

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



Newsletter

May 2014

Head Teacher's Comment

The recent interim assessment of Hitchin Boys' School by Ofsted concluded that our performance since the last inspection has been of sustained high quality and that there is therefore no need to proceed with a full inspection at this stage. The earliest we would now expect a full inspection would be Summer 2015.

Just a couple of months ago, in February, the school also received a letter of congratulation from the Minister of State for Schools, the Rt Hon David Laws MP, on the excellent GCSE performance of students in 2013. The results for the number of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grade GCSEs, including English and maths, puts Hitchin Boys' in the top 100 performing non-selective state funded schools in England .

These announcements provide continuing evidence of the outstanding work happening here at Hitchin Boys' School. This is fundamentally a testament to the exceptional commitment shown by staff to help the boys achieve their potential. It also recognises the excellent partnership between our parents, governors, staff and boys which means that Hitchin Boys' School continues to progress and build on our recent success.

Many thanks for all your support.

Martin Brown



“ Our performance since the last inspection has been of sustained high quality ”

Hitchin Boys' School Ski Race Team

Seven students from Years 8, 9 and 12 travelled to Ipswich on Sunday 27 April for the Eastern Regional Snowsports Association Schools' Race.

This was our second year of entering a team and all of the boys performed amazingly well given that for most of them this was their first experience of such an event. It has been impossible to work out a position in the rankings due to the manner in which the races are run by age group but special mention must go to Michael Longstaff who finished 2nd in the U14 category and 19th out of 155 overall. Well done to Jamie Nayler, Archie Godfrey, Alex Pritchard, Sam Woods, James Dearden and James Wotherspoon and a special big thank you to Jamie's mum for the cakes!

Science World

During Science Week in March some of our Year 8 Science Classes took part in a World Record attempt to identify fingerprints from a crime scene.

The record involved students from all over the country taking part in the same identification activity during the week in an attempt to achieve the most correct identifications across the entire country. We have just heard that a total of 5,675 students correctly made the identification and thereby beating the previous record of 3,108.



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Hitchin Boys' School, Grammar School Walk, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JB

Tel: 01462 432181 Email: admin@hitchinboys.co.uk Web: www.hbs.herts.sch.uk

Year 10 Geography trip to Dorset

The 2014 Dorset trip took place on the Bank Holiday weekend this year for the first time in eight years.

Seventy-five Year 10 students signed up to learn additional details of four key case studies for the coastal zone module. These included learning about the coastal protection methods used at Milford-on-Sea, the development of coastal land forms at Lulworth Cove, gathering data on Chesil Beach for a mock controlled assessment and finally learning how a sand dune ecosystem develops and how this fragile environment is protected. As ever the students were remarkably well behaved and on more than one occasion other guests spoke to staff to inform us of how impressed they were with the boys. Next year's trip, which is likely to be a day longer and compulsory for all Year 10 geographers as it sees us complete controlled assessment data collection, is already in the planning.



The trip was extra special this year as it marked the final residential field trip for retiring Deputy Head, Mr Booton, who after 25 years with HBS has given up countless days and nights to both lead trips such as the World Challenge to Argentina and support staff on trips such as India 2008, China 2014 and several Dorset trips. As Mr Booton is a trained geography teacher the staff felt it was important to mark the occasion. The cake that was organised ensured Mr Booton was kept busy cutting slices for everyone in the hotel for a few hours. The Dorset staff would like to wish Mr Booton a happy retirement and thank him for all his unwavering support over the years.

Year 8/9 Trip to Paris

On 4 April, 44 Year 8 and 9s left for Paris for a 5-day tour.

After a very early start we caught the ferry to cross over to France. We had a busy but fun schedule ahead of us. The lengthy journey was filled with rounds of staff vs boys "Pointless" to keep us entertained.

We started the trip with a walk down the sunny Champs Elysées which lead us to mingle with street artists around Montmartre where several boys had their portraits drawn. In the afternoon we enjoyed a very interesting visit to the Stade de France where the boys got the chance to race a couple of members of staff around the pitch.

On the second day we headed to Versailles where the boys discovered the iconic last residence of the French King and Queen. We made our way back to Paris for lunch where the boys had a brief cameo in the Paris marathon when they crossed the road en route to climb the Eiffel tower- at the top of which a few boys managed to video call their parents to show them the view. The day ended with a bowling competition where I was robbed of my rightful victory, but fortunately the highly anticipated Eurodisney trip on the final day made up for it!

Yet again the boys were a credit to the school and their parents throughout the trip, and their excellent behaviour was commented on at length by the hotel staff and our guides- who were also all impressed by the quality of the boys' French.

Mrs Cavill

Nice to know!

Dear Mr Brown

James Abrams:

You will be pleased to know that James has recently passed his ATCL Violin diploma with distinction. As James will be leaving the school soon I should like to take this opportunity to thank HBS, and in particular Mrs Hetherington, for the numerous opportunities that James has been given to perform during his time with you. These performance opportunities have contributed in a significant way to making him the excellent performer he now is. Heartfelt thanks to HBS.

Year 7 Visit Three Local Churches

On Thursday 15 May the whole of Year 7 visited three different Churches which allowed the boys to compare and contrast three different approaches to worship in a place of a worship within one religion, in this case Christianity.

Each of the three groups was led by a member of the RE department and supported by several other members of staff. We circulated the three Churches in a carousel around the town.

The boys visited St Mary's to see a traditional approach to worship within the denomination of the Church of England, looking at the key traditional features of this Church.

