



**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL**  
An Academy Trust

# Newsletter

**April 2015**

## Head Teacher's Comment

Dear All

It has been a fantastic half-term here at HBS with the outstanding production of Hot Mikado just before the break, which set a very high bar, but the annual Music Competition and the Spring Concert maintained those exceptional high standards. We had great sporting success in hockey and athletics but especially in basketball where we reached all four of the district finals and won two.

Politics was also at the forefront in our well-attended debate between the actual candidates from all five parties represented in Hitchin and Harpenden and once again, with the help of the good people of Hitchin, we did our bit for Comic Relief, with activities in school and the traditional music performance on the Town Square, raising well over £3,500 in the process.

As I write, a Biology field trip is on the way to the Isle of Wight and by the time you read this, students from HBS will be in Florence for the Art trip, and preparing for their trips to Paris for both the Choir and the Rugby trip and to Barcelona for the MFL trip over the Easter holidays.

Many thanks to the over 300 parents who kindly filled in the recent survey (run for us by GL Assessment). We are currently analysing the results and will report back in detail – however we were delighted to note that you gave us an Outstanding rating for our Communication with parents.

Finally to all those in Year 11, 12 and 13 who are now under starters orders for the rapidly-approaching exams and starting revision in earnest: little and often is the key....whatever you can do, or dream you can do begin it; boldness has magic, power and genius within it.

We wish you a peaceful Easter break and to all the boys we say: Take pride in everything we do.

*Martin Brown*



*“...whatever you can do, or dream you can do begin it; boldness has magic, power and genius within it.”*

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### New outdoor classroom

The outdoor classroom donated and paid for by the Parents' Society is now up and ready for use. It is situated on the path facing the playing fields behind the school. We just need some nice weather and it will be put to good use!



### Late to school reminder



All pupils are required to be on school site from 8.45am onwards. From Tuesday 21st April any pupil found arriving late (after the morning registration bell at 8.45am) will be given an automatic detention. Parents will be contacted and informed that their child was late to school and the pupil will be issued with an after school 30 minute detention.

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

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



# Art Department News

Art students have been busy on a variety of projects recently.

They were responsible for designing the colourful set (right) for the recent production of Hot Mikado, creating a vibrant Japanese-themed set for the musical in February.

Year 9 Art students recently created a sculpture which can still be seen in the school quad (below). Made from sticks and pieces of wood, it is a piece of 'land art' based on the work of sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, whose work the Year 9s had been studying.



Finally, last Autumn Year 10 Art students had the opportunity to visit the Henry Moore Foundation in Hertfordshire, to learn more about his life and work and study the sculptures on show in the gardens of his former home (below).

Head of Art, Mrs Aldin-Burnett, said: "We are very excited about the forthcoming trip to Florence at the end of March. It will be such an enriching experience for the Art and Photography students in Year 10,12 & 13. We will share some of our photos in the next newsletter."

## Twitter

The Music Department is the latest at HBS to set up their own Twitter account, @HBSMusicDept.

If you are interested in seeing the latest news from all the various school accounts in one place, these now appear on the homepage at [www. hitchinboys.co.uk](http://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'.



## Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers

Please continue to send in your Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, and any spare sweet tins/containers you may have lying around, as the Food Technology Department are desperate for both. Thank you.



**COMIC  
RELIEF**

# Hitchin Boys' School does Comic Relief!

**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

**Friday 13 March**

Students and staff at HBS put a lot of effort into fundraising activities for this year's Comic Relief day held on Friday 13th March. There were obstacle races, football competitions, staff team challenges, bake sales and various musicians and groups entertaining the public in Town Square at lunchtime. This is just a selection of photos from the day.



Thanks to Joe Wilmot and Elliot Simpson-Rooke for the wide variety of photos.



## World Book Day

We marked World Book Day in the Library by inviting Year 7 and 8 boys to draw a new front cover for their favourite book, or a picture of their favourite fictional character. These are now on show on the House boards in the Library.

At lunchtime we held a book sale which gave the boys a chance to buy some old favourites from our former stock. The boys enjoyed the chance to choose their own books and we sold 60 books.

In addition to this, the boys received a World Book Day voucher, which could be exchanged for a 2015 WBD book or used to get a £1 reduction off a book of their choice.

In future we'll be holding a book swap so boys can exchange some of their favourite reads. Remember to follow @HBSLibrary on Twitter for news of latest additions to the Library collection.

