



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



Newsletter

December 2015

Head Teacher's Comment

During this half-term there have been many and varied wonderful events, most of which you will find described in this packed newsletter. I would like to focus on one event in particular as I believe it has an important message for us all in these difficult times.

This year we held three assemblies in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the two World Wars, and indeed in the many conflicts since. As our guest speaker, Mr Andrew Parr, pointed out, there has only been one year since the end of the Second World War in which a British serviceman or woman has NOT lost their life in the service of their country. At the same time he talked about the grief of all who had lost family – on both sides of any conflict. We then held a minute of silence and the Last Post was played; a moment of deep remembrance which moved us all. We also held a minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th November along with the rest of the country. This was an example of our strong connection with our heritage and commitment to our traditional values.

Sadly, in response to the loss of life in Paris on 13th November, we then felt it appropriate (and as requested by Government) to hold another minute of silence on the following Monday along with much of the country. In this season of goodwill therefore, we feel a strong desire to discuss some of the consequences of extremist behaviour.

All staff have recently been trained under the Government's new anti-extremism policy, "Prevent". This aims to educate staff and children to avoid extremist activity. Obviously, with recent news events fresh in our minds, the immediate assumption could be that this policy is directed at avoiding Islamic radicalisation.

In fact the policy is very explicitly about ALL FORMS of extremist behaviour and as a school, we also feel it is vital that we raise the issue with our community, of extremists targeting Muslims. There is a risk that our young people may hear confused and racist messages from our media, politicians and others who seek to incite hatred.

As a community we must assert the fact that all people have the fundamental right to their religious beliefs and their cultural identity. These are the British Values which we hold so dear.

We must help our young people realise that the murderers in Paris and the USA and on the streets of London and other major cities and resorts around the globe do NOT represent Islam. By doing so we can help ensure that their thinking is not tainted by the extremist far-right groups who seek to vilify and demonise all Muslims.

Not just at this time of year, but at all times, it is vital for the healthy mental development of our young people that we bring them up to be strong in their awareness of democracy, liberty, respect and tolerance.

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and a great start to the New Year.

Martin Brown



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New Think U Know website from CEOP

CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) has launched a new version of their website for parents and carers at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents, which offers a completely refreshed suite of articles and guidance on all aspects of child internet safety.

Families can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents to access advice and support on how to keep children safe from sexual abuse, both online and off. Articles provide guidance on topics as diverse as: challenging harmful sexual attitudes and promoting positive behaviours; helping a child with autism negotiate life online; supporting a child who has been sexually abused; and dealing

with a range of online issues such as sending nude selfies and viewing pornography. Users will find films, downloadable guides and useful links to support organisations.

Families can also use the website to access the CEOP Safety Centre (www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre) where they can report abuse and exploitation direct to CEOP.



Hitchin Boys' School Christmas Market

Hitchin Boys' School held its first Christmas Market on the evening of Monday 30th November, which was attended by a large number of parents and supporters of the school. Head Boy Joe Wilmot wanted to thank those who helped raise money for the Garden House Hospice and donated items for the local Food Bank:

"This is just to say a huge thank you to all of those who came and supported our school and the charities we helped fund raise for. Firstly, the amount of donations we had for the local food bank surpassed our expectations and also that of the charity! We never expected to collect so many items, all of which will go to people in desperate need this Christmas. The donations were displayed under our Christmas Tree in the main hall. We would keep them under the big tree, but typical UK weather doesn't allow for it! All the donations have been delivered and we plan to top that next year.

Secondly, we hosted a Christmas Switch-On Event and Festive Market on a cold and certainly blustery Monday evening in an effort to raise as much money as possible for our selected charity, Garden House Hospice, which is based very close to us. With tensions running high in the build up, Miss Oliva and I were nervous about the amount of people that would turn up, estimating very few! However, we were in for a pleasant surprise as a surge of almost 300 people came through our doors during the evening. Students from Hitchin Boys' had stalls during the evening and our very own Parents' Society were selling Mulled Wine and a selection of food and drink. As the evening drew to a close, the tree was lit, the Quad was lit and homemade mini trees were also lit, with thanks to Mr Cranfield for his generous donation of lights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Society for their ongoing support in the lead up to and during the event. I would also like to thank the local businesses who came down to sell their huge array of wonderful festive items and also the students and teachers of the school who put in huge amounts of time and effort into making this all happen. Finally, I would like to thank Miss Oliva for her dedication and the time and effort she put into the organization of the evening.

Once again, the evening was a resounding success and we really could not have done it without you all.

Best wishes, Joseph Wilmot, Head Boy."



