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HeadLines

Something catastrophic happened last week! The last two paragraphs of my headlines to you were lost...in virtual reality before they hit the page. My team of proof readers didn't return the original to me before going to print so I was oblivious to the omission until publication. I was certain that one of you would realise this and send out a search party but either courtesy kicked in or, dare I say it, you didn't notice. Let me redress the balance and satisfy the curiosity that must have been engendered; the penultimate paragraph read:

'But certainly one of the most poignant and exceptional events of the week was the visit of David and Simon Broomfield to speak to our Sixth Form. Serving officers in Afghanistan, former students of the school, their mother a member of staff and Simon recuperating, having been seriously injured in an explosion recently, it was so impressive and enlightening to hear about life at the front as it really is and to try to understand a point of view which we don't see in the media: education at its best.'

And in the final paragraph I said: 'It has been a wonderful week, so much so that I feel like writing a letter to someone...but then, in a way, these headlines are my weekly letter to you.'

Since then, I have received several letters, one of them sending up my style mercilessly but very accurately and one which will go into the box of letters I will cherish for evermore.

As for the rest? Lovely letters from terrific students who care about the school, the planet and their fellow human beings!

We feature on the front page of this week's Gazette. 'Showing Off Global Glamour' is the headline which precurses a photo of Miss Lilley, Miss Hussain, Ellie Dobby and Jacinta Goff in various outfits and an editorial saying

'Extravagant fashions from around the world and the borough's top talent will be on display at a show not to be missed.

Billed as the event of the year, The World Fashion Show will display outfits created by students as well as garments from retailers.

Throughout the afternoon at Hemel Hempstead School on Sunday, July 18, 100 models will make their way down the catwalk.

Entertainment will come from local performers including Urban Choir, Reverb Dance Group, Carter School of Irish Dancing and Bollywood Dancing by Hirrah Anwar.

It is part of the Dacorum Cultural Olympiad – a series of events to showcase arts and culture in the run up to the 2012 London Olympics.

Organiser Jackie Ramnarine said: "This is a once in a lifetime event for the town. It is one of many events that are going to happen in Dacorum to celebrate the Olympics."

Running from 1.30 pm to 7.30 pm there will also be a raffle, auction, balloon release and stalls for guests to browse.

Proceeds from the occasion will go to Stoke Mandeville Hospital and a partnership running between Hemel Hempstead School and a school in South Africa.'

This really is an event you won't want to miss and all funds raised go to two terrific causes. Tickets may seem expensive but they are good value for everything that you will receive and enjoy on the day. I know that you will want to support this excellent occasion for the school which marks a turning point in our relationship with our partner school in Mgezwa.

Congratulations this week also go to John Mitchell for organising a highly successful Leadership Day for students from other schools and our own students, to Sharon Sepala and Sian Billinge for a brilliant dance piece bound for South Africa's Arts Festival and to the staff cricketers who lost by a few runs, well quite a few runs to the student cricketers.

We look forward to Sports Day, to the House Drama Festival and to Eco Day. More of those next week when I will provide a review of the year and things to look forward to next year. And that is the actual, proper definite end to this week's headlines!

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



ARTS NEWS

Side by Side by Sondheim

It definitely was 'Something for Everyone a Comedy Tonight'. Hemel Hempstead's Town Hall Theatre, situated in the picturesque old town, was the venue for a truly thrilling performance. The auditorium was steaming with atmosphere as a truly professional performance was delivered. It was just like being in the West End! The real shocker of the show was the fact that the talented performers were only 17 to 18 years old and were producing their final examination piece as part of the Year 13 BTEC Performing Arts group. They worked as a production company directing and choreographing the show. They had to devise the set, costumes and props as well as designing the tickets and programme. It was without a doubt a stunning production.