### Books Amnesty

As the finer weather approaches we hope that the boys will be spring cleaning their bedrooms(!) The Library is holding a Books Amnesty so if you stumble over some long forgotten Library books please do return them to the Library. No matter how overdue, no questions asked.

*Mrs Hunt and Mrs Vipond  
HBS Librarians*

## HBS congratulated

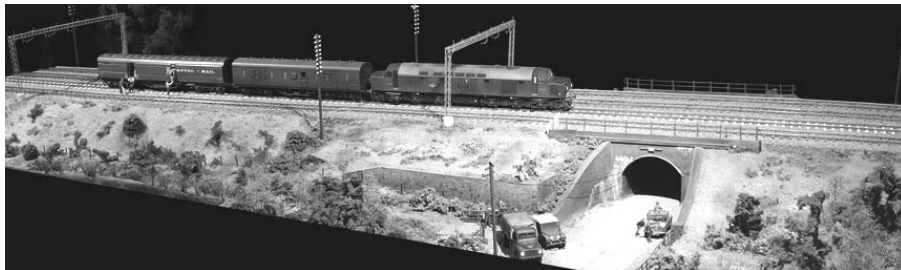
The letter (right) was received recently from Nick Gibb MP, congratulating HBS on our excellent English Baccalaureate performance in 2014. The English Baccalaureate (or EBacc) isn't an actual qualification, but provides a way to measure and compare how many pupils in a school are getting grade C or above in certain academically-focused GCSEs.

The percentage of pupils attaining the EBacc at HBS puts our school in the top 100 non-selective state funded schools in England, based upon achievement in these core academic subjects.

# 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



**Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Reform

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Mr Martin Brown  
Hitchin Boys' School  
Grammar School Walk  
Hitchin  
SG5 1JB

4 March 2015

Dear Mr Brown,

I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to your school for its excellent English Baccalaureate performance in 2014.

The percentage of your pupils attaining the baccalaureate shows that your school is one of the top 100 non-selective state funded schools in England based upon achievement in these core academic subjects.

These subjects reflect the knowledge and skills young people need to progress to further study or to rewarding employment.

I would like to congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for all their hard work and to thank you personally for your leadership in continuing the drive towards ever higher academic standards.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

# Sports Reports

## Hockey Review 2015

Our most successful hockey season for some years as the 1st XI reached the semi finals of the National Plate Competition and both U16s and U13s were County Runners Up and East Regional Finalists. Our playing record during the season resulted in a total of 59 matches being played of which we won 31, drew 5 and lost 23. Our 1st XI reached the semi final of the National Plate Cup Competition beating Forest School 5-0, Framlingham 3-2 before travelling to Caterham School, Surrey. The most pleasing aspect this season has been the further development of Seb and Harvey Walton-Adams, Michael Williams, Chris Davies and Alex Hubbard, Nick Timm, Calum Buchanan and James Smith and the return from injury for Christian Lloyd-Williams. Michael and Chris are now regulars in the 1st team at Blueharts HC and Alex represented Hertfordshire, the South and narrowly missed out on selection for England but played for the Saxon Tigers as part of England Hockey's Talent

	Played	Won	Drew	Lost
1st XI	7	3	2	2
Year 11	10	6	1	3
Year 10	3	2	0	1
Year 9	8	4	0	4
Year 8	20	8	2	10
Year 7	11	8	0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>

Identification Programme. Rob Donald was our most improved 1st team player. It is hoped that next season more boys will become involved at the higher levels of the game.

The Under 16s were the Hertfordshire County Runners Up winning three matches and drawing one to just miss out as County Champions on goal difference. They competed in the Regional Finals where the step up proved too much without two key players Rob Donald and Alex Hubbard, who were regular 1st XI players and therefore ineligible. Decent performances however came from Jack Scott playing up a year, Dominic Lloyd-Williams, Matt Maylin and Austin Ephgrave.

The U15s won two of three matches with Jamie Buchanan, Jack Scott, Ben Wilmot, Niall Mistry and Toby MacCormack the outstanding players. This quintet will certainly be pushing for a 1st team place next season and indeed experienced playing for the older teams as part of their hockey development.

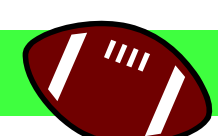
The Under 14s disappointed in the County Finals, winning one of four matches, yet in the regular season won three of four friendly matches. Theo Reintjes, Adam Mountney and Isaac Strickland were our best players and our most promising player was Ethan Brace.