HBS Charity Day

Friday 11th December marked the HBS charity day for The Garden House Hospice, this year's local charity. The fundraising started earlier in the week with hastily devoured bake sales, featuring an impressive array of homemade samosas donated by sixth former Harnam Chana, and with the senior prefect team busily collecting non-uniform day money, amongst some very charitable donations by the students.

The day itself was marked by the remarkable Christmas spirit around the school, with students being encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers and other festive clothing. To emphasise this spirit, a Christmas fayre was put on in the quad at lunch, featuring yet more food stalls (which sold out with the same swiftness as always), festive Christmas music, and fayre games. In light of the terrible weather the hot chocolate stands were very welcome and we also made use of the hall for an ever-popular Christmas film.



Although the final total was unknown at the time of writing, we feel that it was a great success and along with the money raised from the Christmas lights switch on, that we will have made a valuable contribution to the Garden House Hospice. All that remains is to thank everyone who contributed towards the day and who kindly donated towards the cause. It made for an enjoyable day and a huge success.

Christian de Trafford
Deputy Head Boy




Update: The Sixth Form team raised £ 2,973 in total for the Garden House Hospice this term through the Christmas Tree switch-on, Christmas Market, non-uniform day and various bake sales.

Introducing Oliver

HBS Library has over 12,000 resources and you can now search these by accessing the Oliver library catalogue at <http://www.tinyurl.com/HBSLibCat>.

You can also click on "New Items" on the left hand navigation to see the latest additions to the collection. You will see we have a great collection of both contemporary and classic fiction for the boys to read for pleasure and non-fiction titles to support homework and learning.

The boys can access Oliver on school pcs in 3 easy steps:

- 1. Launch Internet Explorer**

- 2. Click on**

- 3. Enter search terms and hit Go!**


Book Sale

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Book Sale on Friday 15 January 2016 in the Library at lunch time. David's Bookshop of Letchworth have kindly agreed to bring in an up-to-date and varied collection of fiction books that boys enjoy reading. Students will have the opportunity to browse through the books or ask David's dedicated children's and young adult's book buyer about the books. All books will be available to buy at 20% or more off their usual price. Please bring any leftover Christmas money you may have and pick yourself up a gem. So remember:

What? Book Sale
Where? Library
When? Friday 15 January
Time? 12.30 to 13.30

Mrs Hunt and Mrs Vipond
School Librarians

New Twitter Account

A new Pastoral Care Twitter account, @PastoralHBS, has now been added to the list of various school Twitter accounts. You can see tweets from all the school accounts in one place on our Learning Platform at www.hitchinboys.co.uk, and you can also follow the main school account @HitchinBoys.

Arts Faculty News



As ever, the Christmas half term has been a busy one for the school's musicians and artists. We started the half term with our Autumn Concert, in which all our school ensembles give their first public performance of the year. It was a great success, with particularly strong performances from the Barbershop and the Percussion Groups, and it is always a pleasure to see the new cohort of students taking over from those who left last year.

We had our first Soloists' Recital of the year in late November, where a group of performers take the opportunity to gain solo experience in an informal concert setting; it is a pleasure to see that the tradition of singing remains very strong and we witnessed some excellent vocal and instrumental performances from students in years 7-13.

In mid-November a small group of musicians performed in the town centre to raise money for Children in Need, supported by some very persuasive members of the Senior Prefect Team; they raised just under £200 by playing to the lunchtime passers-by. Continuing the theme of supporting charities, the Chamber Choir, Brass Group and Barbershop performed at the Christmas Fayre on 30th November, as the lights on the Christmas tree were switched on; it was a cold and windy performance but an enjoyable and very successful evening.



At this time of year, we regularly take our musicians out into the local community and this year has been no exception; in early December the Barbershop, Chamber Choir and some instrumental players went to perform Christmas music to the residents of the Quantum Care Home in Letchworth and then played again at Nightingale House Day Centre in Hitchin. Feedback from residents and carers alike was unfailingly positive and all the performers were a credit to the school, both in their music making and in their interaction with their audience, who appreciated the time taken to come and play to them.



As usual, there were some excellent musical performances for Celebration Evening on 10th December, this year featuring Will Richardson (Year 13), Callum Russell (Year 9) and Edward Gimson (Year 12). There was a very strong and beautifully presented display of current art work for the event, organised by Mrs Anderson, which prompted much appreciation from the invited audience.

The last week of the Christmas term sees our annual Carol Services, with the performance for parents on Monday 14th December and for all members of the school on Tuesday 15th. This involves nearly 100 students, as well as a group of staff volunteers, and is a highlight of our school year. A massive thank you and well done to everyone who has taken part and helped to make this year's events a success.

Well done to all the musicians and artists of HBS for a successful and exciting term.

