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HeadLines

The life of a professional sportsman or woman is not an easy one: what with David Beckham reduced to mascot status for the world cup and John Terry's run-in or should that be 'run-over' with a steward and many more examples in the news this week, it might be easy to forget what sport and sportsmanship is all about in the world of celebrity. I was privileged to meet Dame Tanni Grey Thompson and hear her inspiring aspiring athletes and sportsmen and women to have the most challenging objectives and the highest values in their lives and to espouse the Olympic ideals. She had enormous success because she was dedicated and conscientious; courageous as a sportswoman but also honest and true as a human being.

We must hold fast to the belief that sport can bring out the best in all of us just as it has in our recent winning teams. For example, our girls have excelled at basketball, with the Under-13s in the county final at Queen's next Monday at 4pm and the Under 15s in their final on Thursday at 2 pm. What a marvellous achievement! I congratulate the teams and Miss Bevan and her staff for all the time and effort they give to ensure that our students are given those opportunities.

As you know from another recent newsletter, we are an 'emerging' school in rugby and it has really taken off in a big way with the boys vying for places. The Under 13 boys play in the regional finals at Bishop's Stortford on Friday 26th March and I am sure you join me in wishing them every success.

The Olympics in London approach. Hertfordshire boasts the venue for the white water kayak events and schools have been invited to take a high profile in promoting the Olympics. I hope that some of our students will act as volunteers, that athletes will visit our school and that we will take advantage of priority ticket offers that we receive. Most of all, I hope that we will demonstrate the Olympic ideals of friendship and sportsmanship in all that we do.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Outstanding Performance in the Spelling Bee:

Charlotte Holmes 7N, Luke Flynn, Kezia Johnson and Sameer Razaq 7P.

For Excellent Work in ICT: Callie Waters 9C, Stephanie Horton 9N.

For Excellent Work in History: Charlotte Agg, Anna Bennett, Jesse Beadon, Sam Henry, Harvey Laird, Katie Potton and Elizabeth Pattinson 7P, Danny Richards and Tom Grey 9C, Andy Rose, Nick Mower, Daniel Agg and Colin Perreira 9F, Joe Garner 9L, Alex Marsh 9N, Ollie Cox 9P.

For Excellent Work in Performing Arts: Cat Smith 11C, Tom Durrant 11F, Imogen Hudson 11N, Zoe Harbour 11P, Kenny Mitchell 12A, Polly Taylor and Charlotte Bateman 12P, Josh Crosswell 13A, Rosie Lutt 13F, Emily Hatchett 13N.

For Excellent Performance in the Year 10 Further Maths Challenge: Alex Burgess 10C, Sam Pigott 10L, Amelie Lecoeuche and Andrew Coe 10P.

Apologies to Robert Patmore 7L who was awarded a Headteacher's Commendation for excellent work in Science last week but whose name was printed incorrectly.



ARTS NEWS

YEARS 12 and 13 PRACTICAL EXAM PERFORMANCE

It doesn't happen in many subjects that we get to see the result of exam work other than a grade on a piece of paper; fortunately in A Level Dance we have that privilege. On Monday evening an audience of staff, family and friends watched the Year 12 and Year 13 students perform their exam pieces in preparation for the formal assessment in a fortnight. This opportunity allows us, as an audience, to see how the students have interpreted the exam criteria which range from pieces of music and characterisation of animals to interpretation of artwork. The occasion allows the students an opportunity to assess what works well and what can be improved upon ready for the exam.

The Year 12 students performed a powerful set study that allowed them to use space and variation in their movements. Each student had to produce a solo, with some performing a dance based on the movements of animals such as bats, monkey, roosters and - the one that really brought the creature alive for me - the cheetah. The evening gave the Year 12 students a chance to see the maturity of the Year 13 performers who danced a set study and choreographed a group piece. The group pieces that focussed on the Suffragette movement portrayed the extreme hardship of the times and the struggle that women had to get the vote. Two pieces brought to life Anthony Gormley's sculpture 'Testing A World View'; both students were able to see beyond the static figures in this sculpture and produce moving and challenging dances. Some students had chosen to use the music provided by the exam board, allowing them the freedom to interpret the music in their own style and choreographing some beautiful movements from their fellow students.

It was a wonderful evening and I congratulate all the students who took part, both the A Level Dance students and the Year 12 BTEC performers. I wish all the students the best of luck with their exams; if I was the examiner you would all get A and B grades!