The U13s had a really successful season finishing as County Runners Up winning four of six matches and narrowly losing in the final to BSC by 1-0. This enabled qualification to the East Regional Finals where we won 1 and lost 5 in a disappointing campaign. Alex Lloyd-Williams, Ben Guest and Oscar Pryle were the standout players and have the potential to play at a higher level. Ben, indeed, gained representative honours for Hertfordshire. This U13 side have also won 4 drawn 2 and lost 1 of their seven friendly matches this season and we certainly have high hopes for this team for the future.

The U12 side had their first taste of hockey and, under the tutelage of Level 2 Coach (and soon to be Director of Hockey) Dan Mason, adapted quickly to the 7 a side format. The 'A' team won 5 out of 5 matches, the 'B's won 3 and lost 1 and the 'C's lost their only game.



The U13 (above) and U16 (below) Hockey teams - East Regional Finalists





# Sports Reports (continued)

## Hockey Awards 2015

	Player of the Year	Most Improved
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Michael Williams	Rob Donald
U16s	Dom Lloyd - Williams	Matthew Maylin
U15s	Jack Scott	Niall Mistry
U14s	Theo Reintjes	Adam Mountney
U13s	Oscar Pryle	Alex Lloyd - Williams
U12s	Tom Russell	Matt Hutchinson
<b>Special Award</b>	– Blueharts Stick	Adam Mountney



The Senior Team (L-R): Peter Gull, Jonny Owen, Louis Pearson

Leighton Gibbs, Tom Russell and Matt Hutchinson, in goal, were our most promising players and Matt played County hockey for Bedfordshire.

The development of hockey within the school has continued to develop under the expertise of Mr Dan Mason and the link with Blueharts Hockey Club has also continued to grow. Many grateful thanks goes to Geoff Edwards who has regularly umpired U16 and 1st XI matches. Geoff is a Hitchin Boys' Old Boy who has continued to support, help, promote and develop the game at school.

Other coaching sessions were helped by the regular presence of our Senior hockey players Michael Williams, Chris Davies, Nick Timm, Calum Buchanan, Adam Mountney (assisting the goalkeepers) and Toby McCormack who has a future in coaching should he so choose, supported the younger teams on a weekly basis through coaching and umpiring small sided games.

### Individual Representative Honours

National Age Group Squad  
– Chris Davies

South – Alex Hubbard

JRPC – Alex Hubbard

County - Alex Hubbard, Jack Scott, Jamie Buchanan, Toby McCormack, Tom Jackson, Matt Hutchinson, Oscar Pryle, Ben Guest

**Mr D Smith**  
*Director of Hockey*

## Trampoline News 2015

2015 has been a great year so far for Trampoline at HBS. Starting an early morning training session for the squad allowed training time to be lengthened and be more focused for the committed members.

In December we hosted the Regional Schools Competition and entered 24 competitors from years 7 to 10, all competing as individuals as well as part of a team. We proceeded to the Zonal round with five individuals and five teams. In the Zonal round, four out of the five teams qualified for the National Finals, and one of the five individuals.

The National Schools Finals was held in Birmingham in mid-March and was attended by over 100 schools from the UK. Unfortunately due to other sporting activities we lost our Junior Elite team. Our two Junior Intermediate teams were placed 2nd and 4th, and our Senior Intermediate team came 5th.



The Junior teams at the National Final (L-R): Jamie Addison, Alex Ealham, Ellis Rushworth, David Addison, Zayn Rehman, Darren Gao, Dan Cotta, Chris Gwinnett.

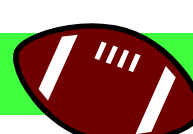
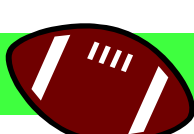
As well as competing in the National School Championships we also took part in and hosted the District qualifier for the NHSSP Trampoline Competition. We competed against four other schools from our district on three different levels of competition. In the Step 2 competition we were placed 2nd, in the Step 3 competition we were placed 2nd and in the Elite section we achieved 3rd and 4th place.

Some stars to watch out for over the coming years in Trampolining for the school are: Jack Winterbourne (Year 8) who competed in Elite for both competitions and has the potential to become a National Trampolinist outside of school too; Danny Henderson (Year 7) who also competed in the Elite section in both competitions, is competing at Regional level outside of school and is progressing fast with his skills; and the whole of the Intermediate Junior team: Dan Cotta, Chris Gwinnett, David Addison and Darren Gao (all Year 7) who competed very well all year and I can only see them improving for next year.

Well done to all those that have turned up to training and taken part in competitions this year. I look forward to the continued work so we are ready to 'jump' in to the competition season next year.