Ms Hetherington
Head of Creative Arts

New InTouch Communication System now live

The new InTouch email communication system is now up and running, and messages are regularly being sent home. We have email addresses for all but a handful of parents across the school. In order to ensure that you do receive messages (and they don't go into the Junk/Spam box), please add @capita-intouch.co.uk to your safe senders list.

If you are not receiving email messages and think that you should be, please email chope@hitchinboys.co.uk with your details, email address and son's name, and we will check that the information on our database is correct after the holidays.

Autumn Progress Checks

Autumn 2015 Progress Checks for years 7 - 11 will be sent home electronically on Friday 18th December. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact your son's form tutor in the first instance at their school email address (details of which will be in the email).

Christmas Raffle

The winners of this year's Christmas raffle are:

- 1st Eileen Emery*
- 2nd Colin Cameron*
- 3rd N Davies*

Thank you to all those who bought tickets. The final figure raised was £1852.

Congratulations also to Fahad Lone in 8Cw, who sold the most raffle tickets this Christmas. 7Up sold most as a form and will have two week "jump the queue cards" to get into the dining hall first.

Carol Service

The annual school Carol Service took place at St Mary's Church last Monday evening (14th). As part of a retiring collection, £337.02 was raised for North Herts Sanctuary.

Science Department News

Science has had a busy half term with many activities and trips taking place. KS3 Rocket Club continues with students researching, modifying and collecting data for their STEM Award Projects. Rocket Club students went to The Hub Lecture Theatre in Milton Keynes for the Christmas Schools Lecture "A Room with a Boom", presented by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The practical demonstration lecture gave pupils a fun afternoon with lots of bangs and whooshes. A big thank-you goes to Mr Warman, who runs Rocket Club supported by Claire Smith and John Cooper (STEM Ambassador).



Twenty seven Year 9 students went on a trip to the Natural History Museum then onto to Imperial College for the Children's Christmas Lecture.

Before the lecture, pupils visited the College's Fringe Event "It is Rocket Science", celebrating British Astronaut Tim Peake's imminent launch into space.



Pupils had the opportunity to talk to space scientists including Dr Helen Sharman, first Briton in space, plus hands-on research, create their own meteorite crashes, and much more.



Tom Jackson wearing Dr Sharman's space suit

Finally, the Children's Christmas Lecture "The Universe: A Journey through Space and Time" was presented by Dr Zita Martins. This whistle-stop tour through space and time included a close look at planets and moons across the solar system.

Tim Peake set off for the International Space Station this week and will spend six months there carrying out scientific experiments. He is the first British ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut to visit the Space Station. One of the educational projects being carried out is to "Grow Seeds that have been to Space", and turn pupils into "Space Biologists". Seeds have been sent to the International Space Station, and the project is giving schools the chance to grow the seeds in 2016, then compare them with seeds that have remained on earth. HBS have successfully applied and look forward to participating in the project at the start of the Summer term 2016.

Year 7 Science Club

Science Club continues with an enthusiastic group covering many different topics and hands on

activities. Pupils have enjoyed building paper bridges and testing the strength of their designs, flame tests and separating.



Mr Merison organised a half term project to create a model of the earth for his Year 8 Class, showing the crust, mantle outer and inner layers. Reuben Holden (below) won the task and received a Head of Year commendation.



GenerationNext - ROCHE

Roche recently organised the first ever Roche School Science Fair entitled "GenerationNext - It's in your DNA". The event was for sixth form students interested in pursuing a career in science or the pharmaceutical industry. The day kicked off with an opening address from Professor Lord Robert Winston, who then spent time with the students, and was followed by three workshops covering Genetics, Diagnostics and Immunotherapy.

At the end of the day Roche held a quiz based around the day's events. HBS came second and received a £250 prize to spend on new science

Science Department News (continued)

equipment. Roche complimented students on their smart appearance and conduct.



Anti-Bullying Drama Workshop

As part of Anti-Bullying week, along with year group assemblies, Mark O'Sullivan from Create Media and Learning came into to deliver an Anti-Bullying drama workshop to the whole of Year 7. Pupils explored a number of techniques before making their own drama plays, looking at the damage that bullying causes both physically and mentally. A great time was had by all, with everybody gaining something from the experience.



Celebration Evening

Thursday 10th December saw our annual Celebration Evening take place in the Main Hall. Students past and present came with their parents to be recognised for their outstanding achievements.

After an informal drinks reception and buffet in the Sixth Form Common Room, guests were able to admire a specially composed art display before the formal presentations began. Led by our Head Boy, Joe Wilmot, the presentations for academic achievement at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A-Level were interspersed with inspiring musical performances on piano, clarinet and vocal.

One highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Eric Reed trophy for the most outstanding performance in GCSE results. This year's winner was Ben Hilton.

A Level Trip to Berlin (3rd - 6th December)

In order to sample the delights of the German capital city's Christmas Markets, seven of our AS Level German students travelled to Berlin, using the Occasional Day at the

beginning of December.

Taking in sights such as the German Parliament Building (the Reichstag), the Brandenburg Gate and Bebelplatz (where the Nazi book burnings took place), students got the opportunity to be immersed in the language, practising by interviewing festive revellers in the atmospheric markets at Gendarmenmarkt and Charlottenburg.

There was also the opportunity to travel to the Olympiastadion, built for the 1936 Olympics, to watch Hertha BSC play and, ultimately, beat Bayer Leverkusen.

A great weekend was had by all and the students got to see the language in action, strengthening their enthusiasm for it and showing them the benefit of learning German, the second most widely spoken language in Europe.

Mr Wilson



Library Success: Wimpy Kid webchat

Well done to form 70f for getting world-renowned Jeff Kinney, author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, to answer their questions below in a live webchat on the Mumsnet website.

See the full thread at

www.tinyurl.com/HBSKinney



1. Did you get rejected the first time you wrote a book 🙄?

JeffKinney Thu 19-Nov-15 18:33:56

[Add message](#) | [Report](#) | [Message poster](#)

1. My book wasn't rejected, but when I tried to become a newspaper cartoonist, I didn't have any success!

2. What made you want to have a part in the films of Diary of a Wimpy Kid?

2. I wanted to be a part of the film universe, but in the background. I ended up in the foreground. I've learned that I'm no actor!

3. How old were you when you started your love of writing?

3. I started to love writing when I started doing a cartoon for the school paper in college!

Sports Reports

Badminton

Another excellent season for our teams, with both the U16s and U14s being crowned District Champions as well as performing well in the County Championships, where both finished a highly creditable third to receive bronze medals, just missing out on qualification for the Regional Finals.



U16 squad (above) - Max Titterton, Sam Kester, Tommy Corteen, Harry Lanyon, David Hume, Daniel Martin:

v HABS Lost 8-4
v John Warner Won 4-1
v Parmiters Won 5-0
v Verulam Lost 3-2
v Stanboro Won 5-0
Semi final v JHN Lost 3-2
Bronze medal v Verulam Won 3-2

U14 squad (below) - Tom Searle, Harry Searle, William Davis, Bruce Yao, Shaun Oaten:

v SFO Won 5-0
v Parmiters Won 4-1
v Verulam Won 5-0
v John Warner Won 5-0
Semi final v WBSG Lost 3-2
Bronze medal v Parmiters Won 3-2



Table Tennis

Our U16s and U13s retained their titles of District Champions and the U13s finished third in the group stages at the County Finals.

U16 squad - Sam Kester, Daniel Martin, Peter Keefe, Matthew Waters.



The U16 and U13 table tennis squads

U13 squad - Bruce Yao, Tom Russell, Sam Dermont, Charlie McDevitt, Elliott Beard, Louis D' Cruze, Will Pastor.

Mr Smith

Swimming

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Freestyle Relay swimming team of Matthew McPherson, Alex Evens, Sam Gamble and Luke Turley (below) who qualified, as the Eastern Region winners, for the National Schools Swimming Relay Championships in November at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Qualifying in first place in their heat, they were narrowly pipped into fifth place by Kelly College. This is a tremendous achievement for all four swimmers and places HBS in the top 1% nationally for freestyle relay.



Hockey Round-Up

A brief hockey round-up so far this season:

- 1st XI played HABS and won 4-3.
- Year 7 and 8 age groups won all four of their fixtures. 8As won 6-0,

Bs won 6-1. 7As won 4-0, Bs won 3-0.

- 1st XI were Indoor Hockey County winners, beating Watford Grammar and Aldenham 4-1 and 6-1.
- From this we went to the Indoor Regional Finals and won 2, drew 1 and lost 2. (Stamford, Norwich School, Bedford, Perse and Ipswich school, respectively), finishing third overall (below).



Rugby Reports

1st XV

The old saying from Alex Ferguson that if you “fail to prepare then you prepare to fail” reminds me of the 1st XV rugby season - as a group you will only be together, after playing rugby from Year 7, for 10 games at the top level. It should be the best rugby that you have played, a culmination of school life, one you can look back on with pride. But as you will be aware, rugby is the ultimate team game and requires everyone to commit, train and prepare. Unfortunately this year we suffered from a lack of these disciplines and although we had a

Sports Reports (continued)

great core of team players, too many disappeared when we needed them.

