilled the whole Hall with the lyricism and harmony of their singing. This was followed by a powerful, strong rendition of 'The World's Greatest' by the choir, featuring a confident and mature solo from Year 7 student Freya Bolt. It was also very pleasing to note that the choir is no longer dominated by female voices – there are plenty of young men now taking enthusiastic and harmonious part.

Strong instrumental playing by the Rock Band of Sheryl Crow's 'My Favorite Mistake' came next, followed by the Senior Saxophone quartet with 'Moondance' by Van Morrison. The musicians handled the complex timing with skill and confidence, reaching some amazing high notes. The SSA choir then returned with a sensuous, humorous rendition of 'Fever'. Rock Band then showed their great communication in Lissie's 'In Sleep' before giving us some good, old-fashioned hard rock with Alannah Myles' 'Black Velvet'.

The last numbers from the Jazz Band were 'Blue Bossa', where the melody flowed like sliding honey between the instruments, and then Hoagy Carmichael's 'Georgia on my Mind', featuring the evocative, purring vocals of Malena Zavala.

By tradition, the penultimate item of the summer concert is a number arranged and performed by the departing Upper Sixth. This year, the talented musicians' valedictory offering was 'Our Barn, at the bottom of our field; Our Barn'. The witty lyrics included sly references to Mrs Bailey's hair colour and the alleged inability of the Music staff to get work out of Sixth Form students, but given that they were performing with such skill, talent and affection, it was clear that worrying about the Music results would be a fairly pointless activity.

The Funk Band closed the concert with a polished performance of 'Best of My Love' and 'Forget Me Not'. In this last number, the Funk Band singers, Imogen, Pippa, Polly and Sam, were joined by Gareth, sporting sunglasses and a trilby and who added a very competent rap to the finale.

Finally, the Music Prizewinners for the year were read out, the various thank yous said and the Mayor of Dacorum gave a glowing and very sincere tribute to performers and teachers alike before leading the audience in a standing ovation.

*Ms Darby, Assistant Headteacher*

# WORLD FASHION SHOW

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July

1.30 – 7 pm

## REDUCED PRICE TICKETS!

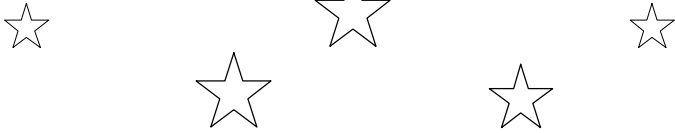
Ticket prices for this event have been reduced as follows:

£11 for adults (including buffet)

£6 for students/children

(£11 to include buffet, or barbecue available at additional cost)

Tickets may be purchased on the day



### Calling all adults with an interest in Astronomy

- Ever been interested in what you are really seeing when you look skyward?
- Did you know we are looking at the stars as they were thousands of years ago?

Learn all about Astronomy and earn a GCSE in the process through evening sessions at The Hemel Hempstead School. The course will run from September to May, during term-time, on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 – 7.30pm.

No experience or previous qualifications are necessary, just enthusiasm! Those who have older children also interested can request they join in with you too.

The costs will be as follows: £50 plus exam fees for those with no link to the school; just the cost of the exam fees for parents or others affiliated to the school; and it is free to staff and students.

Places are limited so register your interest and get more details by emailing Dr Brown at the following address a.s.a.p. and by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 at the latest:

[astro@hemelhempsteadschool.co.uk](mailto:astro@hemelhempsteadschool.co.uk)



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

### *For Excellent Work in Dance*

Katie Arthurs  
Kieran Baxter  
James Birch  
Rosie Cowley  
Luke Gill  
Callum Hicks  
Ella Parikh 7A

### *For Citizenship*

Stevie Farrow 10L  
Billy Soden 10P

Certificates will be issued in the new term.

## Catering Practical Assessment

On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July, 18 Year 10 Catering students completed their first practical assessment under controlled conditions. Each student had pre-planned to cook four dishes to show the versatile use of fruit and /or vegetables. During the four sessions, over the two days, each student showed fantastic skills and techniques while preparing and cooking their dishes, often to perfection. It was a real pleasure to taste the dishes and to see the attractive presentation on each student's table.

Well done Year 10, you have worked hard. Thank you to all the parents for their support. I look forward to the second assessment in March 2011.

*Mrs Walker, Learning Leader: Technology*

# SPORT



Congratulations to the Year 9 cricket team on winning the District Cup. Having beaten Tring (by 6 wickets), Ashlyns (by 9 wickets) and Adeyfield (by 8 wickets) in recent weeks, the team won their pool and were therefore named as champions. The squad are now undefeated for the current season, having also beaten Longdean by 3 wickets in a friendly fixture.

The Team: Matt Bateman (captain), Connor Church, Will Langley, George McCausland, Jamie McIvor, Harry Mansbridge, Adam Nayler, Tim Wright, Zain Ahmed, Kieran Cavanagh, Tom Butler, Jake Lampert.

Well done boys!

*Mr Bryson*

## Youth Connexions One Stop Shop

Careers, Jobs, Education, Training, Advice and Information for 13 to 19 year olds

West Herts College, Dacorum Campus, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead Tel: 01442 261511

## Drop In Times

Monday and Friday mornings only 11 am to 12.30 pm

Monday to Friday afternoons 1.30 pm to 5 pm

*Sarah Hayward, Connexions Personal Advisor*

## Dates for Your Diary



**18<sup>th</sup> Jul** Fashion Show fundraiser

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

**20<sup>th</sup> Jul** Years 6, 7 and 8 Gifted and Talented Workshop

**21<sup>st</sup> Jul** Last day of term. **School finishes at 12 noon.**

**19<sup>th</sup> Aug** AS and A level results day, from 10 am in Hall

**24<sup>th</sup> Aug** GCSE results day, from 10 am in Hall

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

**6<sup>th</sup> Sept** First Day of Term

Year 7 to be on site by 8.30 am

Years 8 – 13 arrive for Period 2 (10 am)

Year 12 Induction

**7<sup>th</sup> Sept** Year 12 Partnership visits

**7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sept** Year 11 Geography Field Trip

**8<sup>th</sup> Sept** Year 12 lessons begin

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sept** Year 13 Biology Field Trip

# PTA News

During the summer break why not start collecting Jumble for us to sell at our next sale in October. We will take any good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs etc. We are more than happy to take it off your hands as soon as we return to school in September. Sorry NO furniture as we have no room to store it. We would also be happy to accept any new, unwanted giftware to use in our raffles.

Look out for our next Theatre trip. Details will be published as soon as possible on our return.

We are planning a quiz early in the Autumn term so please look out for further information.

May I thank everyone who has helped us over the last year raising much needed funds, especially my fantastic committee who never fail to amaze me with their tireless efforts and continued support. Without them I would never get events off the ground.

The PTA wish you all a very happy, sunny and peaceful summer break.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Library. Please put this date in your diary.

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

## Gold Letters issued recently:

**Letter 247** World Fashion Show

**Letter 248** Years 12/13 (2010/11) Art, Graphic Product Design and French trip to Paris

**Letter 250** Year 7 Interim Report

**Letter 251** Year 8 Interim Report

**Letter 252** Year 9 Assessment

**Letter 253** Year 10 Interim Report

**Letter 254** Year 13 (2010/11) Biology Field Trip

**Letter 255** Year 10 (2010/11) English Set Texts

**Letter 256** Year 10 (2010/11) English Set Texts

**Letter 257** Year 11 (2010/11) English Set Text

*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.

## 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.