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**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL**  
*A Specialist Technology & Language College*

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Dear Parents

### **May Newsletter**

It has once again been a busy term with the start of exams dominating the thoughts of most boys in all years. Boys in Year 9 have taken English, Maths and Science exams in controlled exam conditions in the Main Hall. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have begun actual GCSE or A-Level exams. For some these exams go on until late June and the results will be available in August.

After half-term boys in years 7, 8 and 9 will also be having summer exams in their classrooms. These exams, whether a first test in Year 7 or a final A2 exam, are a vital part of the learning experience and I would ask all parents to support their boys as much as possible to study, revise, prepare and, crucially, come to school prepared.

Despite the start of study leave for Year 11 we have been spending a lot of time helping Year 11 boys with revision in class and this will continue until exams are complete. We have also been meeting Year 11 boys to discuss their move into Year 12. We believe that the end of Year 11 should be seen as a transition to the next stage of education and for most boys that next stage will be at this school.

This is also a time when the sports fixtures begin to pile up with cricket, tennis and athletics all taking centre stage. Once again we should remind parents and boys that any work missed due to attendance at sports fixtures must be caught up. Boys must speak to their teachers to find out what has been missed and ensure they complete any work required. The PE Department will drop boys from teams if they are failing to comply with these requirements.

Finally, we have had our last Parents' Consultation Evening of the year and I would like to thank parents for supporting their sons by coming in to meet their teachers and discuss their progress. We are very lucky to have such a supportive group of parents.

I wish you all a relaxing and sunny half-term holiday.

Yours sincerely

M. Brown

PS We are also attaching a communication on behalf of Hertfordshire CC regarding transport policy. Please take a moment to check if this affects you.

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**HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2012**

**Contents:**

**Madagascar  
The Queen Comes to Hitchin  
Upgrade to ParentMail 2**

**SPORTS:**

- **Athletics:**
- **Next Events**
- **Clubs Available in school**
- **Stevenage & North Herts Athletics Club.**
- **Cricket Update**

**Exam Results Days  
Parents' Society  
The Raffle Ticket Competition – Summer Raffle  
Old Boys' Cricket Competition:  
Free School Meals:  
Maths Challenge**

**MUSIC**

- **Music Competition**
- **Music Colours**
- **Coming Up**

**School Show 2013  
Investor in Careers Award  
Calendar June – July 2012**

## **Madagascar**

In the early morning hours of 20 July, 14 boys from Year 9 and 2 from Year 10 will be flying off to Madagascar for a 2 week expedition. During their stay on the island, they will be volunteering their time at the Tampo Reserve on the east coast where they will be planting new trees and maintaining those that survived a hurricane earlier this year. They will also be spending their time at the Akany Akovo Children's Home where they will be getting to know the youth of Madagascar and making new friends. But it's not all work – they will be spending their down time on the white sandy beaches of Ile St Marie (an even smaller island off the coast of Madagascar). Here they will be snorkelling in the shallow coral reefs and taking boat tours for whale watching. We look forward to telling you more about it on our return!

## **The Queen Comes to Hitchin**

We have been advised that Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting Hitchin on Thursday the 14th June.

The main part of the visit will be in the High Street/Market Place area of the town centre with a smaller reception of Her Majesty at the Hitchin railway station. We will be taking a group of students from Years 7 and 8 as a reward for excellent effort on their most recent progress checks. Permission letters will be coming home to individual boys shortly.

## **Upgrade to ParentMail 2**

We are in the processing of upgrading from ParentMail 1 to ParentMail 2, a new and improved version of the ParentMail system that we have been using successfully for a couple of years. In order to use the new system, you just need to spend a couple of minutes re-registering online. Letters have been sent home (or posted in the case of Year 12 students), containing a unique code for every student. Please could you re-register online as soon as possible – we plan to stop using ParentMail 1 at the end of term and start using ParentMail 2 from the beginning of September. If your letter has not made its way home, please email Mrs Hope on [chope@hbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chope@hbs.herts.sch.uk) and she will email your code directly to you.

Under the new system, the school will not see your email address details, so if you should change your email address, please advise the school via [admin@hbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hbs.herts.sch.uk) so that we can update our main school database.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

## SPORTS:

**Athletics:** Both Under 14 and Under 16 teams have topped the Hertfordshire League Table after 4 of 6 rounds. The top team will win the League trophy and the top 4 will go to the Grand Final. Looking at the results across the country both teams have also qualified for the regional final of the national cup and are ranked within the top 15 schools in the country.

