



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

Newsletter

July 2015

Head Teacher's Comment

As the year draws to a close and school finishes for a well-earned summer break, I am delighted to be able to take a moment in this newsletter to pause and reflect on what has at times been a breathtakingly busy and active half-term.

This year is now over and in September there will be a new year with new challenges and new opportunities for our boys. They will grow and change and in beginning another year group also begin another chapter in the life of Hitchin Boys' School. We are already looking forward to it!

Finally, it is a real privilege to lead such an outstanding group of teachers and support staff and to be in charge of such a great school populated by so many polite, thoughtful and entertaining young people. I would like to thank all those parents, governors and many others in our community who have been so helpful and supportive throughout the year.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Martin Brown



'...in September there will be a new year with new challenges and new opportunities for our boys.'

Charity Challenges galore!

Several members of staff have undertaken charity challenges over the last half-term. Food Technology teacher Mrs Kavanagh (right) took part in the Moonwalk in Edinburgh in June, raising around £1,000 for breast cancer research with her sister.

Also in June, Head Mr Brown (middle right) completed three endurance events to raise over £1,800 through online sponsorship for Macmillan Cancer Support, the school's chosen summer charity.

On Sunday 21st June Mr Dawson and Mr Kelly (below right) joined six friends from their former footballing days to cycle from London to Brighton in aid of the British Heart Foundation - the 40th anniversary of the event.

There were over 20,000 fellow cyclists on the 54 mile route, and in total their group raised £513 for the British Heart Foundation. It is hoped HBS Staff will enter the 41st running of the event next year.



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House Round-up

This year has been very successful for the Houses in HBS, with competitions encompassing everything from Forensics to Mountain Biking with Chess, Scrabble and Quizzes to boot. It has been very close all year, with the collation of House points collected and Behaviour points deducted proving the decider in the overall competition.

Yet again the winning house will have their colours displayed across Hitchin Boys' School on the last day of term as Mr Brown congratulates the winners. As we go to press we can announce that the winning house is... MATTOCKE! Congratulations!

House Technology Competition

House Technology was yet again one of the most anticipated and well attended events of the year, with almost 30 boys crammed into T1 on one of the hottest days of the year. The boys were asked to design and prototype some packaging for either pencils or a toothbrush.

With only five hours to complete everything from a sale-ready prototype to a presentation plus any supporting material, the deadline was tight and the need for teamwork was great. As ever the boys, with minimal support from Mr Shergold, produced some outstanding work showing that they could work as a team under pressure without fuss.



With Radcliffe taking the Year 8 title, Skynner taking the Year 9 one and the Year 10 competition still to be judged at the time of writing, it is clear that the standard of work produced in DT at Year 11 shows no signs of faltering.

House Mountain Biking

Over the last term the skills and fitness of the mountain bike club have literally gone from strength to strength. With regular trips to the trails at Chicksands, the opportunities for boys to explore the limits have never been greater. Thankfully the only crashes have been minor and the only injuries of note were to Mr Warman's knees after an over-enthusiastic corner went awry.



The boys have shown tremendous dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year and should be proud of the improvements they have made. Above is an image of Alex Smith (8MW) dropping into a steep switchback corner at the Chicksands trails.

Mr Shergold
House Co-ordinator

House Debating Competition

The preliminary rounds of this year's House Debating Competition took place on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July. In both cases, the motion contested was: "This house believes that drone attacks are never justified" - a difficult and controversial motion, but the boys have never shied away from being prepared to discuss controversy.

In the first round, Stepan Mysko von Schultze and Alfie Cannon (speaking for the motion on behalf of Skynner House) were victorious over Jamie Addison and Ethan Gray (representing Mattocke House), while Hamza and Fahad Lone (Radcliffe) overcame the arguments of Ravi Odedra and David Addison (Pierson).

In all cases the standard of preparation, argument and responses to opponents' points were very high. It was very gratifying to see boys as early in their school career as Year 7 performing so well. The debates took place in front of an audience of students, who asked searching questions of those involved.

The final took place yesterday (16th), and was won by Skynner House as represented by Ethan Gray (Year 10) and Alfie Cannon (Year 9). The debate this time was "This house believes some medicines should not be available on the NHS."

Mr Howie

MFL Trip to Germany

29 boys and three teachers travelled to Cologne for four nights at the beginning of July. Even though the temperatures were in the mid to high 30s, the pupils got to experience the delights of Germany's fourth largest



city. We explored the Sports Museum, the chocolate factory (not too many purchases because of the heat!) and the impressive cathedral. We also took a day trip to Bonn, former capital of West Germany and birthplace of Beethoven. The final day was spent at the Phantasialand theme park.

Mr Wilson

Music Department News

The final half term has remained very busy for the school's musicians, with performances in our local community, as well as here at school.

