



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



Newsletter

December 2014

Head Teacher's Comment

We are now at the end of 14 weeks of school and there are around 23 weeks left this year unless you are in an exam class when there are only 14 weeks or less remaining for some. It is now time to take stock of what has been achieved so far since September. Has your son done his best or could he try even harder in January? Is he clear about the progress he has made and how to ensure that continues or improves after Christmas?

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the launch of our Twitter feed at www.hitchinboys.co.uk. Several departments are using Twitter as an additional means of communication. We were grateful to note in our recent parent surveys the appreciation for the continued improvement in home-school communication. This is another resource on which many parents have commented positively.

We have been evaluating the quality of the boys' experience this half-term and it has been a very rewarding and stimulating activity. For instance, in a truly inspiring learning walk just the other day I saw a wonderful range of topics being explored, including: the process and the ethical dilemmas of chronio villus/amniocentesis testing; the definitions of comets, asteroids and moons; the sub-ducting movement of tectonic plates; the damage caused by a "lahar" following a volcano; the nature of the rocks underlying Barton Hills and their likely sources; how to use database programmes. Indeed, in one particular lesson yesterday I saw this challenging and moving title on the board: "Why is the Earth here ?"

On the other hand, the extra-curricular aspects of school are superb. Our outstanding Music department was again showcased at this time of year in both the November Remembrance events and this month's Christmas celebrations. A constant reminder of how much there is to be proud of in this school.

In addition, our main Celebration of Achievement Evening, which took place last week, featured great musical performances against a backdrop of outstanding art work from the older students. Great achievement comes from great effort – and we celebrated the great achievements of over 100 students throughout 2013-14, noting in particular that over a third of the year group gained more than 5A*/A grades at GCSE.

Finally, a word about the 6th Form, who face mock exams as soon as they return from the holidays: make sure you have a plan in place for revision; not every hour of every day, not left until the 2nd January, but a balance between enjoying the festive family season and making the most of this attempt to demonstrate your learning so far. A frequent and regular couple of hours on every spare day during the break is better than 10 hours the day and night before the exams. These are some of the most important milestones in your time in the 6th Form so plan for them.

In the meantime I wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and a very happy start to the New Year.

Martin Brown



"We have been evaluating the quality of the boys' experience this half-term and it has been a very rewarding and stimulating activity."

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Art Department News

We were pleased to make festive signage for the Charity Christmas Market in Hitchin. Year 10 HPG were involved from the design stage through to sketching and painting.

If anybody has been into school lately, you will have seen a wooden Christmas tree. This was a project Year 7 HPG took part in with very successful results. Thank you for the lovely comments.

We had a lovely trip to the Henry Moore Foundation with Year 10 Art and Photography groups. It was a pleasure to take them. One group in particular were privileged to have a tour with Penelope, a personal friend of Henry Moore!

Mrs Aldin-Burnett



Photos above of the Christmas Market signage, Xmas tree in the foyer and the visit to the Henry Moore Foundation

Business Mentoring scheme

This term has seen the start of a Business Mentoring scheme, which has been designed to aid pupil progression through KS4 and KS5 with the aim of:

- increasing pupil's self-esteem and self-confidence;
- improving motivation to learn;
- improving personal and social skills;
- improving employability chances.

This scheme allows pupils to be provided with advice that takes a different viewpoint to that of a teacher or a parent/guardian, and gives pupils the opportunity to understand and know where they want to be at the end of the year, how they are going to get there and how to achieve their career path ambition.

To date, after a successful launch at the Priory Hotel, Hitchin, where the pupils were introduced to their mentors over a business breakfast, the scheme involves 30 pupils from KS4 and 5.

Mr McPherson

Student Voice

Over the last term, the Deputy Head Boy, Alex Hawkins, and I have met weekly to discuss and plan the start of our new School Council: HBS Student Voice.

To ensure a realistic representation, first of all we recruited our leaders: Jeremy Luzinda, Joe Wilmot, Sinclair Stuart, Tom Shelley and Joshua Daramola.