New school records:

Will Smith                    year 7 - 70 metre hurdles 12.1 secs

Kim Sobotie                    year 10 - 200 metres - 22.5 secs

Locce Gilmour                    year 10 - Pole Vault 2.70 m

If any parents / pupils have any unwanted running spikes please drop them to school as Mr Bajak can find a new home for them.

We are also delighted to report also that the next generation of track & field stars took to the track last week in their first year 7 district league match. They produced some amazing performances and their hard work and commitment to training was clear to see.

Great work from all boys and staff !

Next Events

Wednesday 13th June County League match 6 of 6 @ Welwyn

Saturday 16th June Herts Schools Track & Field Championships Hemel Hempstead

Thursday 21st June National Cup Regional final @ Watford

Wednesday 27th June – North Herts Athletics Championships @ Stevenage 9am-4pm

Clubs Available in school:

Monday lunch – Sprints 12.30pm Old Gym

Tuesday Lunch – Jumps (Long, Triple, Pole Vault)

Wednesday Lunch – Sprints & Hurdles Old Gym

Thursday Lunch – Throws (Shot, Discus, Javelin)

Wed – Friday Break – High Jump

Stevenage & North Herts Athletics Club

Next induction for new members Thursday 7th June 6pm @ Ridlins Wood Stevenage

**Cricket Update:** After a frustrating start because of the weather we are now fully into the cricket season and have played 15 matches. All teams have progressed to the last 16 of the County Cup.

	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>
Year 7	5	2	3
Year 8	5	1	4
Year 9	3	3	0
Year 10	2	1	1

Outstanding individual performances

Batting	Daniel Cowell	74 not out v St George's
	Ben Wilmot	70 v Leventhorpe
	Ben Wilmot	60 v St George's
	Tyler Redding	60 v Broxbourne
	Max Burrowes	53 not out v St George's
Bowling	Elliot Simpson – Rooke	5 for 5 v Highfield

Now that the sunshine has arrived it is highly recommended that all boys wear a Hitchin Boys' cricket cap to protect them which can be purchased from Tyler's online shop. Dave Smith, Director of Cricket

**Exam Results Days:**

**Results will be available for collection from**

A-levels            Thursday 16 August  
8.00a.m. for A2 results; AS results mid-morning time TBC

GCSE                Tuesday 23 August  
9.30-11.30 (Year11) - 10.30-11.30 (Year 10)

**Parents' Society**

With a lot of work we have managed to raise over £6,000 so far this year.

However, we are now running up to our Summer Fair where we will be announcing the winners of the summer raffle. Always one of our biggest fundraisers, we are aiming to raise £3,000 from the raffle this year – an all time high. If you have not returned your raffle tickets, or need more to win the various student prizes on offer, please send them in soon. Remember we have a television, Ipod Nano and cash on offer this year.

We are also still looking for donations for the Fair: sweets, bottles, prizes, cakes or your time. Please let us know if you can help or drop anything off into Reception.

We are looking to raise £10,000 overall to buy new computer equipment for the boys so please help in whatever way you can.

Finally many thanks to all who have supported us so far this year and to those who are intending to do so.

Allison Hamilton

### **The Raffle Ticket Competition – Summer Raffle**

To follow on from the above there is a competition running this year for all forms.

Prizes will be awarded to:

- A) The Form which sells the most tickets
- B) The individual boy who sells the most tickets

Prizes:

A “jump the queue” card for the canteen – valid for 5 days – for every form member  
A Book Token or iTunes Music voucher – for the boy selling the most tickets

If sales reach less than £ 2,000 – the voucher will be worth £ 10 each

If sales exceed £ 2,000 – the voucher will be worth £ 15.00 each

If sales reach £ 3,000 – the voucher will be worth £ 25 each

To ensure your son gets the chance to win make sure you return the ticket stubs in an envelope with name and tutor group clearly marked. The number of tickets sold will be recorded by the Parents’ Society. The Parents’ Society will make the decision as to who wins the prizes. Get selling!

PS If you have any unsold raffle tickets please return them to Reception

**Old Boys’ Cricket Competition:** The Old Boys’ Association is running a six-a-side Cricket Competition on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, in co ordination with the School’s Summer Fair. The Association is raising funds to assist with the refurbishment of the School Pavilion. To enter a team for the competition or for more information please contact Peter Hollingsworth, the Hon Sec on 01462 834854 or [hbsobasec@gmail.com](mailto:hbsobasec@gmail.com) .