A winless season but one where we actually played some excellent rugby at times; a definite glimpse of what may have been. We came close against UCS and St Ignatius but that bit of extra experience was missing.

However, this season has given the school a great opportunity to build on the experience gained by the many Year 11 and 12's that have turned out for the 1st XV with great credit. The experience they have gained will make them, and ultimately the school 1st XV, stronger for next year and beyond. To those lads, don't waste that experience - train hard, work hard and enjoy it.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of everyone, all staff, not just P.E staff, who have given up their weekends to coach all of the age groups.

*Frazer McGown
1st XV Rugby Captain*

Year 10 Rugby

This year the Year 10 rugby teams (below) had a good season, with some brilliant running rugby leading to some wonderful victories; however there were a few disappointing and nail biting defeats along the way.

Both teams started off with heavy defeats to County Champions St Georges, with the A team losing 54-12 and the B team losing 40-12; however, both teams then responded well with the B team beating Leventhorpe 36-15 and the A team beating UCS 27-17. Unfortunately after showing much promise in these victories the next two games resulted in loses against Haberdashers and Richard Hale as the A team lost 29-22, a feisty encounter, and 26-19. The B team lost 40-5 and 20-5.

After a couple of weeks to rest the A team replied with a thumping victory at Roundwood Park 72-0, which included some outstanding rugby, even with the weather suggesting running rugby was impossible as the rain lashed down. This result was then backed up well with another convincing victory, this time against Verulam with a 46-12 win. After these results, both team travelled to St Columba's full of confidence, only to both lose narrowly as the A team fell short 34-31, which was a valiant effort due to them having to play with 14 men for



the majority of the game due to an injury. The B team also unfortunately lost 24-22; however both these performances showed the progress the team had made throughout the season.

This led us onto the last game of the season where the A team faced Enfield, who were only able to field nine players, which gave our bench a chance to play for them. The end result finished 58-5, which meant that we ended on a high and a good way to end an enjoyable season.

*Conor Dudley
Year 10 Rugby Captain*

Year 9 Rugby



The Year 9 rugby team (above) have had another impressive season and finished the season unbeaten. They played 12 games, scoring 610 points and only conceding five tries all season.

The season started with a comprehensive win against St Georges 64-0 in the County Cup, with Jai Johal impressing at fly half and the front row of Zac Whatling-Page, Harry Renner-Bennett and David Koffi doing lots of the hard unseen work.

Wins followed against Haberdashers and USC before facing Richard Hale in the next round of the County cup. Richard Hale have proved tough opposition in previous years but the defensive effort of the HBS team and their ability to keep the ball alive saw them comfortable winners 89-14. Alex Lloyd-Williams impressed in the back row - with his hard abrasive running and ability to turn the ball over at the breakdown, he would continue to be a constant threat all season.

The next round of the County Cup saw us make the trip to the impressive grounds of Bishop Stortford College. With full time grounds men and the choice of 20+ pitches, the players rose to the occasion and produced another fine display of attacking running rugby. Woody Garthwaite impressed with a fine display of counter attack full back play as did Aman Johal at centre, who distributes the ball very well, has a good eye for a gap and has found an extra yard of pace this season.

Another fine display followed against a strong Roundwood Park side, which contained five county

Sports Reports (continued)

players. Playing on a smaller pitch in wet and soft conditions the team showed they could match any side physically; the 76-0 win doesn't reflect the physical nature of the game. Standouts included Jude Schoeman, Cameron Crowe and Tom Pook.

Next up was the semi-final of the County Cup against a highly rated Bishop Stortford High School side which had previously been unbeaten. Defence won the game and strong ball carries from Henry Bennet and David Koffi helped add to an impressive team display. Hitchin Boys' won the game 55-7.

Two further victories followed, against Verulam (33-0 with Alfie Smales coming up with a try of the season contender as he carried about six players with him over the try line), and St Columba's (66-0), which set up a County Final against a strong Verulam side under lights at Hertford in front of a big crowd. The half time score was Hitchin Boys 14 Verulam 12. With the wind behind us in the second half Verulam struggled with territory and amazing breakdown work from scrum half Ben Guest who managed three tackle jackal turnovers. Two bulldozing try-scoring runs from man of the match Henry Bennet and some dazzling footwork from Jean Claude Aka made the score line flatter us a little. A hard-fought, intense game finished 41-12 and the Year 9's were crowned Hertfordshire U14 County Champions.

Congratulations to Zac Whatling-Page and Henry Bennet who have been selected to represent Hertfordshire U14s, and also to Aman Johal, Jai Johal and Alex Lloyd-Williams, who have been selected to attend Saracens elite development training as well as being selected for Hertfordshire.