The leaders delivered assemblies and helped to lead our first meetings over the last two weeks. Our first important task this term has been to rethink our Code of Conduct. All our form representatives have worked very hard to come up with a mission statement and main bullet points to summarise our school's identity. The KS3 form reps are also working on main tips to succeed to add on next year's homework diary. This will be revealed very soon...

We are very much looking forward to our next meeting to review what we have already achieved and start working on: "How to become a better learner?"

Miss Oliva



Year 7 Science Club

Science Club has been running since September, covering many different topics and hands on activities. We have a very enthusiastic and eager group this year and as a special treat last Tuesday was the Year 7 Science Club Spectacular, a "flash, bang, wallop" event.

Mr Warman has also been running a Year 7/8 Rocket Club, for which we are planning Crest Awards for early in the New Year.



Christmas Raffle

The Parents' Society Christmas Raffle was drawn last Wednesday, and the winners were:

1st prize Xbox One Console with FIFA 15: J Webb

2nd prize Red Letter Day voucher for £150: Mrs E Glasad

3rd prize £50 cash: Mrs J Evens

Over £1,000 was raised to fund additional purchases and projects in school. The tutor group who sold the most was 7CV with 220 tickets sold (an average of 8 tickets per person) and they will have a "Jump the Queue" Ticket for the first two weeks in January 2015. George Ogilvie of 7CV who sold the most tickets will receive a £ 15 voucher as a reward.

Thanks to all who sold or purchased tickets .

Stop Press

At the time of writing, around £1650.00 had been raised for the Herts Air Ambulance from our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12th December and other activities.

HBS Ambassadors:

A big thank-you to our musicians!

I am really delighted with the ambassadors in music and it is virtually impossible to pick out just one as more committed than the others. The classroom ambassadors have been great and are supporting younger students in performance and composition projects and the extra-curricular team have also been outstanding. The names include Alex Bishop, Jonathan Taylor and Tom Addison but all of them have done really well.

Ms Hetherington, Head of Music

(see the last newsletter for more information on the HBS Ambassadors scheme)

Charity Vote

Democracy is a huge part of life in Britain. It is under this system that everyone, regardless of status, has the chance to directly influence the governance of our nation. Charity is becoming an increasingly important facet of school life at Hitchin Boys'. With the upcoming 2015 general election, there couldn't have been a better time to bring the two together. Consequently, the Senior Prefect Team were given the responsibility of organising a democratic, whole school vote to decide which local and national charities that Hitchin Boys' would be supporting in the autumn and summer terms respectively.



We decided to do this in two rounds. The first round involved form groups nominating the local and national charity that they wanted to see progress to the next round. Forms were given a list of both local and national charities with the opportunity to put forward their own charity if it was not listed. This list contained the names of a variety of charities, where they were based, and a brief overview of the support they offer. This happened during the week prior to half term and the Senior Prefect Team assembled on the Friday to collate the results.

Nominated Charities	
Local	National
Dyspraxia Foundation	CLIC Sargent
Garden House Hospice	Help For Heroes
Herts Air Ambulance	Macmillan Cancer Support UK
Keech Hospice Care	Mercy Ships
St. John's Ambulance	Water Aid

With a shortlist formed, we began to think about the next round. The Senior Prefect Team split up into pairs during half term to create campaign videos for each charity so they could be played during form time. These were produced in a style similar to party political broadcasts, with each charity competing against each other.

Following these videos a second round of voting took place, where each student made a personal vote. This was carried out during the usual form time and enabled every student to vote for the charity they felt the school should represent.

Thankfully the balloting process ran smoothly and by Friday, over 1000 votes had been cast. I would like to thank the prefects who gave up their free time to count all of the votes.

We are therefore pleased to announce our winners:

LOCAL:



NATIONAL:

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

By Temi Labinjo, Deputy Head Boy for Charities

Exam Certificates

Please be aware that any uncollected 2014 GCSE and A level certificates will be available in reception until Friday 16th January. After this time they will be returned to the examination boards.