During the event the Old Boys’ Association will be looking for new members. Any parents who are Old Boys but haven’t joined the association can join on the day and get a reduced subscription as a special offer for the day. Old Boys’ Association Committee members will be circulating, ready and willing to talk to potential Members. If anyone would like further information please contact Peter as above.

**Free School Meals:** Free school meals are covered in the About Us - Financial Assistance page on the website [here](#). This link takes parents directly to the Herts Direct website where they can apply online. Claims are automatically renewed in June each year, but any new claims should be made as soon as possible. This application process is entirely confidential. We encourage parents to apply if their circumstances merit it.

### **Maths Challenge:**

Yesterday afternoon 2 teams of year 8 boys competed in the final of the Hertfordshire maths challenge. We had a great competition and one of the teams came second after being pipped to the post by Dame Alice Owen School in Potters Bar.

The team who came second were:

Raza Chandna, Matthew Maylin, Kieran Morar, Dominic Taylor.

The other team came joint fourth consisted of:

Alex Evens, Elliot Colman, Adam Lund, Jordan Laviaille

## MUSIC

### **Music Competition**

The annual Music Competition was held last term, adjudicated this year by Mr Peter Hewitt (Senior competition) and Mr Brown (Junior competition). The standard was really excellent and we heard some wonderful performances. The final results were:

Junior Music Cup (awarded for the first time this year)	Raza Chandna
Piano Cup	Michael Moscatiello
Brass Cup	Daniel Taylor
Woodwind Cup	Jamie Head
String Cup	Daniel Addison
Singing Cup	Tom Hazell
Overall Music Cup	Michael Moscatiello

Well done to everyone who entered this year.

### **Music Colours**

This year the colours were awarded to:

Sam Day  
Jonathan Firth  
Will Coles  
Tom Hazell  
Tom Hooper  
Sahib Matharu  
Ross Williams  
Michael Moscatiello  
James Woodin

A big thank you to all of them for their contributions to the musical life of the school during their last seven years.

### **Coming Up**

Look out for the Summer Concert, coming up on Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm. As is usual at this time of year, we shall be featuring mostly our younger students in this concert, but a few older faces will also be there!

### **School Show 2013**

Auditions are going to be held in early July for next year's school show. We are hoping to perform Stephen Sondheim's modern classic *Sweeney Todd* and we are going to cast the main roles before the end of this term. Anybody interested in taking part, either on stage or behind the scenes, please contact Miss Gale or Ms Hetherington before the end of June. Look out for warm-up sessions, where the music for the auditions will be handed out and taught. Year 11 on study leave are welcome to attend. Please keep an eye on ParentMail for information.

## **INVESTOR IN CAREERS AWARD for Hitchin Boys' School**

An effective careers guidance programme can make a significant contribution to early success in employment for young people. It is our aim to offer our students, quality, choice and aspirations to help them with the choices about their career, lifestyle and education.

Hitchin Boys' School has already been recognised with a quality award from Connexions, but now we are aiming for a national Quality Assurance Award - '**The Investors in Careers Award**'; The award is 'kitemarked' against the newly published Quality in Careers Standard.

This award will recognise and celebrate the high quality work done at HBS to:

- Promote excellence in Careers and Work Related Curriculum;
- Support the wider curriculum including personal development learning, work related learning and enterprise learning;
- Increase levels of motivation and pave the way for higher achievement;
- Provide good Careers Information and Guidance to ensure appropriate choice.

Some of the key aspects of our programme are:

- careers guidance is impartial and independent;
- all students are provided with information on all post-16 education and training options, including Apprenticeships;
- each student is provided with guidance which is in the students' best interest;
- the guidance provided comes from an external source
- we have a Head of Careers working specifically on this programme;
- a member of the Senior Leadership Team has direct responsibility in this area;
- a Governor has specific responsibility for Careers and Work-related Learning
- All year 10 students have the opportunity to take part in Work Experience;
- All year 7, 8, 9 students have a Work-Related Learning Experience through the Personal Social and Health Education programme;
- All subject areas incorporate Careers & Work into their Schemes of work;
- All students have access to careers guidance software packages;
- Enterprise Activities take place for Year 8, 10 and 12;
- We work with local employers and agencies (Rotary, Chamber of Commerce);
- Individual careers counsellor interviews to which parents are also invited;
- All year 11 and Sixth Form students have the opportunity to attend careers fairs both at HBS and other schools locally;
- All Sixth Form students attend university conventions
- HBS works closely with Connexions, colleges and local work experience providers to develop flexible solutions to individual needs
- We also work with the local Strategic Area Partnership Group to provide access to Oxbridge and Medical/Law School taster and preparation days;
- HBS runs its own Apprenticeships awareness fair
- Job opportunities and career paths information and vacancies are available to all boys on the School Website and Learning Platform.