The annual Founders' Day service took place at the end of June in St. Mary's Church, attended by students in Years 11-13 from both HBS and HGS. The choirs and brass players were led this year by Mr Chambers from HGS and performed magnificently. At school, the performers at the Lower School Assembly were the 9Pn "Uptown Funk" Group, comprising Jamie Naylor, Somerset Gough, Alfie Cannon, Amman Dosanjh, Joe Henderson and Joshua Rickard. Well done to all those who took part in these performances.



The Summer Concert was, as ever, less formal than the concerts earlier in the year. As we have said goodbye to our most experienced musicians, it was good to see the younger students starting to take the limelight; well done to Alex Burberry for his solo saxophone piece. A particular highlight of the evening was the Percussion Group, led by Mrs Strachan, who brought the house down.

In addition to these regular performances, extra-curricular music has thrived this term; Junior Choir and the Year 11 Blues Group were among the ensembles performing at the Summer Fair, battling the rain to do so! As ever, we are really grateful to those students who give up their time to set up and perform at these events.

Musicians have continued to make a real contribution to music in Hitchin. The Jazz Band were invited to play at St. Mary's Church in June, as part of a black tie fundraising dinner, complete with smoke machines and laser light displays. The Jazz Band also performed at the Summer Ball; special thanks to Tim Cranfield for organising that and also to Tom Addison, who provided live solo performances later in the evening. We have staged performances at the Hexton Music Festival and at Letchworth Garden City Academy in July; members of the Barbershop Group sang at both events, as well as blues and rock groups made up of students from Years 7-11.

A new event for us this year was our first workshop day for musicians in Year 6 who will be joining us in September. A group came to spend the morning with us and worked with our teachers to develop skills in African drumming and in improvisation. They later performed a piece jointly with our Junior Choir and Saxophone Group; we hope that this is the first of many such workshops.

Finally, we held the auditions for next year's school show, Bussy Malone, which will take place in February 2016. The main roles have now been cast but there are lots more smaller roles to be filled, so anyone who is interested can still take part by contacting Ms Hetherington at the start of next term.

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

UCAS Convention and Apprenticeship Day

On Monday 29th June, Year 12 took a trip to Ware for the UCAS Higher Education Conference. For many of us this was an exciting prospect as it signified the start of a new path into Higher Education.

A wide range of Universities were represented by stands there, as well as many companies offering apprenticeships. The stands allowed us to have lengthy discussions with current students and lecturers about what was offered at each placement; for example, one student who was in her second year at Newcastle University encouraged me to visit the University despite me having previously ruled it out as an option.

At each stand prospectuses were given out with detailed information on every course offered. This was particularly helpful as it meant we had time later on to consider or rule out placements, and it also provided contact information if we had any questions about the placement. The convention also offered talks on various aspects of universities and apprenticeships, including university life, student finance and the



application process. These talks highlighted the amount of support available to all applicants and how the process can be made simpler for everyone.

The advantage of this convention was that those who were unsure of which direction to take in future were certainly much more able to make a decision by the end of the day. For those students who knew they were not looking at University as an option, an apprenticeship day (left) was held back at Hitchin Boys' School that included a presentation from Audi in Hitchin and also North Herts College. Mr Moore and Mrs Uppal also provided talks on apprenticeships in engineering.

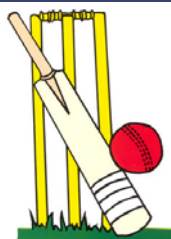
Pieter Roden

Sports Reports

Cricket Round-Up

2015 Results

(right)



This season proved to be a most successful one for our teams as we continued to develop and improve in all areas of the game. Both Year 7 and Year 9 teams reached the Hertfordshire County Cup Final, unfortunately losing to two strong HABS teams. The Year 8s and 10s also reached the County Cup semi-final, narrowly losing to Richard Hale and BSHS. The Year 7s were crowned District Champions and both Year 7s and Year 10s were District 6 a side Calypso Cricket Champions.



The Year 7 Cricket Team

Individual congratulations go to Ben Cowell, Connor Dudley, James Smith, Leighton Gibbs, William Guest and Elliott Beard, who all achieved County Representative Honours this summer for Hertfordshire with Oli Pitts again representing Bedfordshire.

Our 1st XI were again invited to the annual invitational T20 Tournament at St Albans School, involving top private cricketing schools in the country. They produced some outstanding cricket to finish 3rd overall, beating Bedford Modern



The Year 8 Cricket Team

	Played	Won	Lost
1 st XI	4	3	1
Year 10	5	2	3
Year 9	6	3	3
Year 8	8	6	2
Year 7	16	14	2
Totals:	39	28	11
72% Win Percentage			

School in the 3rd/4th place play off in a competition of eight teams. This was a significant improvement on last year when we finished 7th. Ben Cowell, with 161 runs in four games and 7 dismissals as wicket keeper was outstanding. He was ably supported by Nick Timm with 94 runs and economical bowling, while Charlie Jupp was the leading wicket taker with 8 wickets. Dan Cowell again captained the side with intelligence and enthusiasm, setting attacking fields and leading positively throughout.

