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HeadLines

Have you watched many of the awards' shows recently or followed the fortunes of the winners and losers? Apparently, the great Bette Davis was responsible for naming the Academy Awards Oscars and of course, she was nominated ten times and won twice: for 'Dangerous' and 'Jezebel' but, as any fan knows, her best performances came in 'Now Voyager' and 'All About Eve.' Well, that is my opinion just as it is my view that Judy Garland should have won the 'Best Actress' prize for 'A Star is Born' not Grace Kelly for 'The Country Girl' in 1955. No, I am not old enough to remember that particular Oscars' ceremony, I just can't understand why some of the greatest performances and the greatest film actors, Cary Grant to name but one, never won a statuette.

And so it is with many of us when we look back to our school days: why did we not receive this prize or that prize, how were we robbed of victory, why didn't that teacher recognise our talents? When I was cast as Young Marlowe in Goldsmith's 'She Stoops To Conquer' in 1969, the English teacher directing it told me that I should have auditioned for parts before. 'I did,' I told her, 'but you didn't cast me and no-one ever told me why.' Yes, sometimes the whole system of merits and commendations, awards and prizes seems deeply flawed and what ought to bring smiles and encouragement produces gloom and diminished self esteem. We can knock on the door many times without anyone acknowledging our presence and then just as we walk away, someone shouts after us!

To address these issues of equity and 'it's not fair', schools lost interest in competition and some schools stopped awarding prizes altogether because students were embarrassed to step up in an assembly and receive them for fear of being teased or worse. Courses were run for teachers on collaborative not competitive games. In doing so, 'the baby was thrown out with the bathwater' and somebody, somewhere had completely missed the point.

In a school like this, there are opportunities for all to achieve in some way: personal best, examination success, House Cup, Headteacher commendations, team wins and so on. Not everyone will win everything: that would be silly and defeat the purpose. When people win honours for the school or represent themselves in the best possible way, we all rejoice. It is a culture where we applaud the efforts of others: we play the game as it is meant to be played. If there are those in school who feel that they have been overlooked or that their efforts have not been praised when it was deserved, I would like to hear about it so that the balance can be redressed; it is not a lost cause in any sense.

We are very much at the start of the examination season and Easter revision classes are looming large. The chance to make a difference to what we win or lose is there for the taking. I exhort all students facing GCSEs or A levels or Btecs in the next couple of months to be positive and determined in their efforts to achieve and compete at the top of their game so that the rest of their lives are built on the firm foundation of this time of success and qualifications gained. The rewards are worth a small sacrifice!

We can't have everything and we can't be good at everything, but examination glory is a few steps away for all our Year 11s and 13s for as Bette Davis so aptly put it in 'Now Voyager': 'Gerry, don't let's ask for the moon, we have the stars.'

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

AS and A2 Recital Evening

On Tuesday night a small but select audience of parents, staff and friends assembled in the theatre in Heath Barn to hear our A level musicians perform their practical exam pieces. The atmosphere was quite tense, because their music was being recorded to send to the examiner.

A2 student Craig Watts began proceedings with a 15 minute set of four pieces on electric guitar. The material he chose allowed him to demonstrate the instrument's versatility and range of sound qualities, as well as some very impressive fingering. Next came an energetic drum solo from Adam Edgeworth, played with total concentration and precise timing. Harry Monk, on bass guitar, showed subtle interpretation of dynamics while Polly Taylor, struggling with a cold, nevertheless managed to produce a lyrical performance of demanding vocal range. There was some great musical interpretation next from Sophie Payne on flute. In her 20 minute set of five pieces, including one totally unaccompanied, she drew lovely sound from her instrument and demonstrated excellent breath control.

The rest of the performances were all vocal. Kenny Mitchell reprised one of his solos from 'The Pajama Game' and in all his songs was able to tell stories and create characters through his rendition. Malena Zavala's clear, strong voice was admirably suited to the jazz-style numbers that she chose, and Matt Gill brought the evening to a close with a varied repertoire which allowed him to show his control of dynamics and his vocal range. Thanks to Mrs Bailey and to all the students' teachers for preparing them so well. It is always a pleasure to see the students performing solos – however nerve wracking they find it – and I congratulate them all.

Ms Darby, Assistant Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

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

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Gold Week

19th Apr INSET Day (School open to staff only)

19th – 27th Apr Year 10 German Exchange students here

20th Apr First day of term for students

21st Apr Year 10 German Exchange visit to Cambridge

Year 11 GCSE Mathematics Conference

Year 12 Biology Field Trip meeting, 6 pm

23rd Apr Years 12/13 PE Revision day

25th Apr Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze

Competency

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Service to the School: Leela Pocock 7N, Aya Amamou 7P, Lauren Kempster 9A, Adam Amamou 10A.

For Excellent Results in Science Modules: Amber Townsend 10A, Ivo Murrell, Cale Tilford and Alex Burgess 10C, Glen Taylor 10F, Lois Moore 10N, Andrew Coe and Amelie Lecoeuche 10P, Rosina Hoskins 11C, Katie Mogan 11F, Sarah Kinley 11P.

For Representing the School Excellently: Lucy Deering, Yasmin Brand and Daisy Bishop 7A.

For Excellent Work in English: Lucy Jackson, Nick Roel-Adams, Tessa Milligan, Sam Brook, Elouise Hepburn, Ruby Cantlon, Megan Archer and Megan Mower 7F.

For Excellent Work in History: Lorenzo Bellini 9L, Ocean Foster and Ben Kaye 9P.

