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### HeadLines

Before I begin, may I reassure you that these headlines will be world cup free and that the sound of the vuvuzela will not permeate the purple prose. To cheer some of my less devoted readers may I also allay your fears by declaring that neither will I be digging further into my family history, musical tastes or the life and times of a rapidly ageing Headteacher this week. Instead, I would like to explore with you what we know so far of the new coalition government's education policies and the changes that have been made or at least made clear over the past few weeks. In summing up the main changes, Director of Hertfordshire Children's Services, John Harris describes them as following:

- Focus is support for teaching and learning
- All schools can opt to be academies
- Support to private providers including parent groups to set up schools
- Target funding at poorest pupils
- Reduce the constraints of the National Curriculum
- Reform examinations
- Support for teachers to maintain discipline
- Strengthening and reform of children's services
- Review of Child Protection

Some of these will take time to settle and be implemented but they will certainly not be happening in a time of plenty. There will have to be a £70m saving over the next three years in Hertfordshire and as the Leader of the Council says it will be an era of 'lean management' and a 'lower cost base'. Cuts will not be waiting for the next financial year to come along; there will be in-year reductions of grants from the Department for Education. In Hertfordshire, we are told that schools will take responsibility for their improvement and for improving outcomes for children across the area...but with what funding to underpin this process?

About 20% of the outstanding schools in Herts could become academies within the year. The Leader of the Council has made it clear that schools that seek academy status will be supported and will continue to be part of the family of schools in Herts. John Harris supports that view, mainly because he does not want to nurture the divisive attitudes which arose during the moves to grant maintained status twenty years ago. The focus has to be on what is best for the students.

What might be gained from becoming an academy?

- Freedom, particularly in terms of determining the curriculum, varying the school year and shape of the day
- Funding, possibly around £400,000 extra for a school this size
- High status especially if the most successful schools become academies
- Independence: academies are independent state schools and are not subject to local authority oversight

What might be lost?

- Effective partnerships with other schools
- Support networks
- Status in that the existing academies do not have a good image in Hertfordshire thus far and are identified with failing schools
- Teacher goodwill if pay and conditions vary

It doesn't take a Mathematician to realise that if 100 schools left the Herts family, they would take much funding with them which would have an impact on central services and other schools. Whatever happens, the certainty is that the county will be poorer anyway and services will be reduced.

And yet the decision that this school takes has to be for the benefit of this school and its students. We trust that any decision we take will not hinder the progress of other schools but that cannot be the main motivation. Our Governing Body will be discussing this matter on July 8<sup>th</sup> and I am sure that you will want to express your views. It is early days for us: we do not want to make the wrong decision and yet we do not want to be left behind. No decision to go the academy route will be taken in haste, but the debate has begun. Watch this space.

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**



## ARTS NEWS

### Visit to the Royal Opera House

A few weeks ago the Music Department went on a trip to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to watch the English National Ballet. Our main objective was to see a Steve Reich piece called 'Electric Counterpoint'. This is one of the set works for our GCSE course. It is a piece of minimalist music and was used to choreograph a beautiful piece of contemporary ballet.

Unexpectedly, we found that we enjoyed the dancing just as much as the music. There were two works, the second being an adaptation of Bizet's Carmen.

It was very beneficial seeing two art forms together and an amazing experience to hear the music live.

Everyone enjoyed the event and we would be happy to go again.

*Amber Townsend and Maisie Connell Year 10*

## WORLD FASHION SHOW

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**1.30 – 7.30 pm**

**Ticket: Adult - £21/ Under 14 - £12.50**

A reminder that tickets are now on sale from Student Services for our World Fashion Show event. Alternatively, you may like to purchase your tickets using our online payment facility. Please contact Student Services if you need a log-in.

### Reminder to parents/carers of Year 9 students

If you wish your son or daughter to be withdrawn from the Resilience Evaluation Questionnaire which will be administered this term, please return the reply slip at the bottom of Gold Letter 212, dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010. A copy of the letter may be found on our website.

*Mr Mullings, Assistant Headteacher*

### Library Notice

The Library will be closed on the morning of Tuesday 22 June and will close for the summer at the end of the school day on Wednesday 23 June. The last three weeks of term will be spent stocktaking and there will be no access to the Library. Books, including English textbooks, may be returned to Student Services during this period.

*Mrs Krajewski, Librarian*

## Dates for Your Diary



**18<sup>th</sup> May-30<sup>th</sup> June GCSE Examinations\***

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

**14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June Years 7 – 10 School Exams**

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

**21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June** Design and Technology Week

**21<sup>st</sup>** Year 7 (L,N,P) Geography visit to the Chilterns  
Year 10 Maths Exam

Year 12 'Hemel at War' talk

**22<sup>nd</sup>** Year 10 Textiles Exam

Year 10 Drama Exam

Year 7 (A,C,F) Geography visit to the Chilterns

Year 12 Higher Education Convention

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Year 10 Food Technology Exam