School Photographs

If you have ordered a whole school photograph, please remember that it needs to be collected from Mrs Tasker in the Woodlands office. Please ring her on 01463 433528 to arrange, as the office is not manned all the time.



House Scrabble and Rugby



House Activities

It's been another great start for the re-invigorated house competitions at HBS. With a raft of events having already taken place and lots more to follow next term, there is all to play for in the race for this year's Times Shield. Skynner have again dominated the athletic events so far, but with a mix of sporting and academic challenges on offer all four houses are within a win or two of taking the lead. Rugby and cross country were yet again close-fought battles, with Skynner taking the smallest of leads over Radcliffe when the dust settled. Table tennis and Scrabble have allowed Mattocke and Pierson to close the gap. Only time will tell how Hockey, Basketball, Badminton and (new for this year) Poetry affect the standings.

This year we have decided to further open up the house competition by offering new challenges. We are challenging students to write a poem based around the theme of either winter, Christmas or New Year. We have tried to keep the rules as simple as possible to allow your creativity to flow through into your work. The school will be split into two - upper and lower - for judging, and poems should be submitted either by hand to Mr Shergold or by email to jshergold@hitchinboys.co.uk by the 13th February 2015, which is the last day of next half term. If you would like more details or a list of the criteria on which the poems will be judged, please keep an eye out in school or contact Mr Shergold directly.

At the end of the first term the results couldn't be closer, with Skynner having the smallest of leads with five wins. Second at the moment is Radcliffe with four wins, and Pierson and Mattocke are currently joint third with two wins a piece.

Mr Shergold, House Events Co-ordinator

Free School Meals and Half Fare Bus Travel

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families. This funding is called the 'Pupil Premium'.

For every child registered, Hitchin Boys' School gets £935 this year.

HBS will only receive this money for those boys who have been registered as eligible for Free School Meals. It is therefore important that, in order for the School to receive this additional funding, all those who think they might be eligible apply as soon as possible. Boys who receive Free School Meals have £2.20 automatically credited to their Smart Card each day.

If you receive one of the benefits listed below your child may be eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit (providing you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190).
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

You may apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals or by phoning 0300 123 4048.

Students aged 11 to 18 and resident in the administrative county of Hertfordshire can apply for a **Hertfordshire SaverCard which enables them to travel for half the adult fare at all times on local bus services.** Those students without a valid Hertfordshire SaverCard will be charged the full adult fare. The cards run for the academic year and are valid until the 30th of September. There is a charge per paper application of £20 (forms are available in Reception) but online applications cost just £15. Please visit www.hertsdirect.org/savercard for more information. **Families on low income may qualify for one Hertfordshire SaverCard free of charge each academic year.** These applications should be made through the 'How can we help?' team. Please telephone 0300 123 4048 for further information.

Remembrance Events at HBS

Students at Hitchin Boys' School commemorated the start of the First World War during the first week of November with two separate events. An evening of music and drama was held on Tuesday November 4, to which all were invited. Then on Friday November 7, there was a programme for students throughout the day, which included a talk by military historian Andrew Spooner, a visit from Paralympic former soldier Derek Derenalagi and a Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church.

The Tuesday evening event, 'Lest We Forget', took place at 7pm in the school's Main Hall and featured a variety of poems, readings and musical items from the school's talented music and drama students, including songs from 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. The evening concluded with the reading of the Roll of Honour and the Last Post being played. Director of Music Anne-Marie Hetherington explained: "We chose music composed during or inspired by the Great War and tried to capture some of the experiences of those who fought and who were affected."

On Friday, the focus of the Centenary commemoration looked back on the experiences of those involved in both the 'Great War' and in a modern conflict. All students were involved in two assemblies within school - the first with military historian Andrew Spooner, who discussed the experiences of soldiers in the trenches during the First World War, and the second with former soldier Derek Derenalagi, who talked about his experiences as a soldier in the Afghanistan war and life after it, as well as his recent involvement in the Paralympics.

