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### HeadLines

I have read various versions of the recent news story about the school where children suffered panic attacks and were left crying after a role play event in which one of their teachers was 'shot dead' in the playground. Apparently, it was part of a Science lesson and involved pupils being told there was a gun in school followed by the alarm going off and three hundred children being sent outside to observe the 'shooting.' It was only ten minutes later when they were called from their classrooms into the hall that they learned it wasn't real: it was an exercise.

Schools as represented by Headteachers or other staff have to make many judgement calls in the course of the day. Sometimes, the judgements are easy: simple common sense, the framework of statutory requirements, adherence to the accepted moral code and norms of society, child protection laws or just an interpretation of the duty of care or 'in loco parentis' is sufficient. Sometimes things are far more complex and advice must be sought or a decision made which applies to a unique situation.

Clearly, what happened in that Middle School in Evesham was just plain wrong! In justifying it, the Head made things worse: 'It was one of the more popular teachers who played the victim. I don't think there would have been as much concern if it was one or two of the others.' Incredible! Joking or not, there is clearly a time for jokes and a time when Headteachers must hold up their hands and admit that a mistake has been made.

This week saw our Speech Night take place: the story was told of a year in the life of this school, a year of success and celebration. Many students received much deserved prizes and I looked forward to a vision of the school in the future: a school which continues to aspire to great things but has a clear set of values underpinning the vision.

Every day we read things in the papers which seem to undermine our sense of what is right and wrong. I was horrified at the story of swans being killed for food and rivers decimated of fish until I realised that it was supposed to be happening a few miles from where I live and that the media had exaggerated and elaborated somewhat. So, yes, we do have to be careful about succumbing to the moral panic encouraged by the tabloids, but at this time of year when the days of Holy Week coincide with the final days of term, it behoves us to reflect upon the values by which we live and what we stand for. Whether it be via the words of 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' or the image of Christ on the cross: to look beyond Easter eggs and bunnies and chocolate box pictures of Spring lambs gambolling, to a world where sacrifice and love and truth reign in the most profound way possible is what we should be doing. Schools don't need gimmicks to provide a learning experience and they certainly don't have to exhibit the bad taste and judgement of the school in the news story. What they do require is a sense of moral purpose to drive their educational purpose forward: 'my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.'

Have a very Happy Easter! School recommences on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**



## ARTS NEWS

### Rehearsal Time

Public performances are on hold for the next few weeks with students in the Performing Arts spending all their time rehearsing for their practical exams. GCSE Drama and Dance students can be found in small groups all over the school at lunchtimes and at 3.30 pm, going through their exam pieces together, while Music students gather in Heath Barn and Art students congregate in the various Art rooms. Many students at both Key Stages (and therefore their teachers) plan to come in for more rehearsals over the holiday. With this level of dedication and commitment, we must hope that they get the grades that they deserve.

One group whose practical exams are over are the AS and A2 Dance students, whose exams were held last Saturday. On the whole the students felt that all went well, and that injuries and tiredness seemed to melt away with the adrenaline of the exam room. Not that this is the end of the course. All Dance, Drama and Music students have a theory exam to pass as well, and from now on lessons will be devoted to exam skills, knowledge and practice.

*Ms Darby, Assistant Headteacher*

### Year 7 and 8 Music Trip to see the BBC Concert Orchestra

We were given the great opportunity to see the BBC Concert Orchestra live at the Watford Colosseum. The excitement started when we left our lessons for an early lunch ready for the afternoon, before getting the coach and travelling to Watford. The theatre was large, but we had the best seats! We were right on the balcony, with a really good view of the orchestra.

Radio One presenter Nihal was hosting the concert and gave us a lot of laughs before the music began. The conductor was extremely good and conducted both classical and modern music, including the theme tunes from Merlin and Futurama. The orchestra also played music along to a nature film from TV. The Herts County Youth Choir also accompanied the orchestra in a song.

There was another piece featuring lots of drums and percussion, put together by one of the orchestra, which was really lively. Another member of the orchestra had written a song for us all to sing which we had learnt before the trip. Everyone performed their best.

Overall it was a fantastic trip and we are so glad that we got the chance to go!