Year 12 Art Gallery visit

Year 7 Parent/Pupil Maths Workshop

**24<sup>th</sup>** Year 10 Science Module

Years 9/10 Sports Tour Parents' Evening

**25<sup>th</sup>** Year 12 Consortium Conference

**25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Qualifying Expedition

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

**28<sup>th</sup> Jun – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul** BIG ARTS WEEK

**28<sup>th</sup>** Year 10 Catering Exam Practical

**29<sup>th</sup>** Year 7 Maths Puzzle Day

Year 10 Catering Exam Practical

Year 11 Book Return, Final Assembly and BBQ

Year 8 Parents' Evening for Online Reporting

**29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>** Year 12 Geography Fieldwork

**30<sup>th</sup>** Year 9 MFL Exam

Year 10 Maths Exam

Year 11 Prom

**30<sup>th</sup> Jun – 11<sup>th</sup> Jul** Year 13 South Africa Dance Tour

**1<sup>st</sup> Jul** HOUSE DRAMA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Jul** SPORTS DAY

### **House Cup Competition: Attendance**

For the past two years, the House Cup competition has been incredibly hard fought with students working together to try and get their house to come out on top. In the end, first and second positions were decided by the points available to the House with the best attendance for the year. With this in mind, we are going to publish the current positions on a regular basis so students are aware of how their House is doing and the effect their attendance has on the overall House Cup competition. To date since September the positions are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Flaunden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chalfont
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pendley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nettleden
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ashridge
- 6<sup>th</sup> Latimer

The competition this year is incredibly close with only 0.6% separating all six Houses. The last few weeks of the Summer Term may make all the difference in the positions and overall result of the House Cup competition. Think very hard about the impact having a day off school might have!



### **House Cup Competition: Current Positions**

The latest standings in the House Cup with all attendance, AFL score and competitions added together, the top three houses at present are as follows:

- 1) Pendley
- 2) Flaunden
- 3) Nettleden

The key here is attendance; this has really changed things with Nettleden and Flaunden making significant improvements over the Spring Term.

The competition is still wide open with every House having the capacity to win. The result of House Drama, Sports Day, Attitude to Learning scores for the Summer Term and the final attendance figures will be key to which House is victorious.

*Mr Stuart, Assistant Headteacher*

### **LOST PROPERTY**

Please may I ask parents to encourage their children to check the lost property area outside Student Services for any items they may have mislaid. Parents are welcome to come along and take a look themselves, if they wish. At the end of term, any uncollected lost property will be passed to the HHSA to be sold at the next Jumble Sale.

*Matron*

### **HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS**

*For Excellent Work in Art:* Ruby Newman 7L

### **Diversity News**

**You and your family are invited to an  
International Evening  
At  
South Hill Centre**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30 – 8 pm**

*Please bring some food from your country to share*

### **Chinese Dragon Boat Festival 16<sup>th</sup> June**

The Dragon Boat Festival is now most notable for the great dragon boat races which take place between slim rowing boats (sometimes 100 feet long) shaped like dragons. People also go down to the rivers to picnic and celebrate on boats. Originally the festival commemorated the suicide by drowning of the poet and statesman Ch'u Yuan in about 279 BCE.

*Mrs Ramnarine, Diversity Coordinator*

### **PTA News**

We have managed to secure ten extra tickets for Mamma Mia on 24<sup>th</sup> June at £25 each but you will have to make your own way to London as the coach is full. Please contact us as soon as possible.

We will be planning more trips in the near future. You can still register an interest for future trips by emailing your details to [hhsatheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hhsatheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk).

If your child has out-grown their school uniform would you please consider donating it to the secondhand uniform shop to sell on. Please send it to school (clean please) if you can help.

Next meeting: Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in the Library. Please come along.

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



# SPORT

## FIXTURES

- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> June** County League Athletics 6 @ Watford  
**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> June** Year 7 & 8 Rounders Tournament @ Kings Langley  
**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> June** Year 9 Rounders Tournament @ Ashlyns  
Year 8 District Cup Cricket v JFK (H)  
**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> June** Year 8 District Cup Cricket v Tring (A)  
**Weds 30<sup>th</sup> June** Year 7 District Cup Cricket v Longdean (H)  
Year 9 District Cup Cricket v Ashlyns (A) @ Berkhamsted CC  
**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> July** **SPORTS DAY, JARMAN PARK**

## Sports News

Congratulations to Francesca Quinn (Year 9) who represented the East Region at the National Basketball Championships last weekend in Sheffield. Having played against sides representing all the other regions in the UK, the East squad came 4<sup>th</sup> overall. A fantastic achievement for the squad and also an excellent achievement for Francesca who is representing the region in the age group above her own! Well done!

*Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE*

### Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 224** Year 9 Lake District Parents' Information Evening  
**Letter 225** Year 7 Work Shadowing Day  
**Letter 226** Year 8 Online Reporting Pilot  
**Letter 227** England's World Cup Match 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
**Letter 228** Sports Tour to Cyprus 2011  
**Letter 229** Sports Day Arrangements

*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.

### Geography Fieldtrip Payment Reminder

Final payment for the Geography Fieldtrip to Preston Montford, 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September, for current Year 10 students, is due by next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

*Mrs Amamou, Finance Office*

### Sainsbury's and Tesco Vouchers

The Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco voucher schemes have now ended.

If you have any vouchers lurking and would like to donate them to The Hemel Hempstead School, please send them to us *as soon as possible*.

These schemes have been extremely successful over the years and provided us with additional equipment which is beneficial to our students.

Many thanks for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

*Mrs Allen, PA to Heads of Houses*

### 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.