House Trampolining is being organised and will take place after Easter during two of our morning sessions.

**Mr Mussino**  
*Trampoline Coach*



# Sports Reports (continued)

## Basketball Report

Basketball this year continued to go from strength to strength, with record numbers attending training in the junior age groups. For the first time, all four junior age groups (years 7, 8, 9 and 10) made the district finals.

### Year 10 Basketball

HBS beat St Christopher's school 72-29, with talented captain Will Smith breaking the school record for individual points in a game with 30. HBS also beat Barnwell and Nobel. Special mention to shooting guards Toby MacCormack, Matthew Waters, Ben Wilmot and George Fitter who have finished superbly for four consecutive seasons. Peter Keefe and Marc Rudd have dominated the rebounds both offensively and defensively. Peter Gull and Will Smith have added the magic to their fourth successive unbeaten season. Congratulations also to Will Smith who has since been selected for the Hertfordshire U15 basketball squad.



*Year 10 Final: Highfield 47 HBS 59*

### Year 9 Basketball

The Year 9 team made the district final with a hard fought victory against Meridian 47-33 and wins against John Henry Newman and Marriotts. Brent Morris and Ira Johal provided the aerial threat with point guards Fran Shilton and Olly Garside running the attack. A narrow loss to Highfield in the pool games 27-35 suggested a close final. Special mention and thanks must go to Mr Mussino who has helped coach the side this year with great enthusiasm.



*Year 9 Final: HBS 41 Highfield 60*

### Year 8 Basketball

HBS made the final with impressive wins over Barnwell 81-2, Highfield 31-17, Thomas Alleynes 45-14 and Greneway 40-35. Josiah Williams and Cameron Crowe were the "Kings of the Boards" winning everything in the air, and shooting guards Alex Lloyd-Williams and Oscar Pryle finished chances with great precision. Aman Johal, Harvir Deans and Zac Clawson handled and distributed well, and the star player this year was Jack Winterbourne, who shows signs of being a future star.



*Year 8 Final: HBS 52 Highfield 46*

### Year 7 Basketball

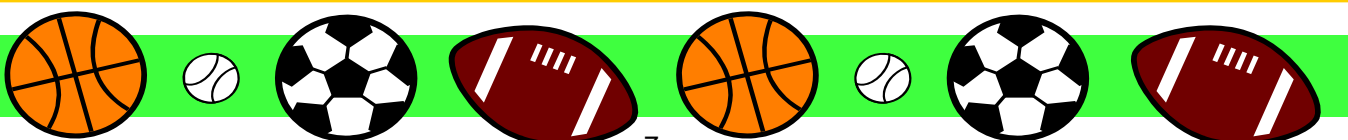
The most pleasing aspect of the Year 7 basketball season has been the numbers turning up for training. We started with 80-90 pupils in September and still regularly have the team training in the sports hall and another 30 pupils playing regularly in the old gym.

The Year 7 team progressed to the final with wins against Barclay 65-10, Thomas Alleynes 55-6, Knights Templar 19-14, Highfield 30-25 and John Henry Newman 24-7. Ollie Owen, Glen Harrison and Josh Gilbert played brilliantly in their first season, whilst shooting guards Will Pastor, Will Rob, Henry Brown, have picked up the game really quickly and are already accurate shooters. Point guards Elliot Beard and Ethan Turley have demonstrated great handling ability and vision for players of their age. Special mention must go to Will Smith, George Fitter, Peter Gull and Ben Wilmot who along with Mr Mussino and Joe Miley have given up their free time every Tuesday to help coach the Year 7 squad and have made a huge impact



*Year 7 District Final: Greneway 53 HBS 37*

**Mr Bajak**  
*Basketball Coach*





## Indoor Athletics Report

- ◆ HBS District Champions Year 7 and 8 2015.
- ◆ HBS for the fifth successive year won both District indoor athletics titles.
- ◆ HBS won 41 of the other 42 events to triumph against other local secondary schools.
- ◆ Year 7 District Champions and Hertfordshire County Champions 2015
- ◆ Year 8 District Champions and Hertfordshire runners up 2015.
- ◆ Following the District and County triumphs, six members of the HBS athletics squad attended the Hertfordshire county trials. All six successfully made the Hertfordshire schools team, who competed last weekend in the regional final against the best athletes from Norfolk, Suffolk, Beds, Cambs and Essex.
- ◆ Photo right (L - R): Peter Keefe, David Koffi, Ike Lasinde, Jean Claude Aka, Daniel Kessi and Edward Garthwaite, who are all members of the HBS/ Stevenage & North Herts athletics or satellite club run at the school every Monday after school. They performed brilliantly and helped Hertfordshire secure a place in the National Final, to be held at the Manchester Sport City at the end of April.



The victorious Year 7 (left) and Year 8 (right) indoor athletics teams



Mr Bajak

## Year 8 Holocaust Memorial Trip

In mid-February the RE department took Year 8 students to the annual Holocaust Memorial Event at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, to take part in a half-day event to commemorate the tragic events of the Holocaust. It was particularly important this year due to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of this horrific era.

On arrival the students entered a very calm and quiet Synagogue hall to be welcomed by the Rabbi. They watched a short video introducing the topic and other sad genocides from around the world in recent years.

We then split up into 13 smaller groups for a short workshop looking at why the Holocaust happened, some of the key themes and issues such as the role of bystanders and the Nuremberg laws.

This was followed by the talk from the guest Holocaust survivor. This year we were very privileged to have



met and heard the account from Mala Tribich MBE (left). Mala was born in Poland in 1930 and ended up being in a Nazi run ghetto from a very early

age. She was transferred to the Ravensbruck concentration camp in northern Germany, before eventually ending up in the Bergen Belsen camp (also in Germany) until its liberation.

Our students listened incredibly well and some excellent questions followed, including ones on the themes of grief, coping with her ordeal, forgiveness and guilt.

Once again, our boys were congratulated on their behaviour throughout the event. Many of the educators and volunteers commented on how excellent they are and how mature they are for Year 8! This made all the HBS staff who attended the trip feel most proud!

It is worth noting the value of this trip. Future generations will not get this opportunity as many of the survivors are getting too old for public speaking or have sadly passed away. Please talk to your son about the experience they have had and get them to find out more about Mala's story to concrete their learning from this most valuable experience.

## Year 12/13 Philosophy and Ethics Conference

We were very fortunate to secure places for all of our Year 12 and 13 students to attend a conference on the study of ethics in early February with Dr Peter Vardy, a well-known



theologian, philosopher and educator. He was accompanied by his wife, an author and lecturer in the same field, and guest speaker Dr David Webster from the University of Gloucestershire.

The day revolved around a series of one hour lectures involving paired and whole conference discussions. Lectures included fascinating topics such as Good and God, Buddhism and Ethics (Dr David Webster), the end of ethics, Euthanasia and end of life. The students were all very engaged with the topics and discussions, as were Miss Barnard and I. It is fair to say, the day really got us all thinking deeply!

The day ended with a debate on the issue of Euthanasia. A few of our students contributed to this debate, having the courage to go and speak in front of over 150 students from other schools and colleges.

Each of our students came away with a copy of Peter and Charlotte Vardy's new book 'Ethics Matters'. Most got him to sign their copy. Saiful even managed a selfie with Peter!

Mr Terry



# Year 12 Geography Lakes Trip - March 2015

The Geography Department's annual A-level trip to the Lake District began in earnest at the school gates on Friday 6th March, when 44 students and seven members of staff assembled at the unholy hour of 6am to set off on the 270 mile trip to the Blencathra Field Studies Centre near Keswick.

The trip is a compulsory one to meet the exam boards' requirements of fieldwork as part of the A-level specification. As a curriculum trip we aim to make the most of our time in the Lake District with an initial stop on Friday afternoon to Easedale to study an upland glacial valley. Further days would see us looking at the impact and management of flooding in Keswick, studying the changing channel characteristics of the Glenderaterra Beck, as it flows downstream to the River Greta, studying a glaciated valley profile in Langdale before finishing on Tuesday morning with measuring footpath erosion on Catbells.



With the exception of Monday's trip to Langdale, which was very wet, the weather was generally not too bad for March in the Lake District and everyone as usual seemed remarkably upbeat and enthusiastic (though the thought of having to wear an Everton shirt may have had something to do with it!) Each evening follow up work was carried out back in the dedicated classrooms of the field centre. However, despite the volume of work involved the students had a couple of hours each evening to unwind with table tennis, pool, TV and DVDs to enjoy. The staff on the other hand became addicted to Perudo, which is a family game Mr McPherson had kindly brought with him from home.

The final evening is always quiz night and this year it was Mr Streets' turn to be quizmaster, with rounds ranging from geography to music to bird identification. It was a fantastic quiz with everyone grateful for the time Mr Streets had put into organising it. This year's winners ('Boys and Georgina') won a bar of Kendle Mint Cake and solid plastic gold medals and were able to lift the infamous trophy aloft!

