



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



October 2015

Head Teacher's Comment

It has been a busy few weeks so far. I am writing to you after an inspiring morning assembly focused on Black History Month, in particular promoting both diversity and equality in our community. It was an absolute joy to see the "Selfie Hashtag" competition in which numerous students from all year groups came together to invent a meaningful slogan to symbolise the concepts of equality and diversity at HBS - the results can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Parents' Society have already been hard at work arranging events for the year, starting with a hugely attended barbecue for new Year 7 parents. Please do sign up to help them carry on their great work raising extra money for the boys.

Our Open Days and Evening were as usual extremely positive occasions and we welcomed over 700 people during the course of the two days. (As usual the single most common question was about admissions, as we are of course sadly always over-subscribed. Meetings have taken place with Herts County Council about expansion for the future, but this will not be until 2018 at the earliest.)

We have also been lucky enough to see the return of our Composers' Concert, organised by Mrs Strachan and the Music Department, which was a superb and eclectic joy. There have also been many sporting events, Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Bronze expeditions and lots of other work done to get the new year underway as effectively as possible. In summary then, an exciting half-term with lots happening to remind us that HBS is a great place to learn.

Martin Brown



'I am writing to you after an inspiring morning assembly focused on Black History Month...'

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British values

Throughout the school, with our teams of form tutors and Heads of Years, we have started questioning ourselves on how we can promote British values.

The vital first steps were to look at definitions of British values. The government describes them as:

- democracy;
- the rule of law;
- individual liberty;
- mutual respect;
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

All forms in years 10 and 11 did an activity in small groups to help them to think and understand the importance of British values. They had to speak about the values above, imagining that they were explaining them to someone who

had never been to Britain before. They discussed issues such as how do we expect people to behave? (e.g. manners, queuing); what rules do we have in Britain? What about rules over religion or beliefs?

Boys were interested in the subject and shared thoughtful comments, such as: "We believe in British values. We believe in freedom of speech. We get on with everyone regardless of their religion or background. We believe in the right to vote. We believe that British values should include the opportunity to have a cup of tea, scones and jam, a bacon butty, crumpets, a pint of lager or bitter. We respect the Queen. We have the right to go to church if we want to or to follow which ever religion we want. We respect the laws of the land."

Miss Oliva

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HBS celebrates European Day of Languages



Friday 25th September saw the MFL Department at HBS celebrate European Day Of Languages. Boys were encouraged to reflect about the use of languages and the variety each culture has to offer.

As usual, hard-fought competitions took place throughout the week both in form time and in lessons. The hotly anticipated results will soon be released on the MFL twitter account.

After enjoying a free European breakfast, boys attended the now traditional multilingual assembly where they discovered the ten words that we should steal from other languages. They were then treated to lively renditions of The Three Little Pigs by teachers and fellow students in a variety of international languages.

Mrs Cavill

Mobile Phones - a reminder for parents

Mobile phones can be a distraction in lessons and around the school. Mobile phones can make boys more at risk of being victims of crime. Mobile phones can be used as a means of intimidating others by sending inappropriate messages and taking photographs or videos without permission. For all these reasons we discourage boys from bringing mobile phones into school.

However, we also realise that many parents need their sons to have access to a mobile phone before and after school as a means of communication. Therefore, whilst we advise parents not to allow their sons to carry such

devices to school, if such devices are brought in, **they must be switched off and in a bag at all times during the school day; this includes moving between lessons, break and lunchtime.**

There are no exceptions to this rule for Years 7-11. Sixth Formers may use mobile phones within the Sixth Form Centre Common Room only – in all other areas they are expected to set an appropriate example for younger students by NOT using their phones in public.

The only exception to the above will be if a member of staff authorises the use of such devices in a lesson to support the learning in the classroom - for example, to photograph a finished product in order to upload the image for the purposes of coursework or to conduct necessary research.

If teachers see students using their mobile phone, they will confiscate it and give it to their Head of Year, who will give it back at the end of the day. If this happens too many times, we will ask you to come to collect it.

