



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



February 2015

Head Teacher's Comment

Dear all

For the third year running we are proud to report that Hitchin Boys' School is in the Top 100 non-selective state schools in the country. We received a letter from the Minister for Education, David Laws, congratulating "staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and success." I would like to add my own congratulations to all of the above and, crucially, to parents who have supported us every step of the way.

On a different, but related note, you may also have noted reports in the local press that HBS was the top performing school in the school league tables published just recently. While it is also pleasant to be identified in this way, I would remind everyone involved with school that we are about so much more than exam results.

Our philosophy has always been and will always be about the development of the whole person and providing opportunities for boys to flourish and develop into happy, well-adjusted and, consequently, successful young men.

We believe that these excellent results are largely a by-product of the relentless drive within school to be the best we can personally be in all ways.

Have a good half-term break,

Martin Brown



"... I would remind everyone involved with school that we are about so much more than exam results."

Hitchin Boys School Parents' Society

With the continued efforts of the Parents Society, all of whom give their time and efforts voluntarily, the school will shortly receive a cheque for nearly £19,000. This money is for an outdoor teaching area, and every pupil at the school now, and in the future, will benefit from the Society's hard work in raising this money.

The next 'big' event is the **Summer Fayre** on the 13th June here at the school. This requires a lot of planning and manpower, and the Parents' Society are always on the lookout for additional help with this annual event. If you would like to get involved in organising or running stalls,

entertainment, catering or anything else associated with a successful fayre, then please send an email to parentssoc@hitchinboys.co.uk.

The biannual **Summer Ball** also takes place in the Quad on Saturday 4th July this year. - more details below. Ticket order forms will be sent home with the boys shortly, or you can complete and return the booking form towards the end of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!



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Twitter

Several school departments (and Hitchin Boys' itself) now have Twitter accounts, where reminders, notices and details of events can also be shared. HBS Library is the latest to set up a Twitter account (@HBSLibrary).

If you are interested in seeing the latest news from all the accounts in one place, these now appear on the homepage at www.hitchinboys.co.uk (bottom right).

If you would like to follow any of the accounts individually, you can click on the account name in the feed, log into Twitter and then click 'Follow'. We hope you find this additional method of communication useful.



HBS Ambassadors Scheme

Good feedback continues to be received for Year 12 students on the HBS Ambassadors scheme, who spend one hour of their free time every week helping in or out of the school community.

Well done to Ben Williamson, Jake Palmer, Mitchell Wilson and Rhys Harry, with this feedback recently received from Liz Pollard, Head Teacher at Codicote School:

"We have loved having the boys with us. The boys have been very helpful and proactive, undertaking any task given with enthusiasm, showing a high level of organisation, hard work and the ability to work really effectively from their own initiative.

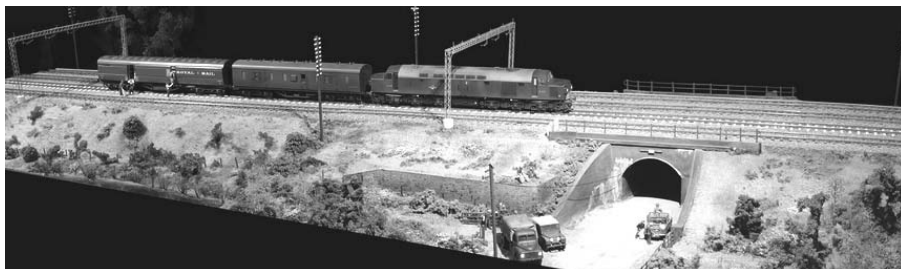
It has been a real pleasure to see how confident and self-possessed they have become, and they have impressed staff with their attitude."

Miss Oliva

AN EXHIBITION OF 'O' GAUGE MODEL RAILWAYS

Presented by the 'O' Gauge Section of The Luton Model Railway Club

Christchurch Hall, Bedford Rd, Hitchin SG5 1HF (opposite Waitrose) Saturday 18th April 2015. 10.30am – 5.00pm



FREE ADMISSION

This pass entitles up to 3 children into the exhibition when accompanied by an adult who has purchased a standard £4 ticket

Science Bronze Crest Awards

Twenty Year 7 and 8 students have been attending a weekly after school "Rocket Club", where they have researched, designed, built and launched rockets. Pupils' projects covered all aspects of gaining a Bronze Crest Award, a first for HBS.

