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### HeadLines

On the Simon Mayo Drive-time Show on Radio 2 to which I listen occasionally on my way home, there is a feature which has a somewhat low-brow name unsuitable for this column, but is essentially an item where listeners phone in with a homework task they or their children are finding challenging. Other listeners call in or email with ways of 'making the undoable doable'. I have learned much from this feature although it can cause my driving to be erratic when eccentric solutions guaranteed to drive sane teachers less sane are put forward.

Apparently, parents would welcome more such features, perhaps even a feature on the website or in this newsletter because according to a BECTA survey, four out of five parents struggle to help their children with their homework:

- 83% of parents said they had been unable to help their children with homework, with Maths and Science causing them most difficulty
- 49% of mothers and 22% of fathers said Maths was the hardest subject and 10% of mothers said English was the most difficult
- 58% of children said their parents often confused them when trying to help because they used out of date methods
- 37% of children said they were unable to complete homework because there was no-one to help them.

So what is to be done? Well it can't hurt to have departments put on classes especially for parents. The ones initiated by our Mathematics department spearheaded by Miss Ungaro have been a rip roaring success to the thousandth or so decimal point and parents have really enjoyed the experience. So if you have the chance, please come along and enjoy...and learn.

Secondary schools will be providing online reports by September and many will incorporate them in virtual learning environments. Niel[sic] McLean of BECTA said many schools were already using technology in 'innovative yet practical ways to advise parents on how best to support children's learning at home' and were 'reaping the rewards.'

Schools benefit from more involvement from parents he concluded!

By the time you read this article, the election will have been decided and we will have some inkling of what is in store for education. If I have a view for the newly elected government, it is that policies once decided should have time to ripen and that the frontline of education should be left to educationalists not politicians or businesses.

I told you once about the incentive I had been offered for admission to a school in the form of a large bag of frozen prawns. Like most teachers, I have received unusual gifts in recognition for appreciation of examination preparation and suchlike: chocolates by unknown manufacturers that would suffice as props in a case for Poirot or cuddly toys with expressions to chill the blood. More expensive gifts and money I always returned, but handwritten or handmade cards I cherished. Apparently, giving presents to teachers is becoming increasingly commercialised and competitive according to teachers' union ATL and whilst primary school teachers were more likely to receive gifts than secondary school teachers, the most popular presents were chocolates, flowers, alcohol and toiletries but gifts had included a Tiffany bracelet, tickets to an England cricket match, a Mulberry handbag and ...a brace of pheasant. All I can say to parents is if you want to say 'thank you', cards are lovely and the quote of the week has to be 'there's no such thing as a free lunch.'

**Sandra Samwell, Headteacher**

### HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

***For Outstanding Dance Choreography***

Aaron Austin and Paul Munjic 10C, Dylan Bransgrove 10F

**World Fashion Show  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
at The Hemel Hempstead School**

**HSBC Employees**

I have been told by HSBC that we would be suitable for their 'matched funding' project if we have any HSBC employees involved with the fundraiser for Mgezwa Partnership and Stoke Mandeville on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

If there are any parents employed by HSBC who would be willing to help please contact myself or Mrs Ramnarine at the school as soon as possible.

*Mrs Botha*

**'Question Time' House Event**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April witnessed the inaugural 'Question Time' House event; Mr Jordan stepped in as our David Dimpleby of the hour and the panel of eleven Sixth Formers braced themselves for this debate.

Representing each House the panel discussed issues ranging from the litter on the Moor to the economic recession. The debate was given extra gravitas with the presence of the Mayor and electoral candidates from the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties.

The questions were soon flying thick and fast as the debaters tried to grab the audience's attention whilst dealing with the questions set down by Mr Jordan. The audience too joined in, posing many challenging questions to the panel.

Following the interval Charles Wood, Tom Smith and Michael Deane stepped up to represent the three parties giving their personal opinion on whom to vote for in the general election. Although Pendley's team of Michael Deane and Caleb Parker were victorious, all the competitors enjoyed themselves and it only remains to thank those involved especially Mr Mitchell, Mrs Krajewski and Tom Smith 13F for creating the format of such an enjoyable evening.

*Michael McLaughlin 13N*

**Leading students applications for 2001/11**

The round for applications for next year's Leading Students starts next week with the distribution of application packs and notices in assemblies. This will last three weeks with the application deadline being 28<sup>th</sup> May. Next year there will be new roles: **Leading Student – House, Leading Student - Psychology** and **Leading Student - Economics**. More information on these roles are in the application packs available from Student Services and Line Managers for all the posts. For those students who are already Leading Students and want to continue in their posts, please see Mr Mitchell as soon as possible.