Last season we introduced a new award for the Most Valuable Cricketer in the school based on a points system for runs scored, wickets, catches and stumpings taken.



The Year 9 Cricket Team

An exciting contest this year went down to the last game of the season, and many congratulations to Elliott Beard in Year 7 - this year's winner with 527 points, with outstanding bowling figures of 7-12 in the District Cup Final. He was closely followed by Leighton Gibbs with 525 and William Guest in third with 427, who both had outstanding seasons too.

Stand out performers in Year 7 were Elliott Beard 247 runs and 25 wickets, Leighton Gibbs 345 runs and

16 wickets, and William Guest with 362 runs and leading run scorer in the school. Harry Gates took 21 wickets, ably supported by Finn Norrington, Lewis Drummond and Henry Brown, who took a remarkable six stumpings in the District Final. In the Year 8 team Ben Guest recorded 189 runs and 8 wickets, while Tom Hendry and George Crouch with 113 runs and 7 wickets were key figures, with James Redmond showing great progress and Daniel Brooks taking 13 wickets with his leg spin. Connor Dudley (92 runs), Sam Bellinger and Will Stewardson (103 runs and tidy work behind the stumps again) performed well for the Year 9s with Theo Reintjes making impressive progress as an opening bowler and Fran Shilton improving in all areas of the game. The Year 10 side were led well by Ben Wilmot (103 runs) and Harry Lanyon (99 runs and 7 wickets), again with good all round performances, and Elliott Willoughby improved greatly as a bowler.

Throughout the winter we plan to further develop and challenge our High Performance Cricketers by once again providing them with individual and team based scenarios in the form of personalised net sessions, a 'Hit Squad' with bowling machine drills,



The Year 10 Cricket Team

Sports Reports (continued)

fielding drills and indoor match play opportunities.

Finally, many thanks to all of the parents who have supported the boys and the school during this cricket season and to the boys for their efforts throughout the summer term.

Winter well!

Mr D Smith
Director of Cricket



The 1st XI Cricket Team

Hitchin Boys jump to victory - NDP National Finals

Orientation on Friday night for Kyle, Dan and Ellis was their first sight of a National Final; all of them embraced the atmosphere that was building around them. Orientation went smoothly with everyone finding a trampoline they liked to jump on.

Warm-ups on the Saturday were outstanding with all performers hiding any nerves they had and showing their focus in competition. With all three competitors in consecutive flights it was a busy morning. Kyle kicked off the celebrations with some fabulous routines, securing second place for his age group. Next up was Dan Cotta competing in Double Mini Trampoline (DMT). With only a couple in his group he was chasing the boy who had beaten him in the



Year 12 /13 Sports Level 2 Leaders supporting the NHSSP Annual Infants Olympic Day at Letchworth Tennis Club in June

	1st	2nd	3rd
1st XI	Ben Cowell 196	Nick Timm 119	Charlie Jupp 107
Year 10	Harry Lanyon 174	Ben Wilmot 128	David Hume 53
Year 9	Will Stewardson 123	Connor Dudley 122	Sam Bellinger 110
Year 8	Ben Guest 289	Daniel Brooks 215	George Crouch 188
Year 7	Elliott Beard 527	Leighton Gibbs 525	William Guest 427

Most Valuable Cricketer: Elliott Beard 527 points

previous competition. After a wobbly first pass Dan pulled it together, overtaking his rival and finishing in first place. Our last competitor of the day was Ellis Rushworth who looked stunning throughout the warm-ups. Both his competitive routines were phenomenal - he astounded the judges and was awarded our highest form scores of the competition. Ellis was placed second to the performer who had beaten him last time.

All the boys should be ecstatic with what they have achieved through hard work and determination. Their results and medals are a reminder of the talent that this school has.

Mr Mussino



Athletics Report 2015

It's been another eventful and prosperous athletics season with more pupils being involved in athletics than ever before. I'm extremely grateful to Norma Harris (Stevenage athletics club) for helping to set up a satellite club at school, which offers our pupils exposure to top class coaching.

The achievements listed below don't express the hard work and dedication our athletes have shown this season or the fantastic work displayed in curriculum lessons and extra-curricular clubs by our pupils.

English Schools 2015

Three of our best athletes competed for Hertfordshire earlier in July in Gateshead at the English Schools Athletics Championships. In front of very large crowds and the nation's media they competed against the best other young athletes from all over the country.



George Marvell (Year 11, above centre) produced his best hammer throw of the year and a lifetime best of 68.42m to become Intermediate Boys English Schools Champion. George was selected to represent England against the other home nations in Scotland the following weekend.