For students to receive their Bronze Certificates, they had to give a presentation covering project aims, objectives, planning, design and troubleshooting. These presentations took place on Thursday 22nd January in front of an audience including Mrs Grainger (Science Link Governor), John Cooper (Hertfordshire STEM Ambassador) and Steve Cook (HBS STEM Co-ordinator). The well-deserved certificates were presented by the Head to some very proud students! Congratulations to our young scientists!

John Cooper (STEM Ambassador) ran two Physics Projects in the Year 7 Science Club on 10th February, "Calculating the Speed of Light" and "Investigating magnetically induced currents". Pupils enjoyed both practicals tremendously, and we would like to say a big 'thank you' to John Cooper for volunteering his time and challenging pupils.

Below: Science Teacher Mr Warman and the boys with their bronze award certificates.



The Student Voice Committee recently came up with a new Code of Conduct for Hitchin Boys' School, which is reproduced below:

CODE OF CONDUCT

Embracing Individuality,
Achieving as a Community.

**AS STUDENTS AT HBS,
WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR
TRADITIONS, COMMUNITY,
INDIVIDUALITY;
WE HAVE NO FEAR
OF FAILURE OR
HARD WORK.**

"Per Ardua Ad Alta"



HBS student Jordan Williams selected for London Broncos U19 team

At the end of last year, Year 13 student Jordan Williams completed an intensive four-week trial and was offered a contract to play with the London Broncos Under 19s team.

Jordan first started playing rugby when he joined Hitchin Boys' School in Year 7, and combined rugby with football for a number of years. At 14 he gave up football and joined Hitchin Rugby Club, where he played on the wing. Two years ago, when the rugby union season ended, he started playing summer rugby league with the North Herts Crusaders and played in both wing and full back positions. Following this, Jordan earned himself a place to represent the South East of England in the National Colleges tournament. Last summer, Jordan was selected for the London Origins Series, which consisted of three matches attended by London Broncos scouts. They invited a number of boys for open trials at Feltham College in the autumn, and from 65 boys, 12 were chosen for an intensive four week trial with the U19's squad. Jordan and just four others were subsequently offered professional contracts.

Jordan is now combining his training with studying hard for his A levels this summer.



The Big Pedal

As the summer approaches, HBS is keen to support pupils and staff cycling to school. The average secondary school journey is just 3 miles, and yet one in five cars on the road during the morning peak are doing the school run.

Encouraging children to walk, cycle and scoot will reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. It will also help your child's mental and physical health. Teachers find that pupils who walk and cycle arrive at school more relaxed, alert and ready to start the day.

Understandably the biggest concern of adults when it comes to children walking, scooting and cycling to school is traffic danger. Although this is something that we can never eradicate it can be reduced through education and training. Cycling to school helps young people to develop road safety skills and learn how to

manage risk gradually. As children gain the skills they need to stay safe, they can develop more independence. Of course, an adult can always help older kids get used to their route until they're ready to go it alone.

To promote this, Hitchin Boys' School is taking part in The Big Pedal in association with Sustrans and supported by Cyclodealia in Hitchin. This is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge that aims to inspire pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school. The competition will run from 2nd to 20th March.

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. The competition will run for 15 days, although the school's best 10 days will determine their final position.

During the competition there will be a few different events for the boys to take part in.

Monday 2nd March

Cyclodealia in Hitchin will have professional bike mechanics offering free cycle maintenance checks and advice to staff and students. Dr Bike will look at your brakes, tyres, gears and the general road-worthiness of your bike. The Dr Bike mechanics will fix problems with your bike if it's possible to do it there and then. Otherwise they will advise you on what is wrong so you can take your cycle to a bike shop.

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March

Using a special Turbo trainer (stationary bike) in conjunction with some 'wiztrickary' virtual reality, indoor cycling is coming to HBS. Set up in conjunction with the school charities committee and Cyclodealia, a 1km time trial will be running at lunch time, from 12.45 – 1.15pm. For a small donation to Comic Relief you can challenge the virtual leader board to win some great prizes.

Friday 13th March

As part of this year's fundraising effort for Comic Relief the 1km time trial will be in operation all day. Further information on the day's activities will become available nearer the time, but suffice to say this will be a perfect opportunity to improve on the times set and win those prizes!