To end the week, two Remembrance Services took place at St Mary's Church, one for the Upper School and one for the Lower School. During the rest of the day, teachers focussed on war-themed activities in their classes. Head of History Michael Philippou commented: "The centenary gave us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the great men of our armed forces both then and now and, in our way, to thank them for all they have done for us."



Students taking part in 'Lest We Forget' (above), and former soldier and Paralympian Derek Derenalagi (left)

Inner Drive Workshop

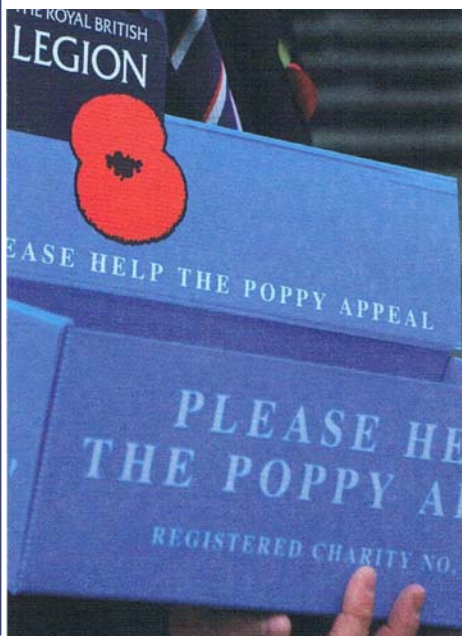
In October, Year 12 students took part in an Inner Drive Workshop. The hour-long workshop focussed on performance psychology and mind-set training to help students maximise their talents and perform under pressure as well as develop important study skills.

Students really enjoyed the interactive nature of the day and said it helped them to relate the topic to real life situations. They said it was very useful to have a small take away list of seven habits of success and some still refer back to it. They also particularly enjoyed the chocolates!



Poppy Appeal 2014

Hitchin Boys' School is pleased to announce that this year's Poppy Appeal raised a total of £269.78 for the Royal British Legion.



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 269.78

was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

P. N. Browne

Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ 25,000

Registered Charity No. 219279

Sports Reports

Rugby Awards

	Most improved player	Player of the Year
Year 8A	Jean – Claude Aka	Henry Bennet
Year 8B	Alfie Smales	Tom Hendry
Year 9A	Ben Reavill	Brent Morris
Year 9B	Joe Mullins	David Waters
Year 10	George Fitter	Joe Hall
Year 11	Ben Wiggins	Ben Hilton
1 st XV	Ladi Adagun	Ellis Lockyer

Volunteers

A big thank you to the following boys for helping out in their spare time to support and coach younger students:

Rugby	Tom Ferguson (Y10) Frazer McGown (Y12)
Hockey	Adam Mountney (Y9) Toby McCormack (Y10) Chris Davies (Y12) Callum Buchanan (Y12)
Basketball	Peter Gull (Y10) Will Smith (Y10)

School Colour Awards

Junior Half Colours	Junior Full Colours	Senior Half Colours	Senior Full Colours
Brent Morris Y9 (Rugby)	Joe Hall Y10 (Rugby)	Ben Hilton Y11 (Rugby)	Ellis Lockyer Y13 (Rugby)
Connor Dudley Y9 (Rugby)	Brandon Norman Y10 (Rugby)	Ben Wiggins Y11 (Rugby)	Dominic Stevens Y13 (Rugby)
Ira Johal Y9 (Rugby)	Will Smith Y10 (Rugby)	Charlie Middleton Y11 (Rugby)	Daniel Wiggins Y13 (Rugby)
Ethan Brace Y9 (Rugby)		Ally Warner Y11 (Rugby)	Sam Gamble Y11 (Swimming)
Sam Bellinger Y9 (Rugby)		Matt Lavers Y11 (Rugby)	Alex Evens Y11 (Swimming)
Will Rodway Y10 (Rugby)		Matthew Williams Y12 (Swimming)	Matthew McPherson Y12 (Swimming)
Connor Emson Y10 (Rugby)			
Matthew Waters Y10 (Rugby)			
Michael Stocker Y10 (Rugby)			

Cross Country

Well done to all the runners from HBS who took part in the North Hertfordshire District championships in November. There were some excellent individual results and a great team display. Up to 85 runners per age group took part with representatives from all 17 local secondary schools.