Miss F Dayton, Dance enthusiast

The Times Spelling Bee

On Thursday 11th March our Year 7 team travelled to Stevenage to take part in the regional heat of The Times Spelling Bee. They put up an excellent performance with Sameer Razaq achieving the accolade of 'last player standing' at the end of the first round putting them in first place at the break. With all to play for they went into a nail-biting second round and finished in a very honourable overall second place. Congratulations to Sameer Razaq, Luke Flynn, Kezia Johnson and Charlotte Holmes on an outstanding performance and many thanks to their parents who all made the journey to Stevenage to support them.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian



Dates for Your Diary

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 at JFK and
Adeyfield Schools
Years 11/12/13 Dacorum History Society talk, M9, 8 pm
- 25th Mar** 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 Mar** Years 12/13 MFL German trip to Berlin

Blue Week

- 29th Mar** Year 8 Maths Set 1 to Watford Football Club
- 30th Mar** Year 8 Maths Set 5 to Watford Football Club
Speech Night
- 31st Mar – 6th Apr** Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Practice
Year 12 Drama Practical Part 1
- 1st Apr** Year 11 Drama Practical Exam
Last day of term – school finishes at 3.30 pm

Young Writers Competition

Do you have a tale to tell, a chronicle to cry or a saga to sing? If you do, then the English Department need you! This year the Young Writers competition is calling for budding poets to write a 50 word saga about anything in the world. The only pre-requisites are that you are between Years 7- 13, that it has a clear beginning, middle and end and that it is wonderfully original!

For your chance to win see Ms Redfern or Miss Smith with your final version by 29th March or visit

www.youngwriters.co.uk

The deadline is looming, so get cracking.

Ms Redfern, English Department

Library Notices

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the HHSA for providing seven bright new bean bags for the Library. The students are delighted with the extra comfy seating.

To Year 11 and Year 13

Please note that Year 11 and Year 13 students will be unable to borrow any further books from the Library after Friday 23rd April. Please ensure all library books are returned by Friday 14th May 2010.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian



Science & Maths News



Science Quiz

The Science Week quiz was distributed via the students in registers on Tuesday. We hope you have a go! Completed quizzes need to be sent back to the Science Office by the start of next week please. *Miss Taylor, Science Department*

School Experiment on Time

As part of Science Week we are carrying out a school wide experiment on people's perception of time and would like everyone to take part. All you need to do is go to the website below (there is a link from the school website) and follow the instructions. It will only take a minute (literally), as all we are asking you to do is to judge how long you think a minute is, without looking at a clock. The experiment is totally anonymous and we will publish the results in a future newsletter. Pupils in both Science and Maths classes will be using these results to look at the use of data but also looking at what they show.

www.red7seven.com/60seconds

Miss Harris and Mr L Smith

Connexions Service

Connexions Advisers work within the local Connexions Service. They can give young people information, advice and practical help with all sorts of things that might be affecting them at school, college, work or in their personal or family life. Sarah Hayward is the Personal Advisor at our school and she runs a drop-in session every Tuesday lunchtime in M5. If you feel your child would benefit from a one-to-one meeting with her about any issues, including careers advice, please encourage them to come along and have a chat.

Miss Bond, Careers Coordinator

Careers Department Information

There is a useful source of information about university and college open days in the UK. www.opendays.com lists open days for every UK higher education institution and provides all information free of charge to users.

Using opendays.com, it is possible to view open days in any particular month using the open day calendar or search their database of institutions. You can also book your place at many open days, free of charge, direct from this web site.

The advice section contains lots of useful open day and application advice, helping students to choose the right university and course.

Miss Bond, Careers Coordinator

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.

PTA News

JUMBLE SALE

Thank you to everybody who helped and donated items. We raised £512 with more still to come in.

THEATRE TRIPS

We have a few tickets remaining for the trip to 'Wicked' next Thursday 25th March. If you are interested in joining us please contact hhsatheatre@hotmail.co.uk.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th April, Library, 6 pm

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

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 161 Year 9 Interim Reports

Letter 162 Year 7 Interim Reports

Letter 163 Year 10 Interim Reports

Letter 164 Year 12 Interim Reports

Letter 165 Year 11 Prom

Letter 166 GCSE Textiles Revision Guide

Letter 167 Year 10 RE Revision Sessions

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.