In addition to this, the HBS mountain bike club will start again on Friday 27th February, giving the boys access to some of the best mountain biking in Hertfordshire under the tuition of a British Cycling coach.

Mr Shergold



Sports Reports

Hitchin Boys' School make trampoline National Finals

On Saturday 10th January, HBS had 16 boys compete in the Zonal round of the National Schools' Trampoline Championships held at Cambridge University. These 16 boys made up five team and five individual places, competing against many other boys from a range of schools across the South of England. All boys were in high spirits and competed well after training hard for this event. Four teams and one individual qualified for the National Schools' Finals, which are being held in Birmingham in March.

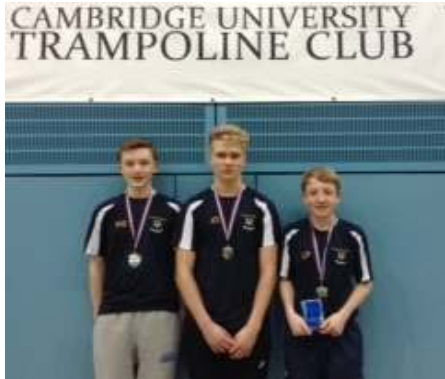
Trampoline coach and PE teacher Charlie Mussino said: "All the boys trained really hard for the Zonal round of the competition, and fully deserve their success. They are all looking forward to the National Championships next month."



Under 14 Boys Inter Team A and B took 1st and 2nd places. Left to Right: Ellis Rushworth, Zayn Rehman, Alex Ealham, Jamie Addison, Darren Gao, David Addison, Dan Cotta and Chris Gwinnett.



Under 19 Inter Individual 3rd place. On the right Louis Pearson.



Under 19 Boys Inter Team A came 1st. Left to Right: Peter Gull, Jonny Owen and Louis Pearson.



Under 14 Boys Elite Team A came 1st. From left to right: Jack Winterbourne, Fran Shilton and Danny Henderson.

Year 11 Sports Leaders

Year 11 Sports Leaders worked with the local community of Primary Schools at the annual North Herts. Indoor Athletics Competition, which was held here at Hitchin Boys School. They officiated, time kept,

measured and recorded scores for events such as indoor javelin, standing long and triple jump, track sprints, speed bounce and chest push. This was part of their Level 1 Assessment and they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr Smith

Hockey

The hockey season continues apace, with a number of recent successes:



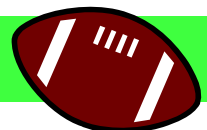
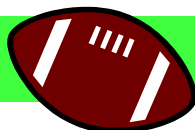
The U16s hockey team in action (above) as they became County Runners Up and therefore qualified to represent Hertfordshire in the East Regional Finals at Ipswich School on Tues 24th February.



The Year 7 hockey team photo (above) before the matches against Bedford Modern School, in which the A team won 10-1 and the B team won 5-0. A promising start for our younger hockey players.

(continued)

Year 11 Sports Leaders (below)



Sports Reports (continued)

Mid Term Hockey Report

Overall playing record to date:

**Played 25 Won 15 Drawn 3
Lost 7 Postponed 4**

A promising and positive start to the hockey season for our teams so far.

Our 1st XI lost on penalty flicks to the private Eltham College after having most of the possession in a 2-2 draw. They now play Forest School in the last 16 of the National Plate Competition. Our Year 11 side, missing the ineligible Rob Donald and Alex Hubbard who had represented the 1st XI, provided the best team performance of the season so far as they finished 2nd in the County Finals, only losing out to WBSG on goal difference having beaten Bishop's Stortford College 1-0, Haberdashers' 1-0 and Aldenham 2-1. They now progress to the East Regional Finals at Ipswich School on 24th February. Our Year 10 team have won their only game so far, beating Bedford Modern School comfortably 10-1. The Year 9 side came 4th in a disappointing County Finals performance, losing three and winning one of four matches. The Year 8 side have so far won 3 drawn 1 and lost 1 but show promise for their forthcoming County Finals late in February.

Highlights on an individual basis include Chris Davies' development. He narrowly missed out on selection for the England U18 Age Group Squad and is now involved in the AASE Programme based at Loughborough to further develop his technical, tactical skills and lifestyle management for Elite performers. This is an excellent achievement and a result of hard work and dedication to his sport. Chris, Michael Williams, James Smith and Harvey Walton - Adams have represented Blueharts Men's 1st team in the East Premier

Division 'A' League, which is at a high level of performance and just below National League Level.