Year 7 Team 1st - District Champions 2014

Alexander Kirk 1st
Oliver Firth 2nd
Daniel Kessi 3rd

Timmy Smith 5th
Adam Price 6th
Kieran Soley 8th
Joel Evans 10th

Year 8 Team 1st - District Champions 2014

Daniel English 2nd
James Mabbs 5th
Archie Summerhayes 6th
Oscar Pryle 9th
Aden Habibi 10th

Year 9 Team 1st - District Champions 2014

Tommy Corteen 5th
Ben Williams 10th

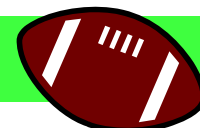
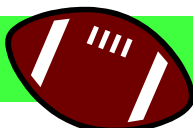
Year 10 Team 1st - District Champions 2014

Benjamin Wilmot 2nd
Kieran Hollingsworth-Biggs 6th
Sam Kester 7th
Gleb Rezinkin 10th

Senior Team 1st - District Champions 2014

Michael Williams (Year 13) 7th
Alex Evens (Year 11) 3rd
Matthew McPherson (Year 12) 10th
Seb Walton Adams (Year 12) 5th
James Hunt (Year 11) 9th

Mr Bajak



Sports Reports (continued)

Table Tennis

Another successful table tennis season for our boys as our U13s, U16s and U19s all reached the Hertfordshire School Games County Finals. Our U13s and U16s were District Champions and in the County Finals the U13s won three, drew two, lost one and the U19s won three, lost four. They both finished 4th overall, just missing out on a bronze medal in the 3rd/4th place play off. The U16s came 3rd in the group stages having won three of five matches.



U19s (above): Jamie Pandit, Toby Nicholson, Quentin Lau, Christian Lloyd - Williams, Harvey Walton - Adams, Seb Walton - Adams, James Wotherspoon, James Dearden, Christian Farrugia.



U16s (above): Matthew Maylin, Sam Kester, Faisal Nazar, Zane Nazar, Matthew Waters.



U13s (above): Bruce Yao, Will Pastor, George Crouch, James Redmond, Callum Russell.

Well done to all boys who represented the school in the above competitions and to those vast numbers who have attended practice on a Monday evening.

Badminton

Our U14s and U16s became District Champions once again and therefore reached the County Finals at The Hertfordshire Sports Village in December. The U14s side (below) consisted of Will Pastor, James Smith, Tommy Corteen and Tom Searle and won their group before finishing 3rd overall in the county and claiming the bronze medal.



The U16s of Austin Ephgrave, Max Titterton, Francis Rawlings, Raza



Chandna and Hee - Li Leung (above) won their group too and the semi final, but narrowly lost in the final to Verulam School therefore securing 2nd place, a silver medal and the title of County Runners Up 2014.

Sports Leaders

Our Year 11 Sports Leaders (bottom photo) have assisted with the running of several local competitions organised by the North Herts. School Sports Partnership. The annual Primary Schools cross country championships were held at Hitchin Boys' School in October during which our boys marshalled, ran, helped with the scoring and presentations.

In November we also hosted the North Herts. table tennis championships as the Sports Leaders umpired, scored and helped organise the competition. In January the next event we will be hosting will be the annual Primary Schools Indoor Athletics competition where our Sports Leaders will officiate, record, marshal and judge.

Mr Smith



Sports Reports (continued)

Trampolining

Well done to all the boys who competed in the National Schools Trampoline Championships and those who made it through to the second round, which is being held at Cambridge University on 10th Jan 2015.

Year 7

Darren Gao, Zayn Rehman, Dan Cotta, David Addison, Chris Gwinnett and Danny Henderson.

Year 8

Alex Ealham, Jack Winterbourne and Ellis Rushworth.

Year 9

Jamie Addison and Fran Shilton.