Back in Hitchin, the students are busy writing up their 5 case studies and handing in their work to Mr Streets and myself for marking. All the staff who kindly gave up their weekend to support the geography department - Mr McPherson, Mr Terry, Mrs Pitts, Mrs Reynolds and Mr Brown - and I would like to extend our appreciation to all 44 students who attended, as they were a delight to work with for the five days and clearly revelled in the opportunity to learn outside the classroom. For those doing AS geography next year, the trip will take place from Friday 4th to Tuesday 8th March 2016.

*Mr Dawson*





# Science Department News

## STEM Food Tech trip to Jamie Oliver's Recipease

This exciting trip to Jamie Oliver's training kitchen, Recipease, was enjoyed by pupils ranging from Year 8 to Year 11. Students were taught how to make "Unbeatable Filled Pasta". Pupils learnt how to make a great pasta dough with a delicious and simple filling of ricotta and spinach. They also became skilled in how to create three or four different shaped pastas using techniques demonstrated by their instructor. At the end of the lesson, students sat down together to enjoy their creations.

Next half term we are planning several STEM related activities, including a Year 10 trip to Jaguar/Landrover, a Year 7 trip to the "Ministry of Science" and for Extended Learning students to work on a Crest Award. John Cooper, our STEM Ambassador, is planning to organise more Physics activities for the Year 7 Science Club.

*Mrs Rainbow*



Students enjoy the fruits of their labours! (above)

## Farewell...

... to Hannah Taylor, the student teacher who has been working with us for the last half term. She has been an asset to the department, getting involved in activities outside her normal teaching timetable. Hannah has supported Science Club, Extending Learning and STEM activities. We are very proud to say Hannah was observed by Herts Uni and given an outstanding result. We wish Hannah all the best for the future.

## Extended Learning

The Science Department is running an Extended Learning Programme for KS3 students (years 7 - 9). The sessions are led by experienced Sixth Formers with a member of staff present. The purpose of these sessions is to stretch and challenge students whilst giving experience to Learning Leaders, encouraging all pupils to become independent learners.

Sessions include practical work, demonstrations and projects which can lead to gaining a Crest Award (CREativity in Science and Technology).



If your son is interested in the Extended Learning Programme, which takes place on Thursdays at 3.40pm – 4.30pm in L13 (recommencing 23 April 2015) please inform Mr Cook or Mrs Rainbow.

Traffic light DNA (left)

The programme has proved to be very successful, with enthusiastic students participating in lots of fun practical work. Over the last few weeks, students have enjoyed projects such as Traffic Light DNA, Enzymes and Temperature, Combustion and making Spectroscopes.

After the Easter holidays we will begin a project leading to a STEM Crest Award.

## Mini spectroscopes (below)





# Science Department News (continued)

## Year 12 Biology Field Trip to the Isle of Wight

Last week 31 Year 12 students participated in the annual Biology Field Trip to the Isle of Wight. Students studied rocky shore ecology, meadow species identification, river studies and sand dune succession. After collecting data analysis, students then sat two AS module papers. The trip gave students on-site opportunities in collecting data and gaining hands-on experience.



## Year 7 Science Club

Year 7 Science Club has continued to be popular and exciting this half term. Over the last few weeks, pupils have been making catapults from lolly sticks. The aim was to see who could design the catapult that could launch the most accurate shots on our Angry Bird Obstacle Course. This proved to be a fun and enjoyable project for our young scientists!



## Mr Cook does Comic Relief!

As part of the Red Nose Day events on Friday 13th March, Mr Cook (Maverick) performed "You've lost that Lovin' Feelin'" from Top Gun, supported by his backing group, Mr Thorp and six Sixth Formers. A one and only live performance by these talented stars raised lots of money for a good cause!



## STEM Visit

Jamie Wright (Year 12) has been successful in obtaining a place on an Engineering Experience Course at Loughborough University. It is an opportunity to visit and stay overnight at the UK's most popular university for engineering.

Jamie will be taking part in a two day event giving him an insight into what it would be like to study engineering at Loughborough University. Jamie will visit four different engineering departments, learn about different engineering options and talk to lecturers about engineering courses.

## Hitchin Boys' School Question Time

On Thursday 19th March, representatives from five political parties (Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green and UKIP) took time out of their busy schedules to attend a Question Time in Hitchin Boys' School's main hall. The format is familiar to anyone who has seen the BBC's weekly Question Time programme - five people of varying political persuasions battle it out over current affairs and party policy. In this case local issues and party manifesto policy were firmly under the microscope of the approximately 200 Sixth Form students from Hitchin Boys' School, Hitchin Girls' School and the Priory who had elected to give up their Thursday afternoon.



All students had a chance to listen and interact with the candidates for Hitchin and Harpenden constituency, including the incumbent MP Peter Lilley. This brought with it a sizable amount of trepidation for the politicians and the event's organiser, student and Head Boy Daniel Saville, who said: "Having contacted the politicians, advertised the event at the three consortium schools and created the format for the event, I am glad to report that it all went off practically without a hitch and it looks as if we have created a lot of debate in the student community." Indeed, there were moments of drama in the highly charged exchanges between politicians and students on issues such as immigration, housing, education, the economy and foreign affairs.

Days after the event students from all of the schools could be heard discussing points of policy, or continuing the heated debate in their breaks, lunches and even classes. Daniel confirmed: "This event has far beaten our expectations with regard to student involvement, and I hope it really encourages young people to cast their ballot in May."

With a democratic ballot to decide the school's charity focuses for 2015, this Question Time event and a mock general election being held after Easter, it is clear to see that the opportunity for education and participation in democracy is at an all-time high for Hitchin Boys.

## Calendar Dates: Apr - May 2015

Date	Event
Saturday 4th April	MFL Trip to Spain departs
Wednesday 8th April	Choir Trip to Paris departs
Wednesday 8th April	Year 8/9 Rugby Tour to Paris departs
Wednesday 8th April	MFL Trip to Spain returns
Saturday 11th April	Choir Trip returns
Sunday 12th April	Rugby Tour returns
Monday 20th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 21st April	Summer Term starts 8.40am
Tuesday 21st April	A2 Music Recital 6pm
Wednesday 22nd April	Y11 GCSE PE Moderation
Wednesday 22nd April	Governors' Main Board Meeting 5pm
Wednesday 22nd April	A2 Music Recital 6pm
Thursday 23rd April	AS History Trip to Southwell Workhous
Thursday 23rd April	Y11 GCSE PE Moderation
Saturday 25th April	HBS Old Boys' Association Annual Dinner
Monday 27th April	GCSE Music Evaluation Exam
Monday 27th April	Parents' Society Committee Meeting 7pm
Tuesday 28th April	AS PE Moderation @ Queenswood School
Wednesday 29th April	A2 PE Moderation @ Queenswood School
Friday 1st May	Year 7 RE visit to local churches
Wednesday 6th May	Year 7 Parents' Evening 5pm
Friday 8th May	Y10 Geography Trip to Dorset departs
Monday 11th May	Y10 Geography Trip to Dorset returns
Wednesday 13th May	Summer Recital
Thursday 14th May	Governors' Health & Safety Committee 6pm
Monday 25th May	Half term starts



## Sixth Form 'Learn2Live' Road Safety Event

On Wednesday 18th March, Sixth Form students from all three consortium schools went to the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage to attend a road safety event delivered by 'Learn2Live'. The RAC reports that 15-19 years olds have almost double the risk of death from road traffic accidents (82.5 deaths per million population) compared to the general population (42.2 deaths per million population), and for males in this age group the risk is higher still at 127.3 deaths per million population. Men are also over three times as likely to die in a road accident than women. With many of our sixth form students already learning to drive, this course highlighted the potential dangers associated with not driving with due care.



Learn2Live's message was delivered via personal and emotive accounts from those who work and live with the horrors of road traffic accidents as part of their daily lives. We heard from firefighters, police officers, trading standards staff and campaigners for road safety. Following our return to school students completed a feedback questionnaire, which showed that the emergency services video had had a particular impact. Their positive view of the course was mirrored by staff, who felt that it had been a worthwhile morning.

*Mr Dawson*

## Music Department News

This has been a busy and exciting half term for the music department. After the success of the Hot Mikado, we came straight back into preparations for this year's Music Competition, Composers' Concert, Spring Concert and Red Nose Day.

The competition was packed with a variety of adventurous and creative performances and produced some really impressive cup winners. The final results were:

**Overall music cup and singing cup:** Will Murray

**Brass cup:** Tim Cranfield

**Piano cup:** Andrew Jones

**Woodwind cup:** Simeon May

**String cup:** Charles Hewitt

**Junior cup:** Tommy Corteen

In addition to these established cups, we were generously given a new cup this year, by Mr Taylor and Ms Stokes, to be awarded to a senior student who has made a notable contribution to the music department and shown leadership throughout the year. This was awarded to Andrew Ridgway.