There is a lot to look forward to for the next half of the season and one which shows lots of promise and a chance for both individual and team success.

*Mr Smith
Director of Hockey*

Orienteering

Congratulations to Alex Weatherill (Year 7) who has successfully become the East Anglian Orienteering champion. Alex will now compete in the Midland Championships on 15th February where he is aiming for a podium finish.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Alex Evens (Year 11) who came 23rd on Saturday in the intermediate boys Hertfordshire County Cross Championships. Daniel English (Year 8) competed in the junior boys race a year young and finished (43rd).

Mr Bajak

Year 10 Basketball Report

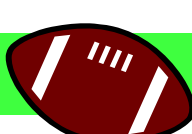
On 5th February the Year 10 basketball team faced St Christophers, a team with some individual talent who were also recognized as having improving form. Hitchin Boys' entered the game

high from their previous success against Nobel School. As the game began, Hitchin Boys' quickly took control, putting points on the board within a mere few seconds. As the quarter ended the score was 19-4 to Hitchin Boys'. This early lead gave the team confidence to go into the second quarter and further their lead, with Kieran Hollingsworth-Biggs and Ben Wilmot making great moves to get into space.

Notable individual performances from George Fitter and Will Smith during the first half meant that HBS entered the third quarter with a comfortable yet deserved lead, with the score at 34-11. At the start of the third quarter HBS had definitely found their stride, with Peter Keefe repaying an earlier block with one of his own. Peter Gull's many acrobatic layups and Matt Waters' incredible shots made the already increasing lead even bigger, therefore making the deficit seem out of reach for St Chris.

The final quarter saw Brandon Norman scoring a pair of pleasantly surprising baskets which got the bench excited to say the least! At the final whistle the top scorers were Will Smith with 30 points, Peter Keefe with 10 points and George Fitter with 9 points and the final score was 72-29 - a resounding victory for HBS which will definitely give them confidence going into their next game against Highfield.

Will Smith (Captain) 10MO



Reminders

- Details of local half-term activities can be found at <http://www.hitchinboys.co.uk/feb-half-term/>
- A number of parents have still not collected their whole school photographs. Please ring 01462 433528 after half-term to arrange a time to collect your photo from the Woodlands office.
- Details of planned and proposed school trips for the next year or so can be found at the end of this newsletter.
- Don't forget to book your Summer Ball tickets - details below.
- Revised term dates for 2015 –16 are now on the school website at http://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk/do/pages/information/term_dates_2015_2016. Please note that next year the Easter Bank Holiday weekend **does not** fall in the two-week holiday between the Spring and Summer terms.
- If you are taking photos of your son at a school event, please **do not** post pictures containing any other children on social media sites (Facebook, Twitter) unless you have permission from all the children's parents to do so, as there may be safeguarding issues.

Calendar Dates: Feb - Apr 2015

Date	Event
Wednesday 25th February	A Level Drama Moderation 5.30pm
Thursday 26th February	Trevor Phillips visit: 'Democracy and its discontents'
Thursday 26th February	Composer Concert 7pm
Thursday 5th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 5pm
Friday 6th March	Year 12 Geography Lake District Trip departs
Monday 9th March	Year 11 MFL Speaking Assessment 3 (all week)
Tuesday 10th March	Year 12 Geography Lake District Trip returns
Tuesday 10th March	Barcelona Trip Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 11th March	Music Competition
Thursday 12th March	Music Competition
Friday 13th March	Comic Relief Activities
Wednesday 18th March	Spring Concert
Thursday 19th March	GCSE Music Performance Assessments
Friday 20th March	GCSE Music Performance Assessments
Monday 23rd March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Monday 23rd March	Year 11 MFL Writing Assessment 3 (all week)
Wednesday 25th March	Year 12 Biology Field Trip to Isle of Wight departs
Wednesday 25th March	Governors' Student Attainment & Welfare Committee 6pm
Saturday 28th March	Year 12 Biology Field Trip returns
Tuesday 31st March	Year 10, 12 & 13 Art Trip to Florence departs
Tuesday 31st March	Governors' Audit Committee 6pm
Tuesday 31st March	Governors' Resources Committee 7pm
Wednesday 1st April	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group 6pm
Thursday 2nd April	End of term
Friday 3rd April	Year 10, 12 & 13 Art Trip returns
Saturday 4th April	Year 8 & 9 MFL Trip to Spain departs
Wednesday 8th April	Year 8 & 9 MFL Trip to Spain returns
Wednesday 8th April	Year 8 & 9 Rugby Tour to Paris departs
Wednesday 8th April	Choir Trip to Paris departs
Saturday 11th April	Choir Trip to Paris returns
Sunday 12th April	Year 8 & 9 Rugby Tour to Paris
Monday 20th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 21st April	Summer Term begins