Year 10

Brandon Norman, Hamza Lone, Stepan Mysko Von Schultze, Jonny Owen, Peter Gull, Louis Pearson and Toby MacCormack.

Mr Mussino



Cricket Tribute

To mark the tragic death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, our High Performance Group Cricketers paid their respects with a #putoutyourbats tribute in the quad for the day.



Rugby Reports

1st XV

This year has been a rather broken season with many fixtures being called off due to weather conditions and injuries to players. However, the core of the 1st XV made up from players in years 12 and 13 had shown determination in games and were competitive in most of our fixtures.

Our last game of the season against Verulam saw a number of Year 11 players represent Hitchin Boys' at senior level. This was a great display of rugby and our defence was the best it had been all season. Although we narrowly lost, our players showed true determination and effort from the very beginning.

We look forward to preparing for next season in the summer term and building on the progress made this year.

Mr Pugh

U16

Unfortunately, due to cancellations and the number of schools who no longer run an U'16 rugby team, therefore causing large holes in the fixture calendar, this season has been very short and inconsistent. However, particular mention must go to captain Ben Hilton who has improved with each game and is always leading from the front, along with the rocket-style tackling of Josh Pritchard and the pinpoint throwing accuracy of Charlie Middleton in the line-out. Behind the scrum, Ben Wiggins has the ability to

release his backline with Antoine Oget supplying the pace. This team is the future of senior rugby at the school and should put Hitchin Boys' back on the rugby map over the next two years.

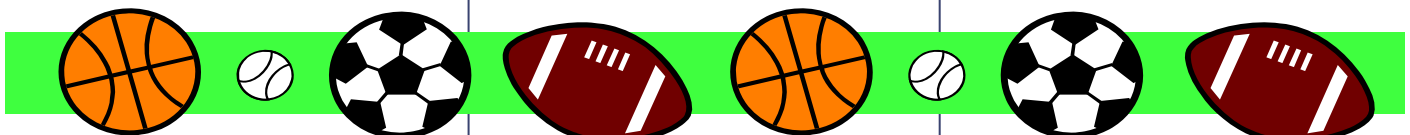
Mr McPherson

U15

This year has been a season of two halves with regards to the Year 10 rugby team. Before half term the team struggled with consistency and came off second best in most areas of the game.

After half term, following a strong second half performance against Haileybury, the Year 10 side have been very impressive.

Cont...



Sports Reports (continued)

(U15 Rugby continued...)

The Natwest National cup has been a pleasant addition this season and offers the chance to play teams who are not on our regular circuit.

We play St Albans after Christmas in the sixth round. The second row partnership of Conor Emson and Kieran Hollingsworth-Biggs have worked tirelessly all season, doing lots of the hard unseen work which helps the team function.

Brandon Norman and Will Smith have been outstanding in the back row, stealing lots of opposition balls and linking well with the backs. Archie Garrett has produced some thunderous runs from number 8. The half backs of Elliot Willoughby and Matthew Waters have provided an excellent platform to unleash the talented backline, which included Joe Hall, who has captained the team with distinction, and potentially can go on to play at a high level. Peter Keefe, who missed the first part of the season with injury, had a huge impact on the rest of the season with plenty of ball carries and tries and added a big presence in defence.

The back three of Will Rodway, Michael Stocker and George Fitter have been scoring tries for fun since half term, with each of them demonstrating great footwork, speed and the ability to finish moves off. Special mention must go to George Fitter who scored an amazing 5 tries against Wootton Upper School in the 5th round of the National Cup and Joe Hall for being selected for the Hertfordshire U14 Rugby Squad.

Mr Bajak



U14

Losing early on to St Albans in the cup settled a few nerves and focused the squad for the rest of the season, finishing up with a total of: Won 6, Lost 2 - a fantastic effort by all accounts.

The boys have shown some prolific running rugby this year - Sam Bellinger has kept up his high standards, allowing Connor Dudley, Ira Johal and Brent Morris to work their magic and between them scoring the majority of tries. Not to mention the support from their wingers in James Jarvis, Ethan Brace and Ethan Lavialle.