For further information please see the Careers section on the Learning Platform

For further information about the award see [www.investorincareers.org.uk](http://www.investorincareers.org.uk)



## Calendar Dates

### June – July 2012

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Exam Week Year 12 A2 courses begin
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 Pastoral/RE visit to Hitchin Gurdwara
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Governors' Student Attainment & Curriculum Committee
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 EPQ students visit University of Hertfordshire
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Lower School Exam Week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Governors' Main Board meeting
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 Parents' UCAS Awareness Evening
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Summer Fair
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 MFL Speaking Assessments (this week)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sixth Form Induction
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sixth Form Induction New Year 7 Parents' Evening External Exams finish
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 13 Leavers Buffet Sports Day
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Founders' Day Swimming Gala Lower School Disco
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 10 Art Controlled Assessment (Higher)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Art Controlled Assessment (Higher) Year 12 UCAS Convention (University of Hertfordshire) Governors' Resources Committee
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Concert
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 MFL Writing Assessments (this week)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Sixth Form Half Day Conference
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary Transfer Day Year 6 Parents' Coffee Morning Governors' Chairs Steering Group
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Geography (group 1) Controlled Assessment
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Geography (group 2) Controlled Assessment
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term World Challenge Madagascar Expedition departs
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Occasional Day
<b>August</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Challenge trip returns
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	AS/A2 results available
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	GCSE results available
<b>September 2012</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Term starts today (years 7, 12 and 13)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Term starts today (years 8, 9, 10 and 11)



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## **SCHOOL TRANSPORT – SUMMER TERM UPDATE**

### Getting Ready for September 2012 – School Transport and Travel

The following is a summary for parents of the current situation regarding bus routes as received from Hertfordshire County Council.

This situation is beyond the control of Hitchin Boys' School.

#### **Routes to be run by the County council from September 2012:**

In line with the new statutory only school transport policy, and the decisions made by Cabinet in September 2011 about the future school transport network, Hertfordshire are now finalising details of the Education ('E') routes that will be run by the County Council in September 2012. From the middle of May, you will be able to access a list of these routes at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/schadhtst/buscoachroutestosecschools/>. The list will be updated throughout the summer.

#### **'800' Public Bus Routes:**

The good news is that from the beginning of this term, a total of 30 '800' commercial routes are now running to schools across Hertfordshire, where there is no longer any financial subsidy by the County Council.

What this means? There is now only a small number of '800' routes running to schools where there has been no confirmed interest or registration by commercial operators.

Appendix 1 lists the 800 routes which will cease in September 2012 because the County Council will no longer be providing a subsidy: Some of these routes may be replaced by commercial routes registered by commercial operators or through contracts set up by schools.

- if your school bus route is listed in the table in Appendix 1, please note that the County Council will no longer be subsidising the route(s) from September 2012, and therefore it is unlikely to run.
- these routes are registered as public buses (and pupils can buy daily tickets), it follows that the County Council does not have a comprehensive list of all pupils and staff traveling on these routes. Consequently they are unable to make direct contact with the families concerned
- please update your school's website, to ensure there is clear information about arrangements for September 2012.

A timetable of what happens when is published for parents and carers on hertsdirect; this can be found at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/schadhtst/Homeschtranstimelne/>. Also updated Frequently Asked Questions are provided to assist families. Please look at these.

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**Spare Seat Criteria and Charges:**

If Education E Route(s) run near you and will get you to the school and there is spare capacity, parents can purchase these spare seats at the published full cost recovery charges.

There is a new set of criteria used for the sale of any spare seats and this can be accessed by going to: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/schadhtst/spareseats2012/>

These updated criteria give first priority to children looked after and those with special educational needs who may require transport, but do not have an entitlement.

**Support for vulnerable families:**

For those families who may not be able to organise alternative access to school(s), the County Council continues to operate an exceptions policy. In any individual exceptional family cases:

- please write to the Admissions and Transport Team, CHR102, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG12 8DQ, so that your case can be considered on the basis of your specific need

Note: transport appeal hearings are set up to consider cases on a monthly basis throughout the summer period.