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 rugby team are much improved from last year and show lots of potential for the future. They recorded comprehensive victories against Roundwood Park 24-7 and St

Autumn Term Rugby Awards

	Player of the Year	Most Improved Player
Year 8 A	Ben Aves	Jack Tomlinson
Year 8 B	Dylan Carpenter	Sam Thompson
Year 9 A	Alex Lloyd-Williams	Woody Garthwaite
Year 9 B	Tom Wyatt	Ollie Richardson
Year 10 A	Connor Dudley	George Old
Year 10 B	Michael Knowles	Michael Longstaff
1 st XV	Frazer McGown	George Vivian

Autumn Term Sports Colours

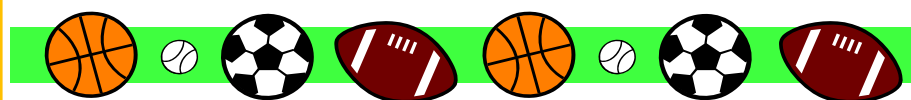
Junior Half Colours	Junior Full Colours	Senior Half Colours	Senior Full Colours
Rugby Cameron Crowe Zach Whatling-Page Jean Claude Aka	Rugby Aman Johal Jai Johal Alex Lloyd-Williams Henry Bennet Ben Guest Connor Dudley Sam Bellinger Brent Morris Ethan Brace Ethan Lavialle George Old Ben Reavill Ira Johal	Rugby Harry Elleston Ben Firth Ollie Sinclair Hem Johal Toby Smith	Rugby Benji Cowell George Vivian Frazer McGown Swimming Sam Gamble Matt McPherson Alex Evens Luke Turley

Autumn Term Sports Helpers

Thank you to the following boys who have supported the PE department with training our younger sportsmen. Your time and effort has been very much appreciated!

Rugby	Hockey	Basketball
Jack Ferguson George Vivian Tom Ferguson Joe Hall Brandon Norman Ethan Brace Ben Reavill James Jarvis Michael Knowles	Jack Ferguson Adam Mountney Toby MacCormack Jack Scott Rob Donald Nathan Edwards Dom Lloyd - Williams	Will Smith Peter Gull Jack Winterbourne Josiah Williams

*Mr Pugh
Head of PE*



Sports Reports (continued)

Georges 61-0. The most impressive results which show the progress this team have made weren't actually victories. A 17-all draw home to St Columba's and a narrow 17-14 defeat to Verulam, two of the County's best sides both expected to challenge for the County title next year, show the progress and potential this side have.

Upfront, one of the finds of the season Navjot Minhas, has added bulk and dynamism to the pack. Ollie Owen has matched his athleticism this year with increased physicality to add a real presence on the pitch. Glenn Harrison has also been impressive, both at the breakdown and in the loose. Scrum half Oliver Firth has a tremendous skill set for a player of his age and has been rewarded for his efforts with a place in the Hertfordshire U13 Squad.

Will Pastor moved between the back row and centre and added a direct style of play to the team. Ben Aves has been ever present at fly half and adds precision passing and a talented running game to the side. Gifted backs Joel Evans, Rhys Belcher and Kitan Adagun are exciting to watch and have caused problems for defences all season

Adam Price and Kaelan Logan have added elusive and powerful running to the A team back line, and the whole team should be commended for a productive and rewarding season.

Mr Bajak

Cross Country Results

District Championships 2015

Year 7 Boys A Team:

1st District Team Champions

Year 7 Boys B Team: 2nd

Barnes, Loui 2
Marlow, Harry 3
Myhill, Joe 4
Humphreys, Liam 5
Aldridge, Finley 6
Lawler, William 9
Middleton, Luke 10

(continued/...)

Sixth Form Rewards Assembly

This week the sixth form held an awards ceremony with prizes for three categories of nomination:

1) **Outstanding Ambassadors** - for both Year 12 and 13, Ambassadors spend an hour a week of their free time helping out in the community.

2) **Outstanding Academic Progress** - students regularly performing above their target levels and often now supporting other students in lessons.

3) **Going above and beyond** - maybe a consistent approach to lessons, clubs, events or the whole life of the school.

This year we were able to award 18 students across the three categories. Each student received a £10 book voucher and a certificate. We were also able to reward 24 students for exemplary attendance with some chocolate and a certificate.