The following links are articles you could read about this topic, I am sure

it will start a good family discussion. Evidence through research shows that mobile phones and their unfettered use is impacting seriously on our children, their learning and more importantly their health and wellbeing.

www.theguardian.com/education/2015/may/16/schools-mobile-phones-academic-results

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-32771253>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-33227471>

Miss Oliva

Twitter

Don't forget that we have a number of Twitter accounts other than the main school one, @HitchinBoys, that you can follow if you wish.

These include: @HBSLibrary, @HBSMusicdept, @HBSPE, @HBSMfl, @HBSArt, @HBSMathematics, @HBSGeog, @HBSBusEcon and @HSParentsSociety. The latest tweets from all these can be seen in one place at www.hitchinboys.co.uk.

Improving communication with parents and carers

We are currently implementing a new system, SIMS InTouch, which will allow us to communicate with parents/carers via text message or email and offer some additional benefits over the current system. SIMS InTouch will replace our current Parentmail 2 system by the end of 2015. There may be some duplication of messages initially as we will use both systems until all year groups are switched over.

We will be able to share electronically with you information about your child's achievements (including progress check reports) and behaviour, alerts if your child is not in school, and reminders about parent evenings and other school meetings. You will also be able to respond to the message by replying to the text or email or by telephoning the school.

There is no separate registration process needed for SIMS InTouch, as we will use the email address and mobile number that we currently hold in our database for each student's Priority 1 contact. If you wish a second contact to also receive messages via InTouch, then please let us know through the method below.

If you do change your contact details at any time during the year, please let the school know as soon as possible (you can do this via our school website using the 'General Enquiry' form on the Contact Us page). The details you provide will be kept private and used for school business purposes only. If you have any queries, please contact the school on 01462 432181.

Duke of Edinburgh Award update

This year has started off with a bang for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Hitchin Boys' School. Within the first six weeks we have had over 50% of Year 10 start their Bronze Award journey. 67 boys from Years 11 and 12 accomplished their Bronze qualifying expedition which sees the completion of their award after a year of hard work volunteering within the community and developing both physical attributes and individual skills. IN addition, 13 boys from Years 12 and 13 started their Gold Award and completed their practice expedition in the Black Mountains of Wales!! The expedition section at all levels of the award provides a great challenge and this couldn't have been truer for those boys at Gold level. As two teams they negotiated their way across unforgiving terrain from the North to the South of the Black Mountains over 4 days/3 nights carrying personal kit and food for the entire trip as well as their tents and cooking stoves. The boys showed resilience and strength and gained a sense of achievement in a way that some had not felt before. On the last morning, after walking in two teams for the past few days the boys united as one team and woke in the dark to climb to the top of the closest peak to watch the sun rise. D of E is all about taking yourself out of your comfort zone and embracing opportunities that come your way. This couldn't be truer for a number of the boys on this trip and when they reached the top the view was breath taking and will be something the boys will not forget.



Miss Rainbow

Young Letter Writer Competition

The Royal Mail are running a letter writing competition for 11 to 14 year olds. The theme of the competition is 'What's your dream job?' and the closing date is Friday 20th November. If you are interested in entering, please email Miss Waller (jwaller@hitchinboys.co.uk), speak to your English teacher for more details or go to the official website:

<http://www.ichild.co.uk/RoyalMailYoungLetterWriterCompetition?royalmail>



Extreme Reading Challenge: winner announced

We had some great entries for this, the best of which are on display in the Library. Pierson provided the most entries, however, the winner has to be Alex Wetherhill 8MS (Skynner) who is shown here wakeboarding in Bedford. Sadly, his book did not survive the challenge but what an effort he made. Well done Alex!



Readaxation

Readaxation is a buzz word currently doing the rounds. But what is it and why is it a good idea?

Readaxation is the act of reading for pleasure to reduce stress levels. It acknowledges that relaxation is not a luxury but an essential part of physical and mental wellbeing and health.

Here are 10 reasons why boys should make time in their busy day to read.

Reading for pleasure:

1. Helps you understand other people better.

2. Helps you face and understand difficult times.
3. Improves confidence and self-esteem.
4. Lets you switch off from worries and so feel less stressed.
5. Exercises lots of areas of the brain.
6. Improves imagination/creativity.
7. Helps you get to sleep.
8. Helps you know more about the world, including facts.
9. Increases vocabulary.
10. Helps you succeed better at school.