*Mr J Mitchell*

## Dates for Your Diary



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

- 9<sup>th</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze  
Practice Expedition
- 10<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> AS/A2 Art Exams
- 11<sup>th</sup> Years 8/10 HPV Vaccinations
- 12<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Music trip to the Royal Opera House
- 14<sup>th</sup> FUN RUN

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

- 16<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze  
Practice Expedition
- 18<sup>th</sup> May-30<sup>th</sup> June GCSE Examinations\*
- 18<sup>th</sup> May-22<sup>nd</sup> June AS Examinations\*
- 18<sup>th</sup> May Year 7 (A,C,F) RE visit to Hindu Temple  
Year 10 RE GCSE
- 19<sup>th</sup> Year 7 (L,N,P) RE visit to Hindu Temple
- 21<sup>st</sup> Year 10 Science Module  
Year 7 Sports event organised by BTEC Sports  
students

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

## Careers Department Information

Future Morph ([www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org)) was launched in November 2008 by the Science Council as part of the 'Careers from Science' initiative.

This site has been designed to show young people that science and maths related subjects can equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to make them employable in the future job market, whether they become scientists or engineers, or move into other areas of employment.

Future Morph is intended to help students explore and research the breadth of career opportunities that are available to them, inspiring them to feel able to influence their own futures and to think about the different paths that science, technology, engineering or maths can lead them to.

There are also links to useful resources for specific subjects or disciplines. I hope you find it useful.

*Miss Bond, Careers Coordinator*

## 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

The following items have been funded by HHSA since the beginning of September 2009:

- Drama Department - TV and Audio Boomblasters
- Humanities Department - TV
- PE Department - Six Table Tennis Tables and Basketball kit
- Art Department - Photographic equipment
- Library - Seven additional Beanbags
- Music Department - Six Xylophones and accessories

We will continue raising money for much needed extras for our students.

Please help us raise these funds 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](mailto:hhsatheatre@hotmail.co.uk)

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 24th May, 6pm in the Library.

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

## Gold Letters issued recently:

- Letter 186** Year 13 Drama trip to theatre
- Letter 187** Year 8 English Department letter
- Letter 188** Years 10/11 Drama trip to theatre
- Letter 189** Year 10 Music trip to the Royal Opera House
- Letter 190** Year 7 Work Related  
Learning/Enterprise Week
- Letter 191** Year 7 Work Shadowing
- Letter 193** School Fun Run 2010

*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.

# SPORT



## Fixtures

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Year 9 v Year 10 Cricket (H)

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

County League Athletics 2 @ Jarman Park

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Year 9 District Cup Cricket v Adeyfield (A)

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Year 9 Rounders @ Ashlyns

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Track and Field Cup Round 1

Fun Run Day!

## Sports News

The first athletics match of the season went very well this week with some fantastic early performances from our athletes in Year 8, 9 and 10. Students should remember that athletics practices have started and all students are welcome to attend. Year 7 and 8 practice on Mondays and Wednesdays, Year 9 and 10 practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> the Under 14 girls Basketball squad faced The Brunt's School, Nottingham to go into the last 8 of the English Schools competition. With two of the starting five players missing and tensions running high, the girls rallied together and started well. We kept in touch with the strong side from Nottingham and suddenly realised that we deserved to be where we were and our confidence grew. All the girls played well and played some of the best basketball I have seen them play so far. Unfortunately we lost, narrowly, 62-68 and went out of the competition, however I think we have all learnt a huge amount, including the coach!

I would like to say how much of a privilege it has been to work with this group of athletes this year. It has certainly been a squad effort to get us as far as we did, with everyone contributing something different to every game we played throughout the year. I look forward to next season and believe that we can make it further in next year's competition. I would like to thank all the parents who have supported the squad throughout and a special thanks to Mr Stanbridge for all his help at training and at our matches. I look forward to seeing the girls at training on a Monday night and hope that the enthusiasm continues! By the way girls ..... I've got a new lucky T-shirt, just for the new season!

*Miss Bevan, Learning Leader: PE*

### Year 9 District Cup Final

The Year 9 District Cup Final took place last Thursday evening on the astro turf at Cavendish School. The game was against Kings Langley School with whom we have had a number of closely fought games over the last year. The same two teams contested both the County and District Cup finals last year, sharing the County Cup and Kings Langley winning the District Cup in extra time.

With both sides boasting a wealth of County and District representative players it was always expected that this would be a good final, and the boys did not disappoint. The Year 9 team played some fantastic passing football and made it hard for Kings Langley to chase the ball down. George McCausland and Tom Whalley were superb as centre backs, breaking down the play every time Kings Langley came forward.

The game was eventually won two minutes before the final whistle when the ball fell to Matt Bateman inside the box, and his fine left footed drive found its way into the top corner.

*Mr Bryson*

### The London Marathon

I want to thank everyone who has supported me with the London Marathon this year. I had a fantastic day running (never thought I'd say that!) the atmosphere around London was electric. The best part was reaching 26 miles and knowing you're nearly there! So far I have raised £3487 for the National Osteoporosis Society which has far exceeded my expectations and with money still coming in I'm sure I'll reach at least £3500! Thank you to all the parents who have donated money and for all the kind words of support, help at my quiz and non-uniform, beeps whilst running and good wishes during my training. As for next year.....who knows!!

*Miss Black*