Remember the statutory policy also covers those children from low income families – as defined in the published policy – for more information go to:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/h/hometoschooltranspolicytwelve.pdf>

Please let us know if you think your family needs to be assessed under these criteria.

**Timetable for Year 7 Statutory Entitlement:**

By the end of May 2012, families will have received a letter if their Year 7 child, or Year 9 child in a three tier system, has a statutory entitlement to school transport with effect from September 2012.

**Renewals:**

If a child has a statutory entitlement to school transport (or it has been agreed to provide this on an exceptional basis) they will be sent a renewal letter from the Transport, Access and Safety Team by the end of June 2012.

**School travel planning:**

The County Council have asked us to encourage alternative sustainable travel options to families. Recently they have published a parent's checklist, including guidance about informal car sharing arrangements. This can be found at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/c/carshare>

**Appendix 1**  
**School Transport - Summer Term Update**

**The following 800 routes will no longer run in September 2012, as routes subsidised by the county council.** Note: - Individual routes may continue to be run by the commercial sector, or by individual schools

<b>School:</b>	<b>800 route number:</b>	<b>Location Route serves</b>
Barclay/Thomas Alleyne/John Henry Newman	863	Stevenage, Great Ashby
Beaumont/Samuel Ryder /Sandringham	884	How Wood, London Colney, Park Street
Beaumont/Verulam/Nicholas Breakspear	821	Park Street, How Wood, Chiswell Green
Bishop's Stortford High School	808	Bishop's Stortford
Birchwood High	808	Bishop's Stortford
Bushey Academy	832	North Watford, Garston, Meriden
Bushey Meads	897	Borehamwood, Elstree, Radlett
Chancellor's	841/A	Potters Bar
Chancellor's	842	Hatfield, Welham Green, Colney Heath
Dame Alice Owen	826	Hatfield, Colney Heath, Welham Green, Brookmans Park
Fearnhill/Hitchin Boys/Hitchin Girls	870	Hitchin, Letchworth, Weston
Samuel Ryder /Beaumont/Sandringham	884	How Wood, London Colney, Park Street
Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College	808	Bishop's Stortford
Hitchin Boys/Girls/Fearnhill	870	Hitchin, Letchworth, Weston
Hitchin Girls/Boys/Fearnhill	870	Hitchin, Letchworth, Weston
Highfield School	872	Letchworth
Hockerill Anglo-European College	808	Bishop's Stortford
Jewish Free School	B76	Bushey, Carpendars Park, South Oxhey, Watford
Jewish Free School	B77	Borehamwood, Radlett, Elstree
Jewish Free School	B78	Borehamwood, Radlett, Elstree
John Henry Newman/Barclay/Thomas Alleyne	863	Stevenage/Great Ashby
King's Langley School	814	Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Garston
King's Langley School	815	Bedmond, Garston, Watford
King's Langley School	816	Abbots Langley
King's Langley School	817	Abbots Langley
King's Langley School	818	Abbots Langley
Knights Templar	894	Letchworth

Monks Walk	806	Welwyn Garden City
Nicholas Breakspeare/Beaumont/Francis Bacon	821	Park Street, How Wood, Chiswell Green
Northwood	857	Carpenders Park, South Oxhey, Northwood
Parmiters and St Michael's Catholic	819	Abbots Langley, Chipperfield, Kings Langley
Queens	831	North & West Watford
Queens	896	Borehamwood, Elstree
Roundwood Park	866	Wheathampstead
Sandringham/Samuel Ryder /Beaumont	884	How Wood, London Colney, Park Street
Thomas Alleyne/Barclay/John Henry Newman	863	Stevenage, Great Ashby
Townsend	861	Borehamwood, Frogmore, How Wood, Shenley/Elstree/Radlett/Park Street
Townsend	887	Borehamwood/Elstree/Radlett and StAlbans
Verulam/Beaumont/Nicholas Breakspeare	821	Park Stret, How Wood, Chiswell Green
Watford Boys/Girls	811	Borehamwood/Radlett/Elstree
Watford Girls/Boys	811	Borehamwood/Radlett/Elstree
St Mary's Catholic School	808	Bishop's Stortford
St Michael's Catholic and Parmiters	819	Abbots Langley, Chipperfield, Kings Langley
St Thomas More (Letchworth)	878	Letchworth