*Mrs Hunt and Mrs Vipond
Librarians*

Science Department News

CREST Award for the Science Department

Our Science Department has just been awarded a CREST Teacher Recognition Award for their hard work supporting CREST awards over the past year. The certificate is one of only 300 presented to teachers from across the UK this year.

The British Science Association runs the CREST scheme, a programme for young people, providing science enrichment activities to inspire and engage 5-to-19-year olds. It is the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. CREST gives pupils the chance to participate in hands-on science through investigations and enquiry-based learning.

Activities organised by the Science Department at HBS over the last year have included a Year 7 STEM Science Club, a Rocket Club, and extended learning projects for Key Stage 3 pupils which lead towards CREST Bronze awards.



Mrs Rainbow, Mr Warman and Mr Cook with their CREST Teacher Recognition Award and students from Year 7 Rocket Club.

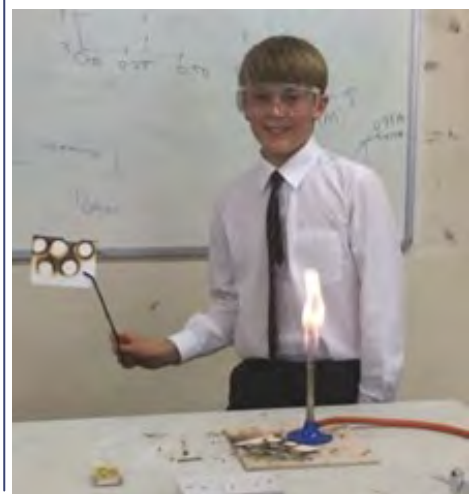
offering support and advice on the projects.

New members have also begun their projects, aiming for a Bronze Award, which requires 10 hours of work. They have been improving their project using their own ideas, problem solving and communication skills. They have the opportunity to develop their project with on-going support from Mr Warman and John Cooper.



Year 7 Science Club

Year 7 Science Club takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes. Pupils have been enjoying many exciting activities including Bunsen burner experiments, where they were challenged to produce the five Olympic rings on a piece of card another was investigating the inner part of the flame.



Open Evening

The Science Department gave a varied programme of experiments on Open Evening, with the help of many Year 7 students supported by Sixth Formers. A huge thank you goes out to those students who helped to make Open Evening an exciting and successful event.



Key Stage 3 Rocket Club

Mr Warman runs KS3 Rocket Club on Tuesdays after school. Students who attended the Club last year and gained a Bronze Crest Award are now working towards a Silver Crest Award. This entails 30 hours of project work, Silver Awards stretch students to develop their own project idea - they are encouraged to lead it and use their teacher as a sounding board for discussions. Students are also expected to consider the wider impact of their project, demonstrate an innovative approach and produce a project report of evidence to present to their Crest Assessor. John Cooper, STEM Ambassador, attends the Club

Sports Reports

HBS swimmers thrash Divisional record!

Friday 9th October saw a remarkable evening for four Hitchin Boys' School swimmers at the Eastern Region Divisional Secondary Schools relay championships held at Woodside Pool in Watford.

The medley relay saw the senior boys team of Matthew McPherson, Alex Evens, Sam Gamble and Luke Turley crowned Hertfordshire Schools champions, taking third place in the Eastern region.

However, it was in the freestyle relay that everything came together. A time of 1.39.40 not only saw them being crowned Eastern Division champions, but they also thrashed the previous record of 1.41.77. This record had been held for over ten years by Harrow School and now places the school team in the top six schools nationally for freestyle relay.

Head of PE Chris Pugh said: "This is a tremendous achievement for four completely dedicated swimmers. To be crowned Eastern Division champions is an achievement in itself, but then to break the record by so much is the icing on the cake. We are now looking forward to the National Finals in November with great anticipation."



The winning freestyle relay team: (L-R) Sam Gamble, Luke Turley, Alex Evens and Matthew McPherson

Badminton

The recent badminton results against Haberdashers' Aske's School were:

U18s Drew 6-6

U16s Lost 8-3

U14s Lost 7-5

U13s Won 8-3

The first rounds of the National Badminton competition are being held on the 12th November for the

Under 14s at

Knight's Templar

School and the 19th

November for the

Under 16s.

Congratulations also to the following boys who have been selected to represent Hertfordshire:

Max Titterton U17

Tommy Corteen U15

Tom Searle U15

Harry Searle U13

Table tennis

Over 60 boys have regularly attended practice this term in preparation for the District Championships, which are being held on Tues 24th November at Hitchin Boys' School.

Sports Leaders

Our Year 11 Sports Leaders have contributed to the local sporting

opportunities for Primary Schools organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership by assisting at the KS2 Olympic Legacy Event and the North Herts Primary Schools Cross Country Championships (photo below). Future planned events are the annual Indoor Athletics Championships in January and summer athletics Championship in June.

Mr Smith



Pay Monthly student saver ticket from Arriva

Due to the success of the Student Saver Ticket, Arriva now offer an easy Direct Debit scheme to all Herts, Beds and Bucks Students. If you are aged between 17 and 21, in full-time education, Child and Student Saver tickets from Arriva offer unlimited travel across the whole of the Arriva the Shires network.

An annual ticket can be purchased on a monthly basis via Direct Debit for a full academic year, benefiting from the discount of an annual ticket with the added convenience of paying monthly. In addition, Hertfordshire students in receipt of a Hertfordshire County Council Saver Card are able to purchase a child ticket up to the age of 18 and in full-time education. Saver Cards can be issued and purchased from Hertfordshire County Council. You will be asked to produce your Saver Card with your ticket each journey; failure to do so will result in full adult fare being applied.

For more information visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/

Year 12 Report

In this first half term Year 12s have had multiple extra-curricular activities to get involved in and to help them with school work. During one September assembly a team of people from the National Citizen Service (NCS) came into school and gave a talk about what NCS is. Students had an opportunity to sign up for it over a half-term, and a number did as it helps both the local community and also supports future applications.

All three secondary schools in the consortium also went to an afternoon 'Learn 2 Live' presentation recently. Luke Crabtree of Year 12 writes:

'The lower years may not be aware, but recently AS students went to the Gordon Craig theatre to watch a presentation run by the organisation 'Learn 2 Live'. This is an initiative informing 16 to 17 years olds about the dangers and responsibilities of learning to drive and being a young driver. The presentation had speakers from our local Road Safety Team, Fire and Rescue service, Police, Paramedics and family members that have been affected. One particular story featured a father who had lost his daughter to a car accident, which could have been avoided by taking proper care; this story brought many people to tears. Overall, the entire experience was thought-provoking as it gave a valuable insight to the dangers faced by all road users.'

Another assembly was from the Samaritans, telling us that we can talk to them if we are struggling with any problems in life. This was a very helpful assembly and certainly showed us that there is a lot of support out there, not just in school.

Approximately 25 Year 12s (including myself) took part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition, which was an interesting experience and very different to anything else I would have done voluntarily. Later this week all Year 12s are participating in an Inner Drive workshop to try and help them learn how to use their brain more effectively and how to better manage any failures we may encounter.

Matthew Maylin 12/13Ew



Defibrillators donated to HBS

Hitchin Boys' School has been fortunate to receive two defibrillators recently - one kindly donated by Lynne Shoebottom, who lost her son, former HBS pupil Matthew, to Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SAD) in 2010, and the other donated by local construction company Willmott Dixon.

If a person goes into cardiac arrest, a defibrillator can be used to try and restore the heart rhythm A

number of staff attended a training session led by Jo Hickey of the East of England Ambulance Service - here is Mr Mussino practising his new skills on 'Rescusiannie'.



Year 8 Barton Hills Geography Trip

On Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th September, Year 8 travelled to Barton Hills National Nature Reserve (NNR) which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We were there to study rock formations such as escarpments and other natural features. When we arrived, we split into groups and went to observe Barton Hills. We saw dry valleys, natural springs and escarpments. An escarpment is a rock formation, usually made of chalk, which consists of a gentle (dip) slope and a steep (scarp) slope. A natural slope forms when water flows out of a rock because it can't get through an impermeable rock beneath. At Barton this is clay and we looked at the differences in land use between the chalk and clay areas.