For Excellent Work in English: Ocean Foster 9P.

Apologies to Sam Clark 7P and Torin Grey 9C who were awarded Headteacher's Commendations for excellent work in History last week but whose names were printed incorrectly.

Library Notices

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.

The Library will be closed on the last day of term.

Postcards from 2050

Joan Ruddock MP, Evans Books, Peace Child International and UK Youth Climate Coalition have launched *Postcards from 2050*, a national competition for secondary school students, encouraging them to write a postcard from their future self discussing the effects of climate change - whether positive or negative. The author of the winning postcard will win an iPod Touch along with a tour of the Houses of Parliament for their class. If you are interested in entering the competition please come and collect an entry card from the Library.

Carnegie Shadowing 2010

The CILIP Carnegie Medal is the most prestigious of the Children's Book Awards. The shortlist will be announced on Friday 23rd 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 24th 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



Science & Maths News



SCIENCE WEEK

HOUSE SCIENCE

Last Wednesday, over 60 pupils from the six Houses met in Science 1 to participate in the annual House Science competition. Each House team was challenged to design and build a 'chemically powered boat' using household junk and kitchen substances like bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

The teams had just 90 minutes to find the best chemical mixture and build their boats for the race. Chair of Governors, Mr Pennycook, was our impartial expert judge for the competition and he did a fantastic job allocating the points, despite one 'explosive' entry taking us all rather by surprise!

All House teams worked fantastically well despite a very difficult challenge and lots of fun was had by all.

It was a closely fought contest with points awarded for the design, buoyancy and distance travelled, but as only one of the 'boats' fulfilled all the criteria there could only be one winner – **Latimer!** The final positions were as follows:

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

Congratulations to all involved. We look forward to next year's competition with great excitement!

Mrs March

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 168 Year 12 (Yr 13) Biology Field Trip September 2010

Letter 169 Year 12 Drama Trip to Watford Palace Theatre

Letter 170 Year 9 Triple Science GCSE

Letter 171 Sixth Form Arrangements Summer Term

Letter 172/173/174 Year 7 Student/Parent Mathematics Workshops

*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.

PTA News

THEATRE TRIPS

The trip to see 'Wicked' took place last night and was a very enjoyable evening for all who took part. Many thanks to Kate Bell for organising the event.

If you are interested in taking part in future theatre trips and have not yet 'signed up' to receive details please contact hhsatheatre@hotmail.co.uk.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th April, Library, 6 pm

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

Reminder

Students who need to take medication in school MUST provide written permission from parents or carers and the medication MUST be handed to Matron who will keep it secure. Please also note that medication must be in its original packaging.

Under no circumstances must students pass medication to other students.

Matron

The Somme Re-visited, 19th March 2010

On the 19th March the majority of the Year 9 students went to visit the Somme in France.

We left for the Eurotunnel at 5.10 am and arrived in France at around 9.30 am. We visited many cemeteries which held memorials of British and German soldiers. Seeing the gravestones which held many young soldiers' names made us realise how they were so dedicated to fight for our country.

The day was a great experience. We were put in the mind of a soldier going through preserved trenches and seeing the grounds where many had fought and lost their lives.

Overall the day was very enjoyable, yet tiring! Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the visit and guided the tour.

Sarah Worger and Jade Gardiner 9A

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

Saturday 27th March

Football v Longdean TBC

Monday 29th March

Year 8 Girls Netball Tournament @ Adeyfield

U14 Girls Basketball ESBBA v St Bedes School, Cambridge (A) 2.30 pm tip off

Tuesday 30th March

Year 8 Girls Basketball v Bridgewater (H)

U18 District Cup Final v JFK (TBC)

Wednesday 31st March

Year 9 & 10 District Cup Football Finals v Kings Langley School 4.30 pm KO for both matches

RESULTS

U15 Girls Football v Ashlyns lost 2-3

Year 7 District League Netball v Cavendish won 21-14

Year 8 District League Netball v Cavendish won 19-7

Year 8 District League Netball v Berkhamsted lost 5-17

Year 9 District League Netball v Berkhamsted draw

Year 7 Boys Football v Nicholas Breakspear lost 3-4

Year 10 Boys Football v Nicholas Breakspear won 3-0

Year 8 Girls Basketball County League Final v Westfield lost 35-36

Year 8 Girls Netball District Cup Final v Bridgewater lost 17-23

SPORTS NEWS

Year 9 Netball League v Berkhamsted Collegiate drew 17-17

Year 9 played their final league game against Berkhamsted Collegiate on a cold evening last week. We went to Berkhamsted with Year 8 and Senior Netball teams which was fantastic as all the squads were able to support each other. After a disappointing first half we found our feet and the net and played some spectacular netball which ended in a 17-17 draw. It was a nail-biting end to what has been a fantastic season for the squad. Francesca Quinn was voted 'Man of the Match' by the Collegiate. Playing our last game against such a lovely team really rounded off the competition. The squad remain unbeaten in both the District League and District Cup and it has been an absolute pleasure to coach them again during this season. I look forward to coaching them in Year 10 and to continue this fantastic form. Each and every member of the squad has given their all and worked so hard to make this year the best yet.

Well done to you all and a massive thank you to our dedicated team of supporters who continue to come to our games and cheer us on. Well done Year 9!

Miss Black

It has certainly been a very busy week for the PE Department as a long winter season comes to a close. Next week's newsletter will contain a write up of all the finals that our students have been involved in over the past two weeks.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

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