As someone not too familiar with Stephen Sondheim I didn't know what to expect. By the end of the night, I realised I was more familiar with his work than I thought. As a team, this troupe of seven performed numerous songs with perfect timing and a crisp sense of comedy. Some songs were sung by a talented threesome such as the frantic rendition of 'Getting Married Today', 'Can That Boy Foxtrot' and 'Broadway Baby'. Individual performances included the superb 'Losing My Mind' performed by Karen Brazier, 'Anyone Can Whistle' by Luke Meredith, 'Send In The Clowns', by Eve Clancy, 'The Boy From ...' by Rosie Lutt, and 'I'm Still Here' by Emily Hatchett.

The narrator Daisy Hawkins pulled the threads of the story together and added some interesting background and biographical tidbits. Emma Beaton and Debbie Bailey were the brilliant pianists who accompanied the performers throughout the evening.

Nerves never failed to shake the confidence of the accomplished performers. They left the audience sitting with a smile on their faces knowing that they had witnessed future West End potentials. Thank you Emily Hatchett, Daisy Hawkins, Eve Clancy, Karen Brazier, Luke Meredith, Rosie Lutt and Josh Crosswell and the Performing Arts Department. Good luck with your results and your future careers.

Patsy Collingwood

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

For Representing the School Excellently

Paige Chard 7C, Eloise Hepburn 7F, Lauren Suzmeyan-Raine 8A, Freddy Atkins and James Kime 8C, Owen Lloyd and Ethan Mills 8L, Wilf Stepto 8N, Anna Bennett, Camille Lecoeuche and Elizabeth Pattinson 8P, Jessica Miller 9P, Amelie Lecoeuche 10P.

Dates for Your Diary



Gold Week

- 5th Jul** Year 10 Catering Exam Practical
Year 6 Mathland Day
Year 6 Parents Information Evening, 7.30 pm
- 6th Jul** Year 10 Catering Exam Practical
Year 7 BTEC group organised Sports Day
Year 6 Dance and Drama Festival
Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip Meeting, 6 pm
Year 10 History trip Meeting, 6.45 pm
- 7th Jul** District Sports Day
Year 6 Mathland Day
- 7th & 8th Jul** Year 11 Sixth Form Induction, 9am – 12.30pm
- 8th Jul** Year 6 Taster Day
- 9th Jul** Years 7/8 Science Club visit to Science Museum
- SUMMER CONCERT**

Blue Week

- 12th Jul** Year 7 Safety Day
- 13th Jul** Years 7 – 10 Prizegiving Assemblies
Year 8 Gifted and Talented Maths students to
Watford Girls School
- 14th – 20th Jul** Years 10 -13 Music Tour to Croatia
- 14th – 21st Jul** Year 9 trip to Lake District
- 14th – 21st Jul** Years 11/12 Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Silver/Gold Qualifying Expedition
- 15th Jul** Year 12 Sports BTEC RAF Basic Training
- 15th – 20th Jul** Work Related Learning Week
- 16th Jul** Year 10 History trip to Berlin
- 18th Jul** **Fashion Show fundraiser for Mgezwa
Dance Tour**

Did you know....? The Newsletter is printed in blue or gold to correspond with the blue or gold timetable of the following week.

Dacorum Schools Carnegie Reading Challenge Event

Last Thursday 24th June eight students from HHS, along with students from JFK, Cavendish and Adeyfield Schools, who had read the most of the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Medal 2010, attended this fantastic event. The eight students from HHS were:

Eloise Hepburn and Paige Chard Year 7, Ethan Mills, Freddie Atkins, Lauren Suzmeyan-Raine and Christabel Dodd Year 8, Jess Miller Year 9 and Amelie Lecoeuche Year 10.

In the morning we were given an amazing opportunity of a workshop with our guest author Alan Gibbons. He is the world's most entertaining person as well as being a great writer! First he gave an entertaining talk about himself. After his autobiographical talk we wrote horror stories about Jack the Ripper.