This trip was in preparation for our upcoming test and assessment this half term. All Year 8s took something away from this trip. We would like to thank the Geography department for arranging such a great trip.

Ethan Parmar and Max Pearson 8Cv



Calendar Dates: November - December 2015

Date	Event
Wednesday 4th November	Year 13 Consultation Evening 5pm
Monday 9th November	Year 11 MFL Speaking Assessment 2 (all week)
Monday 9th November	Parents' Society Committee Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 11th November	Autumn Music Concert 7pm
Thursday 12th November	Year 11 MFL Writing Assessment 2
Thursday 12th November	Year 9 Consultation Evening 5pm
Monday 16th November	Year 11 Mock Exams start (two weeks)
Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November	Year 12 Consultation Evening 5pm
Thursday 19th November	Governors' Audit Committee 6pm
Thursday 19th November	Parents' Society Ghost Walk 7pm
Friday 20th November	Lower School Disco 7pm
Tuesday 24th November	Governors' Chair's Steering Group 6pm
Thursday 26th November	Winter Recital 7pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Governors' AGM/Main Board Meeting 6pm
Thursday 3rd December	A Level trip to Berlin departs
Thursday 3rd December	Year 12 Study Skills Workshop
Friday 4th December	Occasional Day Holiday
Friday 4th December	Year 13 Geography Annual Hazards Day conference
Monday 7th December	Year 11 Food Technology Controlled Assessment (every morning this week)
Thursday 10th December	Year 11 MFL Writing Assessment 2
Thursday 10th December	Celebration Evening
Friday 11th December	Year 12 Study Skills Workshop
Monday 14th December	Carol Service at St Mary's 7.45pm
Tuesday 15th December	School Carol Services
Friday 18th December	End of term

Parents' Society News

A huge thank-you to all those who supported the Parents' Society last academic year, helping to raise a grand total of £15,534. Events planned for the next half term include the popular Hitchin Ghost Walk with Derek Wheeler on Thursday 19th November (more details to follow), and the regular Lower School Disco for Year 7 and 8 pupils from both Hitchin Boys' and Hitchin Girls' schools on Friday 20th November.

Easy Fundraising

Don't forget to collect FREE school funds when you shop online this Christmas, whether on phones, tablets or on your PC. Remember, with nearly 3,000 retailers to choose from you can collect free donations on

everything from panto tickets to panettone with easyfundraising. It's incredibly simple and only takes a few minutes to register at no cost.

Just visit the site that lets you fundraise for Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society every time you shop online.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hbs>

Selfie Competition

As part of Black History Month, a selfie competition took place at HBS earlier this month. Students were asked to create a hashtag celebrating racial diversity at HBS, and also to take a selfie with their friends during form time to celebrate that cultural diversity. The Head, Mr Brown, looked at all the entries and selected the winners - Cameron Crowe, Josiah



Williams and Jai Johal from 9Lw (pictured above with their winning slogan). They win a gift voucher each. Second place went to a group from 9An, who win a free slice of pizza each one break time, and third place went to 7Bw group 3, who win a 'Jump the Queue' lunch pass for two days.



What are British Values?

- . Democracy**
- . The Rule of Law**
- . Individual Liberty**
- . Mutual respect and tolerance
of different faiths and beliefs**



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL PARENTS' SOCIETY

PRESENT

GHOST WALK & SUPPER EVENING

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER



Come and explore the scary past and present of Hitchin on our exciting Ghost Walk and Supper evening on Thursday 19th November.

The walk will start at 7 pm and finish at 8.45 pm at the Boys' school, where Supper will be waiting for you, and a cash bar including mulled wine will be available.

Tickets cost £12 each and include supper.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please complete and return the slip below in an envelope marked 'Ghost Walk' to the School Office by 13th November.

.....
Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society – Ghost Walk & Supper Evening

I would like..... tickets for the Ghost walk

I would like (number of) Fish and chips Sausage and chips Vegetarian option

Amount enclosed £

(Please make cheques payable to Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society)



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