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*

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

SPORT



Fixtures

Monday 22nd March

U13 Girls County Basketball Finals v Westfield @ Queens School, 4 pm tip off

Wednesday 24th March

U13 Girls Football v Longdean (H)

Thursday 25th March

Year 8 District Cup Football Semi Final v Kings Langley (H) 4 pm

U15 Girls County Basketball Finals v Queens @ Queens School, 2 pm tip off

Friday 26th March

Year 8 London North Regional Rugby Finals @ Bishop's Stortford 9 am – 4 pm

Saturday 27th March

Football v Longdean

Year 7 & 9 Away

Year 8 & 10 Home

District Football Finals

Dates for your diaries!

Year 9 and 10 District Football Finals will be held on Wednesday 31st March, 4.30 pm kick off. Venues have yet to be confirmed.

Both matches will be played against Kings Langley School.

RESULTS

Year 8 District Cup Football v Thomas Coram won 7-2

U15 County League Basketball v St George's lost 59-72

Year 8 Boys Basketball v Bridgewater won 47-36

Senior District League Netball v Tring won 16-9

Year 8 District Cup Netball v Astley Cooper won 18-16

Year 8 Boys County Emerging Schools Rugby Finals

v Edwinstree won 15-5

v Yavneh won 15-1

v Francis Coombe won 25-0

v Goffs won 20-5

SPORTS NEWS

Many congratulations to the Year 8 Boys Rugby squad who, on Friday, won the County Emerging Schools Finals in St Albans.

The boys started well with a convincing win over Edwinstree, with Alex Maclean scoring 2 tries and Josh Littlestone scoring the third. In the second match against a strong Yavneh squad the boys continued to play well, with Josh Littlestone scoring his second try of the competition, Jack Rolfe and Rob Veall also getting on the score sheet. In the third match against Francis Coombe the boys really started to up their game and stormed ahead scoring 5 tries to the opposition's nil. Tries from Rob Veall (2), Tom Hill (1) and Lewis Malcolm Hancock (2) topped a very good performance. Going in to the final match, the boys were aware that the result against a very strong Goffs School would be key. After going one try down early on in the game Rob Smith scored an excellent winger's try to bring us level. The boys then seemed to settle and they played their best rugby of the season so far with Lewis Malcolm Hancock scoring another 2 tries and Tom Hill also adding another to his tally. The boys were excellent ambassadors for the school on Friday and thoroughly deserve the success. We now go through to the London North Regional Emerging Schools Finals which will be played at Jobbers Wood, Bishop's Stortford on Friday 26th March.

Squad: Lucien George, Tayub Inayat, Josh Littlestone, Rob Veall, Lewis Malcolm Hancock, Kai Bransgrove, Tom Hill, Jack Rolfe, Ryan Olliffe, Dean Breed, Peter Kennett, Stanley Hayden, Alfie Rolfe, Alex Maclean, Rob Smith.

I would like to also take this opportunity to wish the girls Basketball squads the very best of luck next week in their respective Finals. The Year 8 squad will take on Westfield School on Monday in the final of the Under 13 league and the Year 8/9 squad will take on Queens School in the final of the Under 15 league. Both sides are unbeaten so far this year and continue to improve in every game that they play. I am sure that they will rise to the occasion and continue to add to their already fantastic successes! And yes girls..... I will be wearing my lucky T-shirt!!!

Vote for Jack!

Following my note last week about Jack's success in the commentary competition I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to vote for him on-line.

The videos can be viewed on the Visit Birmingham website (

http://www.visitbirmingham.com/sports/football/junior_voice_of_football_announces_five_finalists_vote_now/)

or the Aston Villa website (<http://www.avfc.co.uk/page/ClubNewsDetail/0,,10265~1995767,00.html>).

Jack is the last commentator in the sequence of competitors. It is amazing to think that he was recording this commentary to a live football match, having to incorporate his research seamlessly as the unpredictable action developed in front of him.

Well done Jack! You can vote for him, (one vote per person) by emailing the message 'Jack from Hemel Hempstead' to 'voiceoffootball@hatchcommunications.co.uk'. The young commentator with the most votes will win the star prize.

It would be wonderful if our votes could help Jack win this magnificent National competition. The deadline for your votes is midday on Friday 9th April, 2010.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE