



www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

HeadLines

If you were going to be taking an examination, and let's face it during this part of the year that's a fairly common thing to be doing, how would you prepare yourself?

- Revise well? Far be it from me to add to the plethora of advice on that topic. There are tricks and handy tips galore but the main advice is to 'get on with it and approach it sensibly in bite sized chunks'; procrastination is by far the worst enemy to effective revision.
- Eat well. Have a good breakfast prior to the morning examination. Not fast food. Not fizzy drinks. Have some good brain food and energy food.
- Don't compare revision notes with friends just before you go into the exam. It's a real 'confidence sapper'.
- Make sure that you have brought the right equipment for the examination e.g. pen, pencil, ruler.

Now you may laugh at the last point but you would be amazed how many of our students arrive at school ill-prepared and have to 'borrow' items of basic equipment. They go to our Science technicians and demand rulers or to our Exams Office and ask for pens a few minutes before they are due to take their examinations. This is ridiculous! Whether it be for examinations or ordinary lessons, students should come equipped with the basic items and not expect teachers or departments to lend them pens and pencils especially when the items are rarely returned. Our Resources department sells stationery at minimum cost and is the place to buy pens and pencils in school. Of course, the best way is to remember the 'tools for the job' every day...and especially when examination success depends upon it.

On an entirely different note, may I ask you to check that your sons and daughters are in correct school uniform before setting off for school. Is it important? Does uniform make a difference? Undoubtedly, yes. If students are adhering to the school rules and dressing immaculately, their attitude to learning will be improved. The two issues are not separate. I do not expect to see canvas shoes or skirts which are too short. I do not expect to see sixth form girls in tunics and leggings. Not in the dress code! Inappropriate! Neither will I be having lengthy conversations with parents who believe that body decoration such as tongue piercings is appropriate. No conversation required. The rules are clear and I will have no hesitation in sending home students who do not abide by the dress code.

I apologise for the lack of wit, anecdotes and quotations in this week's headlines. Normal service will be resumed, along with my sense of humour, next week.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

Appearing at the Festival

At the end of June, two teachers and five of our Year 13 dancers are flying out to South Africa to attend and take part in the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. This year the dancers will perform at the National Schools' Festival, and on the Fringe, but this is also a reconnoitring expedition for 2011, when we hope to be a major sensation at the Festival! The aim is to take a full troupe of dancers to Grahamstown next year and to do a combined performance with the 'Master Movers' of our partner school, Mgezwa Junior Secondary. The British Council is very interested in our plans, and is giving us full support, especially as we hope to be able to bring over some of the South African dancers to Hemel Hempstead to perform as part of the Cultural Olympiad in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. A bid for Lottery funding has been made and other fundraising activities are planned, including, of course, our glamorous Fashion Show - for which we hope you all buy tickets!

Mgezwa School has been working to support this project too, and Mr Fejeni, the principal, is planning to drive the hundreds of miles from Lusikisiki to Grahamstown to meet the Festival organisers with Miss Sepala and Miss Billinge. Together they will publicise our plans, establish what funding sources may be available to the South African students and - with a bit of luck - get on South African or even British TV channels. There will be a World Cup going on out there, and a 'combined countries' news story about school students and the arts may be a popular human interest line for a reporter to introduce between games! The Dance students and Miss Billinge are currently working with Miss Sepala to produce a 30 minute dance for their entry in the festival this year, rehearsing evenings and weekends, but it will all be worth it when they step out on that stage in the far southern hemisphere and show the audience what HHS students can achieve.

Ms Darby, Assistant Headteacher

Library Notices

Please could Year 11 and Year 13 students return any Library books in their possession as soon as possible. The Library will close for the summer on Wednesday 23 June. We will be stocktaking during the last three weeks of term and there will be no access to the Library. Printing in the Library is charged at 5p per sheet. Students need to pay for their printing before it will be released.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian

PTA News

We continue raising money for much needed extras for our students. Please help us 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 hhsatheatregrp@hotmai.co.uk

Our next theatre trip has been arranged for 24th June to see Mama Mia. Tickets cost £30 and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please look out for the flyer being distributed via registers shortly.

The Fun Run was last Friday and we, as a PTA, were very pleased to offer our help with the festivities. By running a BBQ and cake stall we were able to give the Breast Cancer charity £600. I would like to thank all staff and parents who helped make this a success.

Date of next meeting: Monday 24th May, 6pm in the Library. Please come along and join us.

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

Internet Payments

Letters are being sent home via registers to invite parents to make online payments for trips, books and music fees etc.

The letter contains login instructions with an individual personal password. A user guide is also accessible on the school website.

The online system will be updated regularly with new payment options.

A trip permission slip will need to be completed and returned to school before online payment for the trip is made available.

You will, of course, still have the option to pay by cash/cheque.

If you have any queries please contact Student Services.

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.



The Engineering Education Scheme – A Success!

In October, Abby Bryce of 12F, Allyce Beaumont of 12N, Kelly Egerton of 12A and Doug Rutherford of 12C were interviewed and selected to form the Hemel Hempstead School team for the Engineering Education Scheme (EES). They were linked with Renewable Energy Systems (RES), a global company based in Kings Langley.

The project set by RES was 'To develop a process and any accompanying tools to enable the most efficient and effective way of determining the layout of a wind turbine foundation casting taking into consideration all the constraining factors'. The team learnt that the task of setting out a wind turbine is not easy. The difficulty lies in the necessity for many constraining factors to be considered at the same time. For instance, based on the terrain of the site, the prevailing wind direction and the road access then the crane pad, the door, the control box and attached underground ducting would have to be efficiently and effectively positioned. These are just some of the many factors which have to be considered for each and every turbine of which there could be up to 500 on one site! This job currently takes the engineers many hours of trial and error, using various stationary objects around the office desk as props to model the different wind turbine components. This process is tedious and not very 'slick' to say the least! This is where our team of students came in.

After six months of regular meetings, a trip to Northern Ireland to see a wind farm in construction and a two day workshop at the University of Hertfordshire, the team produced a working model of a wind turbine foundation. This model would allow the engineers at RES to quickly and easily test out different solutions for setting out the turbine foundation. It was based on a central measuring disk against which all the components could be positioned and referenced.

The Celebration and Assessment Day at the University of Hertfordshire on 21st April was a perfect way to end the six months of hard work. For this they had to write a detailed report, they also had to produce a three-panel display of their work accompanied by a 15 minute presentation. The team were able to show off what they had achieved and obtain feedback from the assessors who were very complimentary regarding the work they had done. We are awaiting final results but I am confident that they will score highly, given the level of quality in their model, their report and team work and presentation skills. The team impressed everyone they met at their display stand with their understanding of the project and their ability to explain it in a clear and confident manner. They were fantastic ambassadors of our school. I am extremely proud of them and honoured to have worked with them and to have witnessed them flourish as team players, learners, educators, presenters, engineers and mature young adults. Well done team!

The team have also starred in a short video which describes their project and how they tackled it. Please see the news and events pages of the school website to view it.

Miss Phung

UK Intermediate Maths Challenge – Olympiad

As usual our students performed very well in the Maths Challenge, with four students qualifying for the follow-up Olympiads; Alex Burgess, Ben Kaye, Amelie Lecouche and Glen Taylor.

All four did incredibly well in what was a very difficult paper, with Amelie and Ben gaining Certificates of Merit. Alex Burgess achieved an outstanding score and was awarded a Certificate of Distinction and a prize for being in the top 50 in the country. An amazing performance, Alex! Well done to you all.

Miss May, Learning Leader: Maths



Dates for Your Diary

18th May-30th June GCSE Examinations*

18th May-22nd June AS Examinations*

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

23rd – 24th May 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

HALF TERM Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2010

2nd June Years 10, 11 and 12 Economics Revision Classes

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

7th – 18th June Years 7 – 10 School Exams

9th – 30th June A2 Examinations*

11th Year 10 Graphics Exam

Years 10/11 Theatre trip

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

Careers Department Information

Careers in Sport (www.careers-in-sport.co.uk) aims to provide 14-19 year olds who want a job in sport and leisure with the information to establish their career. Experts working within different professions of the sports industry describe their typical day, the benefits and disadvantages of the profession, their salary and advice on the qualifications and experience required. The qualifications required differ for each profession and it is important that students choose carefully if they are going into higher education. New career profiles are updated each month and students can keep up to date with sport and leisure career events and jobs. A career in sport can offer lots of opportunities apart from coaching and teaching and if sport is a passion for students, then working in the sports industry could be a good career choice for them.

Miss Sue Bond, Careers Coordinator

SPORT



FIXTURES

Wednesday 26th May

Year 8 District Cricket v Cavendish (A)

Year 9 District Cricket v Tring (A)

Thursday 27th May

County League 4 @ Watford

Sports News

Athletics

We are now halfway through the County League Athletics season and all athletes are performing well. Tuesday night's match was a tough one against the likes of Queens and St Georges but there were some outstanding performances from our athletes. Just a reminder to all students that athletics practice takes place on the following days at lunch time: Year 7 and 8 Mondays and Wednesdays, Year 9 and 10 Tuesday and Thursday. All students are welcome.

Several students have been selected for the County Athletics Championships on Saturday 12th June. Information regarding the day will be forwarded to selected athletes before half term.

Fun Run

Friday's Fun Run was a huge success! Following the inspirational assemblies run by Mrs Hartley before the Easter break, the response to this year's Fun Run and associated charity, The Hertfordshire Breast Unit Appeal, was amazing. A sea of pink descended on the moor on Friday morning, including our very own Patrick from the Sponge Bob Squarepants cartoon! The competitive race was keenly contested with the top ten athletes clocking times under 40 minutes for 10Km. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the staff in the PE Department for all their commitment and also to Mrs Stallworthy for all her hard work in preparing the Fun Run 'after party' at school. The afternoon was a massive hit, the atmosphere at school brilliant with students and staff clearly enjoying themselves in the sunshine! The pictures have been developed and will be displayed in the PE Department over the next few weeks.

All students should now be collecting their hard-earned sponsor money and handing it in to Student Services. Please could every effort be made to bring all sponsorship monies in by Friday 28th May 2010.

Thank you again to all those students and staff who made it such a memorable day!

Fun Run Results

1st Eric Boateng 13L 34.56, 2nd Mr Miller Adult 35.52, 3rd Jack Eykelbosch 10P 36.49, 4th Luke Marsh 11N 38.30, 5th Connor Church 9N 38.51, 6th Wes Miko 12N 39.36, 7th Callum Harbour 9P 39.17, 8th Alex Burgess 10C 39.36, 9th Richard Metcalf 9P 39.40, 10th Miss Turnham Adult 39.52, 11th Jack Parsons 13C 40.02, 12th Charlie Wood 13C 40.38, 13th Adam Edgeworth 12C 40.40, 14th Charlie Ausden 9C 40.41, 15th Campbell Russell Mills 8P 40.43, 16th Mr Mullings Adult 41.02, 17th Torin Grey 9C 41.15, 18th Josh Snow 8P 41.23, 19th Chris Andric 9F 41.59, 20th Mr Blyth Adult 42.10, 21st George Jackson 7C 42.25, 22nd Jack Hoar 11C 42.32, 23rd Mr Nichola Adult 42.45, 24th James Baxter 10C 42.50, Zac Farrell 10C 42.50 and Glyn Taylor 10C 42.50, 25th Tom Butler 9A 43.20, 26th Kieran Cavanagh 9P 43.25, 27th Mrs Ramnarine Adult 44.00, 28th Billy Elborough 7N 44.29, 29th Luke Bradley 7A 44.35, 30th Francesca Quinn 9F 44.32, 31st Ben Stollar 9C 44.34, 32nd Jacob Buckley 10C 45.30, 33rd Ollie Gill 10A 45.38, 34th Liam Wadmore 9A 45.43, 35th Mr Cracknell Adult 46.04.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

Diversity News

Shavuot (Jewish) The giving of the Torah 19th – 20th May
Feast of Pentecost: Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments are read in synagogues just as they were in the desert on Mount Sinai over 3,300 years ago. It is also called the Festival of Weeks because it occurs seven weeks after Pesach.

Yoga with Santoshni

Yoga classes take place every Thursday from 3.45 pm to 4.45 pm in PA1. 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

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 198 Years 7/8 Cricket Test Match

Letter 202 Year 10 German Exchange

Letter 203 A Level Art coursework visit

*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.