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HeadLines

Recently, I was asked to provide a page of recollections and musings for a 75th anniversary programme of an amateur dramatic society with which I have been associated for slightly less than seventy five years. In writing it, I became increasingly aware of the accidents of birth and circumstance which draw us to certain interests, skills and talents. We believe that we make our own decisions and create our own life chances and yet our family context has so much influence on our aspirations and choices.

My father was not a great singer or actor, but he was a gifted director and adept at drawing, making anything out of wood that could be made and some things where wood was not the obvious material. He made me my first guitar and a bicycle, the former being much more successful than the latter. More importantly, he designed and built stage sets of the most elaborate and beautiful quality. Several of his sets were pictured in the aforesaid programme and it made me both proud and ashamed because I used to play outside his workshop urging him to stop making the scenery, stretching the canvas and boiling the size and take me to the park instead. My mother was a fantastic singer and played the lead in many, many musicals when she wasn't singing professionally on the Working Mens' Club circuit and in national tours of 'The Student Prince.' Was it inevitable that I would be drawn into the world of performing arts at an early age? Is there an inevitability about our career choices?

Of course, sometimes there are careers out there which involve us challenging expectations and becoming 'the first in our family to...'

No one at school or home told my niece that organising medical conferences was a career at all and yet she has found it to be exciting and fulfilling and lucrative with travel all over the world. When my godfather's parents warned him, prodigal son like, of the dire consequences of leaving the thriving family business and becoming an actor, they had to eat their words a few years later when he starred in hundreds of TV shows and adverts.

Careers advice did not rate highly in parents' or student surveys recently and I believe that to be a harsh or even uninformed judgement on an excellent and improving service. Interviews are to be extended to Year 9s shortly; Ms Bond and Mrs Keenan are brilliant advisers ably supported by Connexions and I urge students or parents to seek their wisdom and advice.

I also know that the levels of achievement being attained by our students in a broad and balanced range of subjects can only help them in the applications and choices they will have to make in the future. I know that many of our students over the past few years have been the first in their family to go to university.

In the end, I resisted my parents' view that I should follow my other godfather, Lennard Pearce, into acting as he had always 'rested' more than he had acted or spent months of every year touring the provinces in easily forgotten plays. Instead, I took my Great Aunt Edith, the teacher, as a role model...and very pleased I am that I did.

Of course, there is an unexpected moral to the story because a few years later when he was near to retirement, Lennard got his first big break in acting when he auditioned for Grandad in 'Only Fools and Horses.' He played that role until his death.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

Lunchtime Concerts

This week saw the return of our lunchtime concerts, and what a privilege it has been to be an audience member. All our instrumental staff were asked to recommend students who they thought would benefit from having an opportunity to perform as a soloist in a relaxed, yet very appreciative setting. I came in on my day off to enjoy the first on Wednesday lunchtime and was delighted I had. The programme was varied and gave all level of performers a chance to display their talent. The two concerts included a range of vocalists from all year groups, a GCSE composition by Jordan Hobbs, a superb drum solo by Adam Breeze, some impressive guitar solos and a Year 7 guitar trio, junior sax quartet, other woodwind soloists and a number of able pianists. I am constantly staggered by the level of confidence the pupils at The Hemel Hempstead School display and this was evident in each individual performance. They were a credit to their instrumental teachers in the accuracy and musicality of what they delivered. It is, of course, due to the hard work of our teachers, coupled with the commitment and determination of the students themselves, that we are able to share the talent with events like this. Both concerts were well attended and there was a real buzz as the students left the venue discussing all the performances they'd seen, many blown away by the ability of their peers. It is at times like this that I feel very proud to be Head of Music at this school, and I would like to give a huge personal thanks to Miss Eyles for organising the events and encouraging even the quietest of pupils to take up this opportunity. Hopefully many more will follow in the near future. Well done.

The performers were: Charlie Goodall 9C, Nick Mower 9F, Kenny Mitchell 12A, Adam Kaye 12F, Nicky Kennett 9N, Adam Breeze 10P, Anna Bennett 7P, Tilly Mutter 7C, Ruby Newman 7L, Peter Kennett 7N, Maisie Connell 10F, Chris Andric 9F, Imogen Hudson 11N, Jordan Kelly 10P, Jordan Hobbs 10N, Elliott Craven 10P, Glenn Mitchell 9A, Lorenzo Bellini 9L, D'Arcy Monk 8A, Polly Taylor 12P, Sarah Cosgrove 9C, Emma D'Amery 9L, Malena Zavala 12L.

Summer Concert Friday 9th July

Tickets will be on sale from Student Services soon. Please look out for the Gold Letter which will be sent home shortly.

Mrs Bailey, Director of Music

Library Notice

Please could all Library books be returned by Friday 18th June. The Library will close for the summer on Wednesday 23rd June. We will be stocktaking during the last three weeks of term and there will be no access to the Library.