Sports Reports (continued)



Max Schopp (Year 13, above) competed in the 400m Hurdles and after a promising run in the semi-final produced a Christine Ohuruogu-type run to come from the back of the field to take the silver medal in the final with another lifetime best performance of 53.79 seconds. Peter Keefe (Year 10) was competing in the intermediate boys discus and whilst he threw well, he narrowly missed out on a place in the final. He is eligible to compete in the same age group next year.

National Cup 2015

Hitchin Boys team (below) finished 7th in England in the National Athletics Schools final, which is an outstanding achievement. A breakdown of results is listed top right.



National Cup – National Final 4th July 2015 7th: 516pts: Hitchin Boys' School, Hertfordshire

100m	12.0s = 12.6s =	23pts 17pts	Ed Spindler Joe Hall
200m	26.7s = 25.1s =	15pts 20pts	Isaac Strickland Ricardo Green
300m	39.4s = 39.0s =	25pts 26pts	George Fitter Brent Morris
800m	2m13.0s = 2m15.3s =	20pts 18pts	Ben Wilmot Louis Lomas
1500m	4m41.1s =	17pts	Sam Kester
Hurdles	11.1s = 12.2s =	29pts 24pts	Peter Keefe Will Rodway
Relay	52.0s =	16pts	
High Jump	1.56m = 1.71m =	18pts 23pts	Joe Hall Louis Lomas
Long Jump	5.36m = 5.21m =	18pts 17pts	George Fitter Ed Spindler
Triple Jump	12.06m = 12.03m =	22pts 22pts	Issac Strickland Ben Wilmot
Pole Vault	3.00m =	21pts	Lee Brown
Shot	11.03m = 9.92m =	19pts 15pts	Will Rodway Brent Morris
Discus	36.11m = 27.03m =	26pts 18pts	Peter Keefe Ira Johal
Javelin	40.08m =	20pts	Matthew Waters
Hammer	45.79m =	27pts	Brandon Norman

So far this year we have had 13 new school records with a few results still to come in:

Year 7 Adam Price 800m: 2.25.2

Year 7 Joel Evans 75m Hurdles: 12.0

Year 8 Jean Claude Aka 80m

Hurdles: 11.5 (new Hertfordshire County Record)

Year 8 Aman Johal Discus: 37.54

Year 8 4x100m Relay: 49.7

(Kessi, Garthwaite, Aka, Bennet)

Year 9 Brent Morris 400m: 55.0

Year 9 4x100m Relay: 47.8

(Stanton, Green, Strickland, Morris)

Year 10 Peter Keefe 100m Hurdles: 13.8

Year 10 Peter Keefe Discus: 41.39

Year 10 Matthew Waters Javelin: 43.70

Year 10 4x100m Relay: 46.6

(Rodway, Keefe, Fitter, Spindler)

Senior Boys George Marvell

Hammer: 68.42

Senior Boys Max Schopp 400m

Hurdles: 53.79

Sports Reports (continued)

Achievements 2015

**District Indoor Athletics
Champions 2015:** Year 7

**District Indoor Athletics
Champions 2015:** Year 8

**Hertfordshire Indoor athletics
Champions:** Year 7

**Hertfordshire Indoor Athletics
Runners up:** Year 8

District Athletics Champions 2015:
Year 7

District Athletics Champions 2015:
Year 8

District Athletics Champions 2015:
Year 9

District Athletics Champions 2015:
Year 10

District Athletics Champions 2015:
Seniors

Herts County League: Winners U14

Herts County League: Winners U16

Herts County Final Winners: U14

Herts County Final Runners up:
U16

Nat'l Cup Regional Finalists: U14

Nat'l Cup National Finalists: U16
(7th in England)

Mr Bajak

Art Department

I would like to use this opportunity to say a farewell to all the boys. As some of you may know, it is my last year at Hitchin Boys' School. I have been here for 14 years and it has been amazing to see boys grow into successful young men. I have had the privilege to teach some very talented artists and photographers, and the boys have always been an inspiration to me. I am sad to leave but it is time for me to go home! I will be returning to Yorkshire during the summer holidays, ready to start my new teaching post in September. I wish everyone the best of luck and success in your chosen careers.

Mrs Aldin-Burnett

Duke of Edinburgh Update

This year has been an exciting one for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Hitchin Boys' School.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an invaluable experience and achieving the award is fantastic recognition of hard work, commitment, self-discipline and employability. In September 21 boys completed their Bronze award and were invited to the North Herts Presentation Evening in April to be presented with their award. We are so proud of these boys and are so pleased that some of them have continued onto the new challenge of the Gold award.