The boys also visited Christ-Church on Bedford Road, which is dual-denomination; Methodist and United Reformed Church. Here the boys discussed and visualised a more modern approach to Christian worship. They were talked to about Christian beliefs and how the Church applies these beliefs to charity and world issues.

The other Church to welcome our boys was the Hitchin Christian Centre (HCC) also on Bedford Road. This Church is a denomination of the Pentecostal Church. Here the boys explored the use of modern and

contemporary worship, with the use of worship bands, baptistery pool and up to date sound systems!

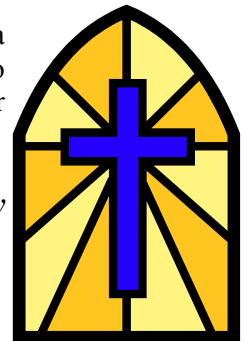
Boys ended the trip considering the similarities and differences in these three Christian places of worship. We have consolidated this learning in the lessons following the visits. It also supported them in completing the most recent RE assessment.

Overall, the boys' behaviour was excellent and once again we were left feeling proud of their conduct in the local community. Many of them asked superb questions and showed genuine interest in the different approaches to Christian worship.

Our thanks go to the local Churches for letting us through their doors and taking the time to speak to the boys. We would also like to thank Paul Harris from PHASE (school worker) for his support in setting these visits up.

I look forward to arranging a trip to a Synagogue in Northwood to listen to a Holocaust Survivor for this year group in the next academic year.

Mr Terry



China Trip: Easter 2014

The Geography department's recent trip to China was a great success. We were able to visit some of the World's most exciting locations such as the Great Wall of China, Xi'an City walls, Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Terracotta Army as well as immersing ourselves in Chinese culture by participating in a tea ceremony, a calligraphy lesson and, of course, sampling the Chinese food. We visited the impressive Birds' Nest Stadium and enjoyed a Chinese acrobatic show which left us all on the edge of our seats. Over the course of nine action-packed days we travelled over 1,000 kilometres by sleeper train from the vibrant modern capital Beijing to the ancient city of Xi'an, home to the emperor Qin and his terracotta warriors.

I was very impressed by the enthusiasm and cooperation shown by the students. They were most respectful of Chinese culture particularly at the Wild Goose Pagoda and Tang Dynasty Show. We managed to make the most of the time available due to their good time-keeping and consideration for others. Thankfully we were very fortunate with the weather throughout with some days in Xi'an being particularly warm. Our final morning was spent at the serene and hauntingly beautiful Summer Palace before an afternoon of bartering at the local Silk Alley market.

Transport seemed to be a central theme of our trip and during the course of the 9 days we moved by coach, bicycle, soft and hard sleeper train, rickshaw and the World's largest commercial jet airliner – the Airbus A380. The infamous hard sleeper had been 'upgraded' since our 2012 visit to include some divisions between bunks, but 15 hours stacked up six to a bunk, three bunks high certainly gave us a flavour of how the average Chinese person travels around this vast country. I am grateful to the boys and staff for the patience they showed during our inevitable waits at airports, railway stations and coach parks.

Foolish behaviour was swiftly spotted by students and staff to ensure there was a steady stream of contenders for the 'Goodison Shroud'. Staff were not exempt, and it was a delight for all to see Mrs Ganguly and Mr Simms sport the Everton shirt.

My thanks go to Mr Dawson, Mr Kelly, Mrs Phillips, Mr Simms, Mr Booton and Mrs Ganguly for all their help and support before and during the trip. Many boys described the visit as 'the trip of a lifetime'; it was my pleasure to organise and run such a successful and memorable trip for all 62 students.

Mrs Christou

CHARITY PAGE

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL CHARITY COMMITTEE

Year 7	Ike Laseinde 7Cv Hersh Vilas 7So
Year 8	Michael Longstaff 8Hn Danny Mulley 8Ph
Year 9	Shahmeer Hamid 9He Stepan Mysko von Schultze 9Dg
Year 10	Leon Collis 10Wg Elliot Colman 10Ry
Year 11	Alex Wearing 11 Kv Joe Wilmot 11Kv
Year 12	Rotimi Keshiro Temi Labinjo Jeremy Luzinda
Year 13	Cameron Barker Harry Fowler

Hitchin Boys' School have received pleas for help

Royston in Blue 2014

Join in the fun at Royston in Blue 2014! This year's fun run/walk in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust takes place on 22nd June at Therfield Heath, Royston. All entrants get a T-shirt and a medal. Dress up in as much **BLUE** as you can – prizes for the best outfits. Help us beat the fantastic amount raised last year. More details, including an entry form, can be found at www.roystoninblue.co.uk All welcome at this fun, family friendly event.

Herts Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance are keen to promote their **BASE 2 BASE trek in July**. It's not often you get a three day walking charity challenge locally!

Base 2 Base Challenge - 17-20 July 2014 **North Weald to Earls Colne EHAAT Airbases**

Challenge yourself to walk 49 miles in 3 days and raise funds for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. The challenge starts at the home of the Herts Air Ambulance in North Weald and ends at the home of the Essex Air Ambulance in Earls Colne. You will be joined along the way by some of our Air Crew giving you the opportunity to meet your HEMS Heroes, plus there'll be a few surprises along the way. Overnight camping and food provided. Get sponsored and raise vital funds for your life-saving Air Ambulance! £125 Registration Fee and £650 sponsorship target (£525 once Registration Fee is paid!)

To register your interest please call Cristina Barone on 0845 504 0055 or email cristina.barone@ehaat.uk.com
<http://www.hertsairambulance.uk.com/news-events/charity-events/base-2-base-challenge>