After lunch we were put in groups and discussed all the books we had read. We were awarded special certificates which meant that we also were able to obtain autographs and have books signed. Then it was sadly the end of the day.

This day was definitely a 10 out of 10! The best part was the Alan Gibbons workshop.

We would like to give a massive thank you to Mrs Krajewski and all the Library staff for all their hard work, encouragement, patience and the nice food. Thanks also to Miss Redfern and the other teachers who came and supported us.

Christabel Dodd 8F

Year 7 Workshadowing – Thursday 15th July

Outstanding work shadowing forms should be returned to me by Monday 5th July.

If there is a delay in sorting out the insurance forms or a problem in finding a suitable placement I would be grateful if you would telephone me as soon as possible.

Miss Bond, Careers Coordinator

LOST PROPERTY

Please may I ask parents to encourage their children to check the lost property area outside Student Services for any items they may have mislaid. Parents are welcome to come along and take a look themselves, if they wish.

At the end of term, any uncollected lost property will be passed to the HHSA to be sold at the next Jumble Sale.

Matron

WORLD FASHION SHOW

Sunday 18th July

1.30 – 7.30 pm

Ticket: Adult - £21/ Students and Under 14 - £14.50
The ticket price includes canapés, Pimms or a soft drink on arrival and a three course meal.

Two licensed bars will be serving refreshments and a barbecue will also be available.

A reminder that tickets for this event are on sale from Student Services. Alternatively, you may like to purchase your tickets using our online payment facility. Please contact Student Services if you need a log-in.

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

Starter

Finger buffet

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

Salads

Desserts

A selection of Petit Fours

Confidence and Catwalk Training

A reminder to all the students who have been selected to model at the Fashion Show that Confidence and Catwalk Training will take place on Monday 5th and Monday 12th July in PA1 at 3.45 – 5.30 pm.



SPORT

RESULTS

Rounders

Pool 2

- v Astley Cooper won 10 - 7
- v Cavendish won 4 - 2.5
- v Kings Langley won 6 - 4.5
- v Adeyfield won 7 - 5

Semi Final

- v Tring lost 6.5 - 11

SPORTS NEWS

Year 9 Rounders

The Year 9 team completed their Rounders season at the District tournament in 3rd place, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. We won all of our games in the pool and just lost out to Tring in the semi-final, 6.5 - 11. The team have really developed over the summer term and have shown a huge commitment and really impressed me. Their batting and fielding skills came together when it mattered and Millie Gulley pulled some big hits out of the bag! The partnership of backstop and first base with Millie and Beth proved to be a great advantage to us - certainly not to the opponents when they faced an out due to our fantastic fielding. All the team played a huge part and were absolute stars!

I have been so proud of the girls this year in all their fixtures, both netball and rounders - you have all been an absolute pleasure to coach and to take to matches. Of course, winning so many games - the District Netball League and Cup - have made those times even more memorable. I also want to thank our ever present supporters who have been just as fantastic as the girls; thank you for standing out in the wind, rain and more recently the sun! Without your support we would not have done it!

I wish the girls all the best for next year - here's to continued success!

Miss Black

Congratulations to Millie Gulley 9N who has been selected to play for the U16 Girls Football team at Watford FC Centre of Excellence.

Miss Garman

Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 238** Dacorum District Sports 2010
- Letter 239** Year 10 History Department Water Testing
- Letter 241** Year 10 History trip to Berlin
- Letter 242** World Fashion Show, 18th July 2010
- Letter 243** Sports Day reminder
- Letter 244/245** Prizegiving Assemblies (selected students)

*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.

PTA News

School Uniform

If you have any school uniform that your child has outgrown will you please consider donating it to the HHSA to sell on. We have our Year 6 taster day coming up on July 8th and we really do need some smaller sizes of uniform. Please search through your cupboards and help raise much needed funds. Thank you.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for September 13th at 7 pm in the Library. Please put this date in your diary.

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