Mrs Krajewski, Librarian

Internet Payments

As publicised in the Newsletter and by letter to parents last week, the online payment system is now up and running. Should you wish to use the service but have not yet received notification of your log-in code, please contact Student Services. Thank you.

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 hhsatheatre@hotmail.co.uk

Our next theatre trip has been arranged for 24th June to see Mama Mia. Tickets cost £30 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All applications for tickets must be with Kate Bell no later than Wednesday 2nd June.

Date of next meeting: Monday 21st June, 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

Key Stage 3 English Exams

With the public exam season in full swing, it is now time for our Key Stage 3 students to begin preparation for their end of year exams.

Although the timetable for English exams is displayed in classrooms and on the English notice-board, the English Department would like to offer students one final reminder of when their exams are.

Year	Date	Exam	Duration	Location
7	11 th June	Reading	60 mins	Classroom
7	14 th June	Writing	60 mins	Classroom
8	9 th June	Reading	60 mins	Classroom
8	17 th June	Writing	60 mins	Classroom
9	18 th June	Reading	60 mins	Hall or M9*
9	18 th June	Writing	60 mins	Hall or M9*

* see English notice-board for details

Ms Redfern

Host Families Wanted

Would your family enjoy introducing someone from another country to your way of life?

There are international students from all over the world at universities in the UK; they speak English and most are in their 20s. They would love to spend a weekend sharing your family life in order to understand more about the UK. You could have fun introducing them to British food, customs, your local community and area and you could learn about their country and culture. This is an opportunity to make friends across international boundaries. Geography comes alive and afterward, any news bulletin about your guest's country will have much more meaning.

HOST is a national charity, backed by the Foreign Office, which has been linking students with volunteer hosts for many years. See <http://www.hostuk.org/> or call Sandra Purrett, the voluntary organiser for Hertfordshire, on 01296 681625.

World Fashion Show
Sunday 18th July
1.30 – 6.30 pm

*Supporting the Mgezwa School/Hemel Hempstead School
Partnership and Stoke Mandeville Hospital*

- Including fashion from Punky Fish, ASOS, Republic, Katie Picco Bridalwear, New Look and others.
- The House event will also feature recycled clothes, re-designed by students, to represent the different continents of the world. Students, teachers and parents will model the clothing.
- Entertainment from Risenga Makondo (African dance and drums), Irish, Bollywood and Salsa dancing.
- Lunch is included in the ticket price – see menu below.
- Many stalls, including jewellery, clothes, make-up, handbags etc.
- Enjoy a drink from our licensed bar while you are entertained by the busking!

Tickets will be on sale from Student Services after half term, on a first-come, first-served basis. £21 per ticket includes lunch and a complimentary drink on arrival. There will also be a balloon release at 6 pm, with each ticket-holder having a chance to win the £50 prize if their balloon travels the furthest!

We need models, waiters and waitresses, backstage helpers etc. Please get involved! Contact Mrs Ramnarine at school (01442 390100).

Mrs Botha

Menu for Fashion Show Lunch

Complimentary drink (Pimms/soft drinks) on arrival

Canapés

Crab & guacamole blini, asparagus and red pepper butter, salami, tomato & shrimp, smoked salmon blini, tuna, smoked trout mousse & chives, lump-fish roe

Main Course - two sittings

A choice of prime roasted joints served with roast potatoes, carrots, broccoli, peas, leek & mushroom mix, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing and gravy - traditional sauces available.

Salmon with mediterranean vegetables & new potatoes

Cold vegetarian penne pasta mix – sundried tomatoes, peppers, olives and feta cheese

Finger buffet

Salads

Desserts

A selection of Petit Fours

**HEADTEACHER'S
COMMENDATIONS**

For Excellent Work in Mathematics: Zak McCarthy and Ethan Mills 8L, Eliza Dickinson 8P, Liam Bothwell 9L, Nicola Kennett 9N, Alex Burgess 10C, Sam Pigott 10L, Andrew Coe and Amelie Lecoeuche 10P, Ben Walsh 12P

For representing the school in an outstanding way: Alex Dukes and Sam Stride 11L

For Excellent Work in Art: Elizabeth Ellis, Ruby Newman, Rob Patmore, Millie Shaw, Jasmin Thompson and Jenny Watkins 7L

For Excellent Work in Graphics: Paige Chard, Chloe Keeley and Hollie Payne 7C, Kezia Johnson, Elizabeth Patterson and Charlotte Withers 7P

For Excellent Work in English: Katie Arthurs, Yasmin Brand, Simon Brown, Lucy Deering, Luke Gill, Ruby Haydon, George Morley, Laura Norman-Phipps, Ella Parkin, Katie Rowe and Ben McFarlane-Barnes 7A

For completing the GO4set Engineering Project: Jamie McIvor 9A, Amy Dowse 9C, Francesca Quinn 9F, Ben Kaye, Mary Pattinson and Rory Tinker 9P

CHANNEL 4 DOCUMENTARY

Are your children all boys or all girls?