Not only have the 9A's run well with the ball, they have also tackled brilliantly. This was demonstrated during their emphatic 12-5 win at St Columbus School. The Columbines could not get into the HBS half for the first 25 minutes, due to a tireless wall of blue and yellow, and Ben Reavell aka the "Revelation" making tackle after tackle.

The pack have worked their little blue socks off this year, with Adam Mounthey, Tyrece Weaver, Alfie Cannon and George Old hitting rucks and running harder than ever with the ball (and sometimes even without).

The formidable form of the A team has been passed down to the B squad, with players like Jonny McKnight, Will Stewardson and Joe Mullins knocking on the door of the A team. The B team had a nearly undefeated season; this is partly due to the numbers each week coming to training. Staff will often fight over who gets to take the Bs at training!

A big thank you to all our supporters, who have come along to all games to offer their support on the touch line.

Mr Mason



U13

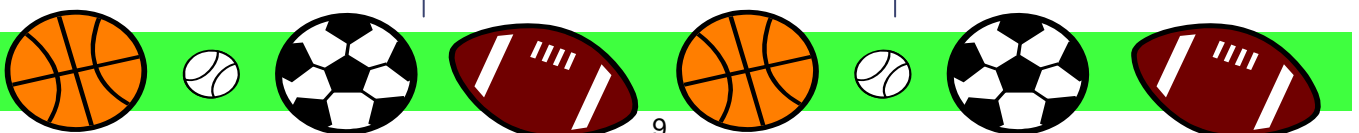
It has been another barnstorming year for the u13 rugby teams. Following on from their success last year, they have gone unbeaten, scoring a fistful of tries and conceding hardly anything. Each and every opponent has been dispatched with aplomb, due to some outstanding performers within the

group. Ben Guest, at 9, has sniped excellently, keeping defences honest. Jai and Aman Johal have distributed beautifully and also beaten the line with their excellent decision making and athleticism. Henry Bennet has run through defenders for fun, and is a real tour de force in the back line scoring a multitude of tries, and he has been well supported by J.C Aka, who has come on in leaps and bounds this year to prove himself a real threat on the wing. David Koffi continues to prove too powerful and quick for virtually all teams, also scoring tries by the bucket-load.

However, most of the team's tries come from turnover ball, and this is due to the outstanding work of foragers like Zach Watling Page and Alex Lloyd Williams, who have been deadly at stealing other team's possession and allowing the team's real flyers to attack disorganised defences. This is often the unsung work that goes unnoticed, yet also often the catalyst for all the points scored. And Jude Schoeman has also proved crucial, due to his ball carrying, and also, in latter games, his decision making too. But all the players deserve credit for their achievement to go unbeaten in the fashion they have, against some well-oiled school teams too.

The 'B' team have also played outstandingly well, led in both name and deed by captain and fly half Ben Palmer. Their unbeaten season just proves what a strong year group this is, and many of them will be knocking on the door of the players in the 'A' team, pushing them for places in the years to come. As a year group they have huge potential, and if they continue to develop their decision making and game understanding, they could be a real force in years to come. Let's hope that they can all continue their excellent form on their tour to Paris in the spring.

Mr McDonough



Swimming

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Freestyle Relay swimming team of Matthew McPherson, Alex Evens, Sam Gamble and Matthew Williams who qualified for the National Secondary Schools Swimming Relay Championships in November at the Aquatic Centre at the Olympic Park and were placed 13th overall. This is a tremendous achievement as all four swimmers are at least a year young, and all bodes well for next year's championships.

Mr McPherson



STEM Science Trips

Mr Cook, HBS Co-ordinator, along with Mr Warman, Mr Mussino and Mrs Rainbow organised a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) trip recently for 30 students to the BRE, Watford, and Natural History Museum and Imperial College, London. They also organised a trip to a half-day event at Parmiter's School, titled "Chemistry At Work".

At the BRE (British Research Establishment), students toured the Innovation Park and had the opportunity to explore several sustainable buildings, including the Eco House, Green House, Cub House, Renewable House and The Prince's Natural House plus an Adaptable Health Centre. The buildings were built or "assembled" using many innovative low carbon materials and technologies, demonstrating sustainability in action.