We had a new concert this term, as Mrs Strachan hosted our first ever Composers' Concert. We heard some wonderful original pieces and it was inspiring to see our composers sharing their music with an audience.

Well done to all of our inaugural participants.

The Spring Concert had a packed programme with some memorable performances from our music competition winners and all our school ensembles. Music colours were awarded to Year 13 musicians, for contribution to the musical life of the school over a number of years. We also saw a spectacular performance of Uptown Funk by the 6th form, a performance which won't be easily forgotten!

Musicians have continued to make a substantial contribution to the school's charity fundraising, with nearly three hours of musical performances in the town centre on Red Nose Day. Our Jazz Band, Big Band, Junior and Chamber Choirs, Barbershop and Clarinet Groups were among the performers and no fundraising event would be complete without the bag-pipe playing skills of Alex Hawkins. All the performers and technicians were a credit to the school.

We have continued to broaden the range of extracurricular support and opportunities that are available. Just last week some of our A2 singing students had the opportunity to receive vocal coaching at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in preparation for their final A level recitals. This was a wonderful opportunity for some top class professional input into a major



**Andy Ridgway receiving vocal coaching at the Royal Opera House**

component of the music exam.

Thanks and well done to everyone who has given so much time and effort to our musical activities this term. Whether behind the scenes or on stage, they are making a massive contribution to the life of our school.

**Ms Hetherington**  
*Head of Music*

## March 100 Club Draw

The winners of the Parents' Society 100 Club draw for March are:

1st J. Wolliner  
2nd S Ramnauth  
3rd S Willmot



Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society is delighted to invite you to the

## *”Star Spangled” Summer Ball*

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

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

## *”Star Spangled” Summer Ball*

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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

*(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](mailto:parentsoc@hitchinboys.co.uk)





## Becoming A Foster Carer - There's no typical type of Foster Carer.



Every day more than 63,000 children live with over 52,500 foster families across the UK, while they are unable to live at home. These children have often experienced neglect and abuse, or have witnessed domestic violence or substance misuse. Whatever their experiences, all of them will be suffering the trauma of being separated from their own families, and need love, support and stability. Foster carers can provide these children with what they need, and often give them their first positive experience of family life.

Right now there's a need for at least 8,600 new foster families across the UK.

### About Us

We are a not-for-profit independent fostering agency co-founded in 2002 by two qualified Social Workers who are still current serving Directors. The founders had a passion to provide the right kind of support to foster carers and their families to enable them to provide a consistent level of care for children and young people who could not live with their birth parents.

We provide a well-established fostering service with a family feel offering strong support to our valued foster carers and the children/young people in our care. We recruit foster carers who share our vision of a child/young people centred service whose main aims are to promote good outcomes for the children and young people in our care by working to provide a secure base that enables them to achieve and realise their potential.

We believe that a secure base is essential for the achievement of good outcomes for children and young people. This belief is the basis for our mission statement; providing safety, stability and hope which underpins our service delivery and practice. We work closely with our foster carers, our children and Local Authorities to achieve this.

**We are looking for potential foster carers who are able to provide a child with safety, stability and hope. It doesn't matter your race, sexuality or religion – we need people who are able to care and support these young people.**

Please visit our website for more information: [www.anchorfostercare.co.uk](http://www.anchorfostercare.co.uk)

Or call us on: 0800 328 3119 if you would like to speak to someone in detail.



@AnchorFostering



Anchor Foster Care



# Summer Fayre

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of June 11-3pm**

HBS Parents' Society are busy preparing for this years' Summer Fayre and require donations for Raffle prizes and the Tombola stalls. Please can you donate:



- Bottles, any kind for our bottle tombola
- Wine, for our Wine & Water stall
- Unwanted Gifts, Unused & as New - suitable for Family Tombola
- Generous raffle prizes (maybe your place of work could donate)

All donations to be taken to the school reception when convenient for you.

Please label items for the HBS Parents' Society Summer Fayre.

*Thank you for your Support!*

We also have some fantastic advertising for the fayre this year; could you have an estate agent board put up outside your house for a few weeks? We need as many addresses as possible. Please email us at [parentsoc@hitchinboys.co.uk](mailto:parentsoc@hitchinboys.co.uk) if you can help.



## Fun at the Fayre



Bring your "showstopper" entry to have it judged!



Rugby Rodeo Bull, how long can you stay on?

Tombola's



Human Demolition Derby  
BBQ & Bar

**Tape A Teacher To The Wall!**

Tug of War, Students Vs Teachers



Raffle

**& Much Much More!**