Year 7 Science Club

This half term many exciting activities have taken place, including building paper bridges to show strength, structure and design techniques, heart dissection and enzyme reactions. A new activity which proved to be very popular and fun was “Maggot Monets”! Maggot art is a unique activity combining art and science. Maggots are dipped into food colourings and allowed to crawl over paper creating fascinating paintings, like the one to the right!



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!

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*
- * *Photographer*
- * *Caricaturist*

Black tie

Carriages at 1.00am

We are pleased to accept your invitation to attend the
Hitchin Boys' School

”Star Spangled” Summer Ball

Saturday 4th July 2015

Please reserve _____ tickets in the name of

Address for contact:

Tel: _____

Email: _____

My table companions will be:

Tickets are £60 each. Please indicate payment method:

* We enclose a cheque for _____ tickets at **£60** per person

* We require _____ tickets and enclose **3 post dated cheques**

Dated: **1 March 2015; 1 April 2015; 1 May 2015**

Each at **£20 per person per month** (Total £60 per person)

(Cheques should be made payable to HBS Parents' Society)

Total value of cheque(s) £ _____

Son's name / tutor group (if applicable) :

Please state any special dietary requirements:

Please return to the **School Office, Hitchin Boys' School, Grammar School Walk, Hitchin, SG5 1JB**

Enquiries : parentsoc@hitchinboys.co.uk



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

Proposed School Trips 2015 - 16

Month/Year	Location	Duration	Subject	Year Group(s)	Approx Cost
2015					
6-10 March	Lake District	5 days	Geography	12	£350
March	Whipsnade Zoo	Day trip	Biology	12	£18
25-28 March	IoW	4 days	Biology	12	£220
31 March - 3 April	Florence	4 days	Art	10/12/13	£470
4-8 April	Barcelona	5 days	MFL	8-9	£530
8-11 April	Paris (Choir)	4 days	Music	7-13	£360
8-12 April	Paris (Rugby)	4 nights	PE	8-9	£500
March/April	AS/A2 Conf	Day trip	Geography	12-13	£35
April	Norfolk Castles	Day trip	History	7	£15
8-11 May	Dorset	3 days	Geography	10	£160
May/June	Local churches	½ day	RE	7	£0 in past
4-5 June	DoE Bronze Practice Expeditions				
11-12 June	DoE Bronze Practice Expeditions				
June	Business Design Centre, London	Day trip	D&T	12	£13
29 June	HE Fair	Day trip		12	£10
June/July			Food Tech	7-9	
June/July	Places of Worship	Day trip	RE	9	Transport/cover
2-6 July	Cologne	5 days	MFL	8-10	£500
2-3 July	DofE Bronze Practice Expeditions				
9-10 July	DofE Bronze Practice Expeditions				
July	DofE Gold Practice Expeditions				
12-15 July	Kingswood			7	£200
Summer	Greece	12 days	Outlook Expeditions	9-12	
2016					
September 2015	France/Belgium WW1 Battlefields	4 days	History	9	£300
Sept	DofE Gold Qualifying Expeditions				
Sept/Oct	DofE Bronze Qualifying Expeditions				
Autumn	Borough Market/ Café Royal	Day trip	Food Tech	10-11	
October	Barton Hills	½ day	Geography	8	£6
October	Berlin & Poland	6 days	History	10-11	
November	Workhouse, Southwell	Day trip	History	12	£30
Nov/Dec	Hazards Day	Day trip	Geography	13	£30
2016					
March 2016	Lakes		Geography	12	£350
Easter 2016	Iceland		Geography	9-11	£900
April/May 2016	Dorset		Geography	10	£150-200
July 2016	Thailand	31 days	Outlook Expeditions	9-10	£3,500