After the BRE, students enjoyed a short trip to the NHM to see the new

Stegosaurus and other highlights. They then went onto Imperial College for the Children's Christmas Demonstration Lecture, "The Beginning of Life", presented by Professor Robert Winston, which provided an exciting journey down the microscope exploring the very first few hours of human life. Will Thomas was selected to assist in one of the demonstrations during the talk and Joe Mullins thanked Professor Winston on behalf of HBS. After the lecture there were hands-on activities run by outreach staff from Imperial College, pupils made jelly worms, and bubbles filled with dry ice.

Parmiter's School Watford

An afternoon event was run by Chemistry STEM Ambassadors, covering four activities designed to stretch and challenge students' chemical knowledge. It was a fun afternoon with activities such as Fizzy Surprises, Keep your Cool, Hot and Cold and What a Pain.

Calendar Dates: Jan - Feb 2015

Date	Event
Monday 5th January	Y12/13 Mock Exam Week
Monday 12th January	Y11 Food Technology Controlled Assessment (between Mon - Thurs)
Tuesday 13th January	Y11 Parents' Evening 5pm
Thursday 15th January	Parents' Society Committee Meeting 7pm
Friday 16th January	Sixth Form Music Conference
Thursday 22nd January	Y9 Options Evening 7pm
Tuesday 27th January	Governors' Health & Safety Committee Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 28th January	Y10 Parents' Evening 5pm
Friday 30th January	Y10 DTP/Meningitis C Vaccinations
Friday 30th January	HBS Parents' Society French Film Evening
Tuesday 3rd February	Governors' Student Attainment & Welfare Committee 6pm
Tuesday 3rd February	Y10 DTP/Meningitis C Vaccinations (remaining students)
Wednesday 4th February	Sixth Form Open Morning for external students
Friday 6th February	Y12/13 Ethics Conference
Monday 9th February	Y12/13 Mock Exam Resits
Monday 9th February	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group 6pm
Wednesday 11th February	Y8 Holocaust Memorial Day visit
Wednesday 11th February	School Production: 'Hot Mikado'
Thursday 12th February	STEM Science Visit to Jamie Oliver's Kitchen
Thursday 12th February	Governors' Main Board 6pm
Thursday 12th February	School Production: 'Hot Mikado'
Friday 13th February	School Production: 'Hot Mikado'
Friday 13th February	Ski Trip to Austria departs
Monday 16th February	Half Term starts

HBS Parents' Society

Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society have recently launched their own Twitter feed, joining the main school account and several department Twitter accounts. You can follow them @HBSParentsSoc, or to see the latest information from all the school Twitter accounts in one place, go to www.hitchinboys.co.uk and scroll down to the bottom right-hand side. Please feel free to follow any or all of the accounts, which provide another channel of communication between the school and parents.

The Parents' Society also have a new information page on the same site, which you can access by clicking the 'Parents' Heading and then 'Parents' Society' on the drop-down list (or paste <http://www.hitchinboys.co.uk/parents-society/> into your browser). Forthcoming events include a French Film Evening on Friday 30th January, and next year's Summer Ball in the Quad (see below). Helpers are also needed to serve refreshments at parents' evenings and other school events - see their page for more information.

**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL PARENTS' SOCIETY IS DELIGHTED
TO INVITE YOU TO THE**

“Star Spangled” Summer Ball

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2015

**IN THE GRAND MARQUEE, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK,
HITCHIN
AT 7.30PM**

- ❖ *Dance to Stax*
- & *Rat Pack artist Alex Whelan*
- ❖ *Superb four course meal*
- ❖ *Win the fantastic prize draw*
- ❖ *Champagne raffle*
- ❖ *Photographs*
- ❖ *Caricaturist*

Tickets £60 each

Tables for 10 people

(Pay in three equal monthly payments if completed by 1st May)

Enjoy yourself with friends whilst raising money for the school!

Put the date in your diary now!