Ever wondered what it would be like to have a son or a daughter instead?

Can you imagine exchanging pink bedrooms for football boots clogging the hallway?

CHANNEL 4 is making a new thought-provoking **CUTTING EDGE** documentary looking at the differences between raising boys and girls.

We'd love to hear about your experiences of having all-boy or all-girl families. For a commitment-free chat please get in touch to find out more.

PHONE: 020 7566 1450 ext 80 or **TEXT** your name and contact details to **07505 275 842**

Find us on facebook: **Minnow Sonsanddaughters**

EMAIL: sonsanddaughters@minnowfilms.co.uk

All contact will be treated strictly in confidence.

THANK YOU!

Careers Department Information

To find out about student finance in higher education, visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance. This has all the information you will need when applying for a student loan. The easiest and quickest way to apply is online and the student does not have to have a firm offer from a university to make an application for support. There is also a Student Finance Calculator which allows you to work out exactly what your son or daughter might be able to get and if they haven't already applied for student finance, this is the best place to start. The information you input builds a very accurate financial picture and helps you and your child budget and plan for their future.

Miss Sue Bond, Careers Coordinator

SPORT



FIXTURES

Thursday 10th June

Year 9 Rounders @ Ashlyns
Year 7 Cricket v Astley Cooper (A)

Friday 12th June

County Schools Athletics Championships (Jarman Park)

Wednesday 16th June

Year 7 District Cup Cricket v Cavendish (H)
Year 9 Cricket v Longdean

Thursday 17th June

County League 5 @ Jarman Park

Friday 18th June

Year 7 Athletics friendly @ Jarman Park

RESULTS

Rounders

Year 10 v Ashlyns won 6 - 3.5
Year 9/10 v Kings Langley lost 9.5 - 1
Year 10 v Tring lost 8 - 3

Sports News

The first three County League Athletics practices have come and gone and we are now half way through the season. There have been some excellent performances in the first three matches against some tough opposition and as a department we look forward to the final three matches. Cricket is up and running and Mr Colquhoun is visiting Lords on Thursday with a group of Year 7 and 8 cricket enthusiasts. I hope that watching England play will inspire some of our students to reach representative level and continue with their sporting careers.

Fun Run sponsorship money has started to trickle in. Please could all students endeavor to collect their hard-earned sponsorship money over the half-term break and return to Student Services in June. We are aiming to raise as much money as possible this year and would very much appreciate everyone's support.

Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE

Year 9 Rounders Thursday 20th May

The girls had mixed success at Rounders; their previous form was not with them - I think the amount of sunshine we had to play in must have phased them! However, they worked excellently as a team and the welcome addition of Olivia Wright from Year 8 certainly helped with our fielding. We started well with a win against Ashlyns' Year 10 team; our second match against Kings Langley was not a high scoring one but we managed to get five of their nine players out. The third match against Tring was impressive in terms of fielding, where we managed to get out five of their team! Well done to everyone.

Miss Black

Year 7 Boys Inter-Form Football

The Year 10 BTEC Sport class will be hosting a Year 7 boys inter-form football tournament from 7th - 11th June at lunchtimes. This is the first week back after half-term. Pupils should now have signed up to play for their form and will need to remember to bring their PE kit, trainers/astro-turfs, and shin pads into school.

Monday Ashridge v Flaunden / Chalfont v Latimer

Tuesday Nettleden v Ashridge / Pendley v Chalfont

Wednesday Flaunden v Nettleden / Latimer v Pendley

Thursday and Friday Playoffs and Final

Year 10 BTEC Sport group: George Fripp, Ryan Bailey, Ross Briden, Aaron Austin, Demi Craig, and Sarah Goodwin

Dates for Your Diary



18th May-30th June GCSE Examinations*

18th May-22nd June AS Examinations*

*Practical examinations may take place outside of this date range

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

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

14th Year 10 Graphics Exam

17th Year 10 Graphics Exam

18th Year 10 Science Module

Year 12 EPQ students visit to Oxford

Year 13 BTEC Performing Arts Musical Dress Rehearsal

18th – 19th Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Expedition

19th Year 13 BTEC Performing Arts Musical Performance

Gold Letters issued recently:

Letter 205 Year 10/11 Geography Field Trip

Letter 211 Year 13 Return of Textbooks

Letter 212 Year 9 UK Resilience Programme

Letter 213 Year 10 History Trip to Berlin

Letter 214 Years 12/13 Arrangements for September 2010

*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.

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.