*Mr Dawson
Head of Year 12*

Outstanding Ambassadors

Will Harrop	Josh Andrews
Raza Chandna	Daniel Cowell
Jacob Wood	Jack Ferguson
Elliot Colman	Tim Cranfield
Sam Gamble	Francis Rawlings

Outstanding Progress

Jamie Sennitt	Will McAllister
Daniel Farrington	Oliver Chapman-Amey
Louis Schopp	Will Richardson

Above and Beyond

Alex Francis	Pieter Roden
Alec Bertina	Spencer Ryan

Attendance

<u>Year 12</u>	<u>Year 13</u>
Robert Donald	Stuart Reilly
Will Harrop	Jamie Wright
Jamie Sennitt	Rory Maddocks
Jack Baker	Rowan Roach
Joe Davis	Tom Addison
Harry Digby	Calum Buchanan
Daniel Farrington	Karl-Li Leung
Dylan Gardner	Louis Sherno
Ed Gimson	Kyann Strachan
Liam Hazely	
Kieran Morar	
James Hunt	
James Pike	
Jack Palmer	
George Rodger	

Hitchin Railway Station

The school recently had a visit from London Transport Police, as staff at Hitchin station have complained that our students regularly misbehave at the station, pushing, shouting and running in the pedestrian tunnel between platforms. It is some of the boys going south to Stevenage, Welwyn and Knebworth who are the culprits. PC Palmer will be coming in to talk to classes after the holiday, but if your son uses this route, please could you talk to him about the importance of responsible behaviour at the station and on the trains? Thank you.

Sports Reports (continued)

Year 8 Boys A Team:

1st District Team Champions

Year 8 Boys B Team: 2nd

Owen, Oliver 3
Soley, Kieran 5
Price, Adam 6
Kessi, Daniel 7
Wetherill, Alex 8
Charlie Macdonald 10

Year 9 Boys: 1st District Team Champions

English, Daniel 7

Year 10 Boys A Team: 2nd

Year 10 Boys B Team: 3rd

Ben Reavil 5
Corteen, Tommy 7
Dudley, Connor 10

Senior Boys: 1st District Champions

Sam Kester 3
Austin Ephgrave 5
Olly Henton-Pusey 7
Kieran Hollingsworth-Biggs 8
Josh Kingsland 9
Alex Evens 10

The following pupils have been selected to represent the school at the

Hertfordshire Schools Athletic Association Cross Country Championships in February in St Albans:

Year 7 - Pre Junior Boys

Harry Marlow
Loui Barnes
Liam Humphries
Joe Myhill
Finlay Aldridge
Ross Aris

Year 11 - Intermediate Boys

Sam Kester
Oliver Henton-Pusey

Mr Bajak

Orienteering

Year 8 student Alex Wetherill took part in a six-day orienteering competition in the Scottish Highlands during the summer holidays. Here is his account of the event:

“The Scottish six days is an orienteering competition, which happens every two years. This year the event centre was Inverness with all the races within an hour’s drive out of the city. I was planning to race a class above me in M14A, to get practice on the harder courses for when I start doing them next year.

In an orienteering race, you have to visit a number of controls on the course you must visit. At the start you are told the codes that will match the ones on the controls you must find, and you are given a blank map of the area where you will be orienteering to try and work out where the start is. Finally, when you hear a long bleep you pick up your map and run.

During the race, you ‘dib’ each control to prove you have found it. A dibber is an electronic device, which stores the time it took for you to reach each control and whether you found each one. If you don’t find all the controls and the finish you will be disqualified.

The six days were full of tough competition, with some days easier than others. Overall I came 72nd in M14A, two years above me. I really enjoyed the event and I am looking forward to going back next year. It has given me a lot of practice on finding controls by using contours. I hope to finish in the top five at the British Championships and the JK (another race), in my age group.”

Alex Wetherill, 8Ms

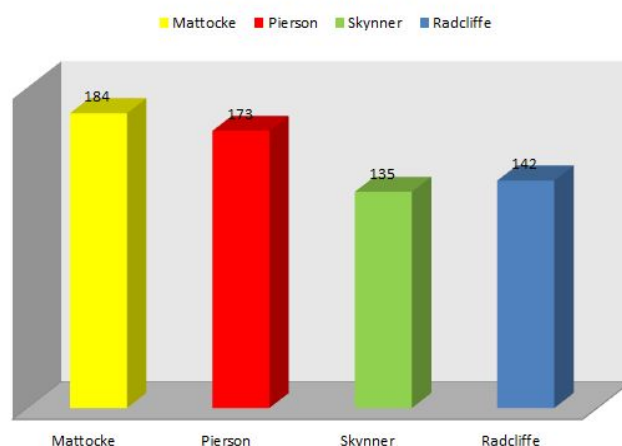
Below: part of Alex’s map

Christmas Card Competition

This year’s school Christmas card was designed by Year 7 student Josh Hazzard, who won a competition for Year 7 Art Club members to document and reproduce an image that represented the school. They were given SLR cameras used by photography students to take a variety of images around the grounds, and they then decided which best represented the school. Students also looked at Victorian Christmas cards and the work of Quentin Blake, before reproducing their chosen view as a watercolour painting. Head Teacher Mr Brown selected a winner from the designs submitted. Well done Josh!