More recently there have been 72 boys from years 10 and 11 working on their Bronze award. The DofE Award scheme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, you just need to be over 14 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by. Students have engaged in a wide range of activities such as sports coaching, working with the disabled, developing skills in photography and music and volunteering time in charity shops. Recently they undertook their overnight expedition in the area surrounding Henlow. The boys were able to put into practice the compass and map reading skills they had learnt, while also working as a team. This expedition saw the boys walk with strength and speed on one of the hottest days of the year. Mr Monks' walking group even stopped for a paddle in a river while Mrs Anderson's group enjoyed an ice-cream! After a long day walking the boys enjoyed getting back to their pitched tents and cooking their evening meals. Once washed up and tidied away the boys sat with their feet up around the camp fire, with birthday cake and marshmallows, discussing the excitement of the day! To enable the expedition to happen we are very grateful to the Parents' Society and the school for purchasing the camping equipment that we needed.

We are excited to be able to invite Year 9s (soon to be Year 10s) to enrol on the award program in September, as well as launch the Gold Expedition to the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia. Next year looks like another exciting year for the DofE Award scheme at school and I would like to say a big thank you to the boys and staff that give so much to make it happen.

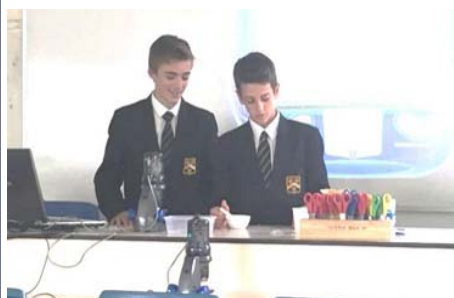
*Miss Rainbow
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator*



Science Department News

STEM Trip to Cheshunt School

Ten Year 9 pupils attended an afternoon event run by Setpoint and the Royal Society of Chemistry, which covered four activities designed to stretch and challenge students' chemical knowledge. Students had a fun afternoon enjoying activities such as Fizzy Surprises, Keep Your Cool, Hot and Cold and What a Pain.



Key Stage 3 Extended Learning - Crest Award

KS3 Extended Learning has continued this half term with students working on improvements to their boat projects leading them to gain a Bronze Crest Award. The "water run" has been modified several times, increasing/decreasing water flow, lengthening/shortening the water run, thinking of ways to stabilize buoyancy and modifying sails. Over the past few weeks students have started work books detailing their designs, methods, results and conclusions.



STEM Sixth Form Trip to Bletchley Park

Fifteen Sixth Formers enjoyed an interesting day recently at Bletchley Park, entering into the Codebreakers' secret world. Huts and blocks set within the Victorian Estate gave pupils the opportunity to discover the Enigma collection, The Bombe operated by WRNS and Hut 8 containing the Brilliant Minds exhibition. A range of galleries and exhibitions including Wartime Military Transport, the National Radio Centre, the Imitation Game display and the Mansion were also included in our visit.



Year 7 Science Club

Year 7 Science Club has continued this term with many fun and exciting activities. Pupils have enjoyed making and flying twirlies, pond dipping, mini motors and much more.



House Forensic Science Day - CSI: HBS

Earlier in July the Biology Department organised a house "Who Done It?" forensic science morning. Eight Sixth Formers acted as suspects, and a crime scene was created and filmed. Five Year 9 students from each house were our Forensic Scientists led by Police Lieutenant Horatio Caine (Mr Cook).



The investigators carried out several practicals which enabled them to eliminate the suspects. Activities included chromatography, urine testing, hair analysis, blood sampling and liver investigation. A great time was had by all and three house teams discovered the culprit!

Police Lieutenant Horatio Caine awarded house points after each activity, judging observation, accuracy, elimination, awareness and data results.

The final scores were: Radcliffe 78 points, Mattocke 63, Pierson 42 and Skynner 33. Well done to our young Forensic Scientists!



Science Department News

STEM Food Tech trip to Jamie Oliver's Recipease

On Monday 29th June, 31 boys from years 7-10 enjoyed the Food STEM trip's second opportunity to visit Jamie Oliver's 'Recipease' this year. The day started with the boys making a hearty breakfast of pancakes with bacon or maple syrup or a selection of fresh fruit, breakfast muffins and berry fruit and banana smoothies at school, before setting off just after 9am for the Portobello Whole Foods Market in Notting Hill, an eco-minded chain with natural and organic groceries and houseware items. The boys had the opportunity to watch and taste food demonstrations, with tempting freshly cooked foods such as artisan breads, unusual cheeses, Asian foods, and spicy chilli sauces.

After the 'Whole Foods' shopping spree, we took a short walk to 'Recipease' in Notting Hill Gate. The boys were greeted with a video link from Jamie Oliver himself, passing on his wishes that the boys enjoy their cooking experience that afternoon in his workshop kitchen. Firstly, the boys were delighted to be able to make and decorate their own chocolate lollipops. Whilst these were chilling, the boys avidly watched the step by step demonstration on making fresh pasta, which they duly followed to enable them to make their own lunch, consisting of a summer broad bean and pea filled pasta, with a choice of garlic and chilli flavourings, tossed in a garlic and herb butter. The boys made their own pasta into raviolis and pasta shapes with such concentration and attention to detail, it was an absolute delight to witness. They were able to sit down and eat their hard-earned lunch by about 2.15pm.



By 3.15pm it was unfortunately time to leave and return to school from another successful trip to Jamie Oliver's, with all thoroughly enjoying the day. "Recipease" have since emailed me, stating "what a pleasure the boys had been, and how their behaviour was exemplary and a credit to the school too" and that they were looking forward to the next time we take another group of our boys. Well done lads!

Mrs Kavanagh

Year 9 STEM/Science Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

137 Year 9 pupils had a great day at Whipsnade Zoo in the first week of July, enjoying animal shows such as Birds of the World and Sea Lion Splash, visiting the new Butterfly House containing over 30 different species, discovering the different areas of the park and seeing animals from around the world.



STEM Big Bang Event

Key Stage 3 Extended Learning students visited the STEM Big Bang Fair held recently at Newmarket



Racecourse. The event is a UK wide programme bringing Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to life for young people. There were many activities, workshops, experiments and quizzes encouraging pupils to participate and challenging them in problem solving, discovery and knowledge.

Year 6 Transition Day

The Science Department welcomed 28 Year 6 pupils for a Science Taster Lesson earlier this term. The boys had fun making Rainbow Fizz and attempting to make the five Olympic Rings on a piece of card over a Bunsen burner.

A big thank you to Mrs Murphy and Mr Warman for their support in our extra curricular activities - their commitment and enthusiasm has been boundless.

Finally, we would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs Murphy and Dr Paterson who are leaving the Science Department at the end of term. We wish them well in their future appointments.



The Hitchin Boys' School Old Boys' Association (HBSOBA)

The very title is almost guaranteed to put you off. Are we talking about a group of dodderly old codgers who dribble constantly and spill gravy down their ties? Rarely! It's simply a way for those who were students at HBS to keep in contact with the School itself and, just as importantly, with friends who were here, too.

A former head boy, now a qualified engineer, recently told me that when he spoke to fellow university students, including those who had attended prestigious public schools, almost none of them expressed any desire to maintain their school contacts. He, however, knew that a large number of former HBS students loved returning to the old place to see how it was developing and to meet up, probably at the Annual Dinner, held in April, with friends whom further education and careers had scattered around the country or even the world.

If you would like to see whether such a continuing link with the School is for you and benefit from free membership for five years, do contact the Secretary of the HBS Old Boys' Association, Peter Hollingsworth, at hbsobasec@gmail.com

Andrew Parr
President



Back Row L-R - Benji Cowell, Jack Ferguson, Matt Livesey, Frazer McGown, Joe Weeks, Ryan Gillard, Stephen Boakes, Jonathan Taylor Front Row - L-R - Felix Harris, Timothy Cranfield, Pieter Roden, Joeseeph Wilmot (Head Boy), Rory Clark, Christian de Trafford, George Thornton

Japan Day

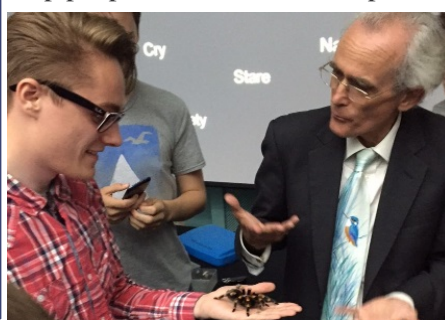
On 23rd June, 75 boys attended a talk by a Japanese woman called Nanako, who spoke of her experiences growing up in Tokyo. She also taught us how to count in Japanese and showed us some symbols for parts of the body. Other departments got involved, with sushi in Food Tech, haiku in English, ninja and samurai in History, and still life using Japanese items in Art. Over 200 boys applied to take part in the sessions run by Nanako, and so we hope to run this again next year.

Mr Wilson



Year 12 Psychology Trip

Last Tuesday, Year 12 psychology students made the trip to London zoo to explore the psychology of phobias with clinical hypnotherapist John Clifford. He described some of the phobic cases he has worked with and explained his 'combined therapy' approach to dealing with such cases. Students had the chance to experience group hypnosis for themselves. Many were surprised at how susceptible they were to the suggestion that they were holding a pile of heavy books and also just how relaxing hypnosis can be! Finally, they had the opportunity to meet Rosie, one of the zoo's 'friendly spiders', who can help people overcome arachnophobia.



EPQ Visit to Herts University

Year 12 students recently spent a day at the University of Hertfordshire taking part in activities to prepare them for the process of undertaking their own independent research for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). University staff gave up their time to explain the benefits of taking this qualification in terms of the academic skills that are developed, the direct relevance to degree level study and also how positively the EPQ is viewed by universities. They were encouraged to reflect on some of the challenges they face, as well as the rewards and also reminded of the need to take charge of their own learning. All came away with renewed enthusiasm for the topics they have chosen and many were armed with useful research materials that they were to access in the university library.

Mrs Pitts

Parents Society' News

This year's Summer Fayre was fantastic! The Parents' Society would like to give a big THANK YOU to all involved in making it such a great event. A special thanks to Miss Whale for letting us tape her to the wall. This year despite the rain was our best summer fayre yet, raising just short of £4,000! Events on the day included the Bake Off, being judged (right) during the day.



A big thank you to everyone who also supported the Star Spangled Summer Ball this year. Our guests had a great evening and were entertained by our wonderful school Jazz Band (seen here in the photo). Thank you also to Joe Wilmot and his team of prefects who did a sterling job looking after the tables and selling raffle tickets throughout the evening! Final figure raised on the night is looking close to £5,700!



Macmillan Charity Day: Friday 10th July

Last Friday was Hitchin Boys' school's annual charity day, which this year was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The charity was picked by a democratic election of students earlier in the year.

Students were encouraged to wear non-uniform on the day for a small donation, and the day started with a number of events throughout the school, all arranged by the Senior Prefect team. At the beginning of each period, one year from 7 to 9 was taken out of their lessons to contribute towards the day, with a choice of activities. By far the most popular was the 5 – a side football tournament arranged on the AstroTurf, in collaboration with the PE teachers. Refreshments could be purchased on site, which raised copious amounts per period, with some students donating just in order to watch!

Other activities included a movie theatre in the main hall, and a games room created in the darkened drama studio, with the occasional in-house pianist from the sixth form. Both inspired lots of donations, which helped us well on our way to the target of £2,000.

During both break and lunch time, thanks to a huge effort on behalf of the staff (especially to Mrs Maddocks, Mrs Kavanagh and Miss Urey who all kindly donated cakes)

and the Sixth Form prefects, Hitchin Boys' witnessed an explosive cake sale, selling out within five minutes and having to completely re-stock before lunch. Not quite in keeping with the calm tone of the usual Macmillan coffee mornings!

Also, an ever popular event held at lunchtime was the teacher stocks in the quad, which saw pupils lining up to enjoy some good-spirited revenge on their teachers, in the form of whipped cream and sponges. Along with a last minute visit by the head boy to the stocks, seven bottles of whipped cream and some ruined clothes later, a lot had been achieved for Macmillan Cancer Support, raising close to £200 in just forty minutes!

Also at lunchtime a few of the Sixth Formers hosted a crossbar challenge on the AstroTurf, which again felt the force of HBS generosity taking in far more than expected over lunchtime.



The day was a great success with students fully joining in the spirit of the events and donating as much as they could. The final count is yet to be totalled; however, it looks as though we will exceed the £2,000 target we set for ourselves. All that is left is to greatly thank all those pupils and staff who contributed towards the day - it was worth it for such a good cause.

*Christian de Trafford
Deputy Head Boy - Charity*

HBS Extreme Reading Challenge

As we wind down for the holidays we are inviting both boys and staff to enter the HBS Extreme Reading Challenge. The rules are simple:

1. Read a book.
2. Do it in an 'extreme' i.e. unusual or entertaining situation. We are looking for the extraordinary so be inventive but do stay safe and be careful.
3. Get someone to take your photograph.
4. E-mail the photograph to library@hitchinboys.co.uk or print it off and hand it into the Library by Tues 8th September.
5. Don't forget to put your name on the photograph.

The best will be displayed. Happy reading!

*Mrs Hunt and Mrs Vipond
Librarians*

Calendar Dates: September - October 2015

Date	Event
Tuesday 1st September	INSET Day
Wednesday 2nd September	Year 7 students in all day; Year 12 in 8.45am; Year 13 in 1.30pm
Thursday 3rd September	Years 8 - 11 in all day
Thursday 3rd September	Year 7, 10 and 12 Photographs
Friday 4th September	Year 12 Post-18 Options Events (UCAS)
Thursday 10th September	Parents' Society BBQ for New Year 7 parents 7pm
Monday 14th September	Year 9 Battlefields Day
Tuesday 15th September	Year 8 and Year 12 Tutor Evening
Wednesday 16th September	Year 7 and Year 11 Tutor Evening
Thursday 17th September	Year 10 Information Evening
Tuesday 22nd September	Open Morning 9.15am - 12pm
Tuesday 22nd September	Open Evening 6.30 - 8pm
Thursday 24th September	Open Morning 9.15am - 12pm
Friday 25th September	Year 10 Art/Photography trip to the Henry Moore Foundation
Friday 25th September	Year 7 Action Challenge Day
Wednesday 30th September	Year 9 Battlefields Trip departs
Thursday 1st October	GCSE Drama Performances 6pm
Saturday 3rd October	Year 9 Battlefields Trip returns
Tuesday 6th October	Year 10/11/HPG Music 'Ten Pieces' film trip
Friday 9th October	INSET Day
Thursday 15th October	Composer's Concert 7pm
Monday 19th October	AS Music Performance Assessments (morning)
Tuesday 20th October	Post-16 Options Evening 7pm
Monday 26th October	Half Term