*Eliza Dickinson and Victoria Bennett, 8P*

### Gold Letters issued recently:

**Letter 175** Year 11 'Get Your Grade C in Maths'

**Letter 176** Medical Questionnaire

**Letter 177** Year 13 Final Report

*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.

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

**For Outstanding Work in Dance:** Matthew Gurr and Murray Witherall 8A, Caitlin Filby 8F, Victoria Bennett 8P.

**For Representing the School at the Hemel At War Presentation:** Matthew Henton 9F, Rory Tinker 9P, Amelie Wright 11A, James Moss 11L, Alex Bourne 12A, Sophie Horwood 13L.

**For Displaying Excellent Leadership Skills in Btec Sport:** Adam King 11C, Lewis Macleod 12C, Amy French, Evie McMichael, Jon Nash and Ryan Campbell 12F, James Stratford 12L, Ben Tavener 12N, James Bryson, Matt Church, James Fraser and Rachael Tiller 12P, Tom Franklin 13A, Mark Allday 13N, Harvey Lee and Paul Minter 13P.

### History News; Hemel at War

The History Department have had a busy term; apart from the trip to The Somme with Year 9, (see last week's Newsletter). The Hemel at War Project is still very much active and in January a small group of nine dedicated students from Years 11, 12 and 13 were lucky enough to attend The National Archives in Kew with Dr Richard Grayson, Professor of Politics at Goldsmiths, London University and a past pupil of The Hemel Hempstead School. As well as researching the Second World War we have also begun to look at men from Hemel Hempstead who died in The First World War. We presented these findings to The Dacorum Local History Society at their meeting at the school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. It was a very moving occasion where James Moss, Sophie Horwood, Alex Bourne and Amelia Wright talked about interviewing veterans, researching in the archives and making the website. Matthew Henton and Rory Tinker from Year 9 talked about their experiences of finding the graves of Hemel men during the visit to the Somme. We concluded the evening by going down to the school foyer to look at the memorial board of former pupils of The Hemel Hempstead School who died in the Second World War. Some of the members of the History Society had known some of those whose names were on the board, so it was a poignant moment. Please have a look at the website and contact us if you have any interesting war history in your family ([hemelatwar.org](http://hemelatwar.org)).

*Mrs Wright, Subject Leader: History*

### Diversity News

#### Chinese Ch'ing Ming/Festival of Pure Brightness 5<sup>th</sup> April

This is the first occasion in the year when family graves are visited. After cleansing and sweeping them, offerings are made to spirits and many people picnic by the grave to 'join' their ancestors in the feast. Families make a special effort to be together and to return to the family graveyard.

*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*

## PTA News

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, Library, 6 pm

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



## SCIENCE REVISION (AND COURSEWORK) TIMETABLE (starts Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>LUNCH</b> 1.30 – 2 pm	Yr13 Physics in PH1 Mr Goodfellow  Yr12 Chemistry in CH2 Mrs James	Yr13 Physics in PH1 Miss Phung  Yr12 Biology in Bi1 Ms Gilmore	Yr11 Chemistry C5 and C6 in Ch2 Mrs March	Yr10 Physics coursework drop in in PH1 Miss Phung	Yr11 Physics P7 in Sc2 Miss Taylor P5 and P6 in Sc1 Mr Smith  Yr11 Physics (11I, V and W) in PH1 Miss Phung
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b> 3.30 – 4.15 pm	Yr13 Physics in PH1 Miss Phung		Yr12 Physics in PH1 and PH2 Mr Smith and Miss Taylor  Yr13 Biology in Sc2 and Bi1 Miss Ramji and Ms Gilmore	Yr11 Applied Chemistry (11I, V and W) in CH2 Dr Brown  Yr11 Biology B5 and B6 in Bi2 Miss Whitehouse	

### Carnegie Shadowing 2010

The CILIP Carnegie Medal is the most prestigious of the Children's Book Awards. The shortlist will be announced on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and we will once again be shadowing the award alongside JFK, Cavendish and Adeyfield schools. The Dacorum Schools Carnegie Event will be held at The Hemel Hempstead School on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, the day of the award announcement. If you are interested in shadowing the award or would like to know more about it, please come and see Mrs Krajewski in the Library. *Mrs Krajewski, Librarian*

### Careers Department Information

The Career Development Organisation have developed [icould.com](http://icould.com). This is a free, independent online resource which gives the inside story of how careers work. The **icould** storytellers relate, in their own words, their real life career journeys. There are nearly 1,000 films, they are easy to search, they are very varied and each is unique. From telecoms engineers to police officers, from landscape gardeners to web designers, from engine drivers to zookeepers; they talk about what they do, what it's like, how they came to be where they are and their hopes for the future. There are a few stories from well-known people too. They talk of the times they've messed up, had difficulties and set-backs. They also talk about their opportunities and experience of achievement and success. The stories – as well as articles – talk about real issues, such as problems at home, taking a year out, failing exams and coping with redundancy. You can also take the Buzz personality profile quiz where you can discover more about what personality type you are and what you're naturally good at, all in just five minutes. *Miss Bond, Careers Coordinator*

### Dates for Your Diary



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

- 19<sup>th</sup> Apr** INSET Day (School open to staff only)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Apr** Year 10 German Exchange students here
- 20<sup>th</sup> Apr** First day of term for students  
HHSA meeting, Library, 6 pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr** Year 10 German Exchange visit to Cambridge  
Year 11 GCSE Mathematics Conference  
Year 12 Biology Field Trip meeting, 6 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr** Years 12/13 PE Revision day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Apr** Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Competency

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

- 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Apr** Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
- 26<sup>th</sup> Apr** Year 7 Parent/Pupil Maths Workshop Evening
- 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Apr** Year 8 Geography trips to London Docklands
- 28<sup>th</sup> Apr** Years 11/12/13 HPV vaccinations  
Years 12/13 'Question Time' House Event
- 29<sup>th</sup> Apr** Years 7/8 Junior Maths Challenge  
Year 12 Drama Practical Exam Part 2  
Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Information Evening
- Year 11 Prom Fundraiser Talent Show
- 30<sup>th</sup> Apr** Years 8/9 Maths Team Challenge (selected students)

### 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.

# SPORT



## FIXTURES

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** Provisional date for next ESBBA U14 Girls match  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April** Miss Black running the London Marathon  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May** County League Athletics 1  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May** County League Athletics 2  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May** School Fun Run  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** County League Athletics 3  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May** County League Athletics 4  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May** County Athletics 5  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June** County Athletics 6  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** School Sports Day

## RESULTS

U15 Girls Basketball County Finals v Queens School won 57-30  
U13 Boys Rugby Regional Finals v Twyford won 10-5  
v St Edwards won 20-5  
v St James' drew 5-5  
v Edwinstree won 45-0  
Year 7 Football v Longdean drew 3-3  
Year 8 Football v Longdean won 4-2  
Year 9 Football v Longdean drew 1-1  
Year 10 Football v Longdean lost 0-2  
U14 ESBBA Girls Basketball v St Bede's School, Cambridge won 51-12  
Year 8 Girls Basketball District Final v Bridgewater won 68-26

## SPORTS NEWS

### Under 13 Girls Basketball County Finals

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Under 13 Girls Basketball squad travelled to Queens School for a vital County Final match. We were playing Westfield School who we had already played and beaten in the league. We started the match badly and by the end of the first quarter we were losing 7-16. We then picked up our game in the second quarter and got back to 15-24. We were still down. At half time, Miss Bevan talked to us about how proud she was about getting us this far and wanted to see us get further. With those remarks we brought the score to 28-26 at the end of the third quarter. In that quarter we only conceded one basket and scored quite a few. In the final quarter we gave it our all and were leading until one of their team broke through and made a lay-up to make it 34-35. We were so determined to get the title. We all thought that we got it level when Maddy Wood scored a free throw, but unfortunately her foot was over the line. We gave it 110% but just couldn't get another basket. The game ended 34-35 with us coming runners up. We certainly deserved to win and Miss Bevan's lucky basketball shirt did good! We played our best and hope that next year we will beat Westfield School and win the title.

Team: Georgie Bartlett, Maddy Wood, Tessa Wilson, Ellie Wilson, Sophie Kinley, Danielle Saunders, Holly Towse, Olivia Wright, Jo Toms and finally Miss Bevan.  
*Match report by Olivia Wright 8C*

### Under 13 Boys Rugby Regional Finals

Having had a very successful day at the Emerging Schools County Finals a couple of Fridays ago, the Year 8 Rugby squad qualified for the London North Regional Finals. Off we went to Bishops Stortford for yet another day of Rugby. In the pool round we met Twyford School, Middlesex and won 10-5 with Lewis Malcolm-Hancock and Rob Veall scoring a try each. The second match we met St Edwards School from Essex and won 20-5 with both Lewis Malcolm-Hancock and Josh Littlestone scoring two tries each. The third match was always going to be tough, St James' School from Suffolk were in the same position as us having won both their previous matches. We started poorly after a long lunch break and conceded a soft try but fought back well with Josh Littlestone scoring the equaliser. Unfortunately the game was not quite long enough for us and ended 5-5. Although we remained unbeaten it did mean that we went through as runners up of our pool, having conceded one more try than St James'. We went on to play Edwinstree School from Buntingford, Hertfordshire in the third and fourth play-off whilst the final was taking place on the pitch next to us between St James' and Brentwood. We started our match well and were comfortable winners scoring nine tries and conceding none. Try scorers were: Josh Littlestone x 2, Alex Maclean x 2, Lewis Malcolm-Hancock x 3, Rob Smith x 1, Jack Rolfe x 1. This has been a fantastic season for the boys and I have been very proud of their achievements throughout the year. Well done boys!  
*Miss Bevan*

### Under 15 Girls Basketball County Finals

The match started with excellent play from both teams. We then went ahead and scored the first basket of the match which seemed to settle us. But soon after Queens also scored making it equal. We then battled hard and after the first quarter we were up by 11 points to 8. Queens seemed to step up their game but that didn't affect us. There were strong performances and plenty of baskets from Francesca Quinn, Charlie Bartlett and Zoe Littlechild. In the third quarter we continued to pull away from Queens and with some great defending from Millie Gulley and Georgie Bartlett we were up by 36 points to 26. The final quarter was tense but we continued to play well and make our chances count. The final score was 57-30 making us Under 15 County Champions!

Squad: Charlie Bartlett, Holly Towse, Georgie Bartlett, Kathryn Tyne, Francesca Quinn, Zoe Littlechild, Maddy Wood, Millie Gulley, Ellie Wilson, Jade Gardiner, Tessa Wilson.  
*Match report by Holly Towse, Georgie Bartlett and Maddy Wood*

It would be easy to underestimate the achievements of this young Basketball squad this year but we should all remember that not only is Hertfordshire a very large and strong Basketball county but these girls are still one and two years young for this age group! It has been a very long time since the school has seen a squad of athletes be double County Champions in two age groups. After Easter the girls will continue to compete in their own age group (Under 14) in the English Schools competition and will face either Holbrook High School (Suffolk) or Notre Dame High School (Norfolk) in the second round of the regionals. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Stanbridge on your behalf for all his hard work. He has spent tireless hours refereeing you and you have learnt so much from him, even when you think he's being too hard on you!! Thank you Mr Stanbridge!

Girls, you have been an absolute pleasure to work with this year and you have deserved everything you have achieved along the way. Your ability to learn never ceases to amaze me and our journey goes on through the English Schools competition - how exciting! Just think, this time next month we could be playing sides from Shropshire or Staffordshire!! You never know. Well done all of you, it has truly been a squad effort.

*Miss Bevan*

### Under 14 Girls Basketball ESBBA Regional Round

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March the Year 8 and 9 girls Basketball squad travelled to St Bede's School in Cambridge for a regional play off game, having won the County Cup finals only last week. From the very beginning our team dominated play with a strong attack and defense strategy. Within minutes we scored many baskets which continued throughout the game. On an individual basis all the players have increased their knowledge, ball skills and fitness to a very high standard. This was an impressive outing for the team. We could be adding another title to our already overflowing trophy cabinet!

Squad: Francesca Quinn, Charlotte Bartlett, Millie Gulley, Kathryn Tyne, Zoe Littlechild, Georgie Bartlett, Ellie Wilson, Tessa Wilson, Jade Gardiner, Holly Towse, Maddy Wood.  
*Match report by Francesca Quinn and Charlotte Bartlett*