House results table



Calendar Dates: January - February 2016

Date	Event
Monday 4th January	Start of Spring Term
Monday 4th January	Year 12/13 Mock Examinations start
Tuesday 12th January	Year 11 Consultation Evening 5pm
Friday 15th January	Sixth Form Music Conference
Monday 18th January	Year 10 Vaccinations
Thursday 21st January	Year 9 Options Evening 6pm
Tuesday 26th January	Governors' Health & Safety Committee 6pm
Wednesday 27th January	Year 10 Consultation Evening 5pm
Thursday 28th January	Year 12/13 Mock Exam Results Day
Monday 1st February	Year 11 Food Technology Controlled Assessment (mornings all week)
Monday 1st February	Year 8 Holocaust Memorial Day trip
Tuesday 2nd February	Governors' Student Attainment & Welfare Committee 6pm
Wednesday 3rd February	Year 12 Open Morning for External Students
Monday 8th February	Year 12/13 Mock Exam Resit Week
Monday 8th February	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group 6pm
Tuesday 9th February	Bugsy Malone matinee
Wednesday 10th February	School Production: Bugsy Malone
Thursday 11th February	Governors' Main Board Meeting 6pm
Thursday 11th February	School Production: Bugsy Malone
Friday 12th February	School Ski Trip to Austria departs
Friday 12th February	School Production: Bugsy Malone
Friday 12th February	Half Term starts
Saturday 20th February	School Ski Trip to Austria returns
Monday 22nd February	School starts 8.45am

easyfundraising: help raise money for the Parents' Society

Please remember when you are doing your Christmas present shopping that whenever you buy anything online - including weekly food deliveries and holiday bookings - you could be raising a FREE donation for Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society!

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra! It's really simple, just:

1. **Join.** Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hbs/> and sign up for free.
2. **Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. **Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society will be really grateful for your donations. There are apps for mobiles and Tablet devices so you can donate easily whichever platform you are using.

Thank you for your support!

Maths Lecture at Cambridge University

On Monday 7th December a group of 15 Year 12 students headed off to Cambridge University for a Maths Lecture. Unsure of what to expect, the group were very pleasantly surprised with the line-up:-

Helen Pilcher – Stand-up comedian
Katie Steckles – Presenter of Numberphile

Hugh Hunt – Presenter of Dambusters
Matt Parker – Stand-up comedian.

All the presenters gave inspirational talks on real life applications of maths, presented in a fun and interesting way. Talks were given on Spinning wheels, puzzles, boomerangs, 3D animation. It was a very eye opening experience about the real life applications of some of the more complicated maths learnt in sixth form as well as being funny and interactive, with puzzles and challenges given to complete throughout the talk.

After the lecture everyone got autographs from the lecturers in binary and spoke about their experiences and University level mathematics. The trip was greatly enjoyed by all the students, and they would recommend any such trip to other students.

Mrs Uppal



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

EXTRA CURRICULAR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TRIPS 2016-17

Month/Year	Destination/Location	Duration	Subject	Year Group(s)	Approx Cost
Spring 2016					
12-20 February	Austria	1 week	Ski Trip	Year 9-13	£900
4-8 March	Lake District	5 days	Geography	Year 12	£350
22-26 March	Pembrokeshire	5 days	Biology	Year 12	£215
1-5 April	Paris	5 days	MFL	Year 8/9	£430
2-6 April	Iceland	5 days	Geography	Year 10-13	£919
Summer 2016					
22-25 April	Dorset	4 days	Geography	Year 10	£210
May/June	Munich, Germany	5 days	MFL	Year 8-10	£450
July	Outdoor Ed, Grantham	3 days	PE	Year 8-10	£200
17-20 July	Kingswood	4 days	Pastoral	Year 7	£196
July / August	Thailand	4 weeks	Outlook Expeditions	Year 9-12	£3850
Autumn 2016					
21-27 October	Italy	1 week	Choir	Year 8-12	£530
Spring 2017					
10-18 February	Austria	1 week	Ski Trip	Year 9-13	£900
April	Barcelona	5 days	MFL	Year 8-9	£560
April	Paris	5 days	Rugby Tour	Year 8 & 9	£600
Summer 2017					
July	Kingswood	4 days	Pastoral	Year 7	£200
World Challenge	Malaysia	4 weeks	World Challenge	Year 11-13	£2300
July	Japan	1 week	MFL	Year 9/10	£2000