Year 10 Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Careers afternoon

On Tuesday 7th July, around ninety Year 10 pupils took part in a STEM Careers afternoon. They enjoyed five presentations from scientists and engineers from across industry and at a variety of career stages. The afternoon started with Mike Hann, who is Principal Scientific Investigator at GlaxoSmithKline. Mike spoke about his long career and current work in Science, and spoke about broader themes of developing a career and working at the edge of your knowledge. Alistair Southward, who works as a Development Chemist at Johnson Matthey, spoke about his work designing and commissioning new equipment and working practices, including a new

multimillion pound furnace. Lewis Gibbs bravely volunteered to demonstrate the heavy duty protective equipment that Alistair sometimes has to wear for 4-5 hours a day while working on the furnaces. Alistair also spoke about how he chose where to apply for university, taking into account more than just the subject. Humza Chandna, a current part-time A-level student at HBS who is also working part-time as a Research Assistant at the University of Hertfordshire, spoke about his current work on medical projects, and his GCSE and A-level years. The afternoon concluded with two scientist/engineers with a long career in the field. John Cooper, a regular supporter of the HBS Science Department, spoke on his work at Xerox on the development of photocopier technology, and Ian Mutton spoke about his extensive work with chromatography at

GlaxoSmithKline. The pupils joined the Science department in thanking all of our speakers for their time in coming to speak at the event, and broadening their horizons on the wide opportunities available in the STEM field.

*David Paterson
Head of Science*

Below: Alistair Southward (speaker) demonstrating the protective equipment (worn here by Lewis Gibbs, Year 10) he wears when working on his new furnace.



STOP PRESS: Sports Awards 2015

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Most improved athlete	Adam Price	Woody Garthwaite & Henry Bennet	Ricardo Green	Joe Hall
Athlete of the year	Daniel Kessi	Jean-Claude Aka	Brent Morris	Peter Keefe
Most improved Cricketer	Harry Gates	James Redmond	Theo Reintjes	Elliott Willoughby
Cricketer of the year	Leighton Gibbs	Ben Guest	Connor Dudley	Harry Lanyon
Cricket MVP	Elliott Beard Overall Winner	Ben Guest	Will Stewardson	Harry Lanyon
Team of the year			Inter-boys athletics team	
Sportsman of the Year	Elliott Beard & Daniel Kessi	Ben Guest	Brent Morris	Matthew Waters
Lester Salver	George Marvell – Hammer			

JUNIOR HALF COLOURS	JUNIOR FULL COLOURS
Will Stewardson – Cricket Connor Dudley – Cricket Sam Bellinger – Cricket James Smith – Cricket Jean-Claude Aka – Athletics Aman Johal – Athletics Brent Morris – Athletics Michael Knowles – Athletics Ed Spindler – Athletics George Fitter – Athletics Lee Brown – Athletics Joe Hall - Athletics	Harry Lanyon – Cricket Ben Wilmot – Cricket Peter Keefe – Athletics Will Rodway – Athletics Sam Kester – Athletics Ben Wilmot – Athletics Brandon Norman – Athletics Matthew Waters - Athletics
	SENIOR FULL COLOURS
	George Marvell – Athletics Max Schopp – Athletics

New Twitter account

The Art Department have recently set up their own Twitter feed (@HBSArt), joining several other departments plus the Library and the Parents' Society as well as the school itself. To see all the accounts in one place, go to www.hitchinboys.co.uk and scroll down - all recent tweets from all school accounts appear at the bottom right of the page.



Hitchin Boys' student Harkeert Rayat performs the tabla at the Rhythms of the World festival in Hitchin last month.

Careers

Firstly, many thanks to the Jardine Group and North Herts College for attending the recent Sixth Form Apprenticeship workshop which allowed pupils an opportunity to look at an alternative career pathway to the traditional UCAS route.

Secondly, with the help and assistance of the Old Boys Association and numerous parents, we will be running a series of career sector assemblies/presentations for KS4 and 5 pupils in the Autumn term. If you may be able to help, or you know of an employer who may be able to support the school in this venture, please would you consider volunteering?

Each careers presentation should be approximately 20 minutes long and try to cover a selection of the following:

- Opportunities within the sector
- General introduction of tasks conducted
- Entry requirements
- Different Entry Routes
- Opportunities for school leavers
- Application process
- Labour Market Information

Please contact Careers Adviser Mr Moore (rmoore@hitchinboys.co.uk) if you can help.