





Head's Newsletter - December 2012

Dear All

I am writing to enclose our December 2012 Newsletter.

Academy Status

When we return in the New Year Hitchin Boys' School will have converted to become an Academy Trust. The big news is that there will be absolutely no difference in the experiences of the boys, nor the way we work with parents to focus on educational attainment. Behind the scenes this conversion will allow us to manage our finances more effectively and help ensure that we can maintain staffing levels.

Staff Changes

Due to a combination of circumstances beyond our control there have been staff changes in English, Maths and Geography. This obviously causes disruption and concern. These issues are a priority for the school and as such we are doing everything we can to minimise that disruption and to maximise the chances of the greatest number of boys to achieve their potential. We are convinced that the measures we have put in place to respond to these unfortunate events will lead to more stability in the year ahead and hence give the boys every chance to succeed.

In the meantime I wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and a very happy start to the New Year.

Yours faithfully

M Brown **Headteacher**













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GREAT NEWS!

Celebration of Achievement Evening

We held our annual Celebration of Achievement Evening on Thursday 13th December. We were lucky enough to be joined by Professor Hanahoe, formerly the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Hertfordshire University as our guest speaker. This evening celebrated individual achievement and most credit must go to the boys for their hard work, but, as our speaker reminded us, credit must also go to the team behind the individual: his teachers and especially, his parents. There were subject-specific awards to the individuals on the list below and we presented Academic Awards to the 40 boys who gained 8 or more A/A* grades at GCSE and also to the 30 boys who gained 2 or more A/A* Grades at A-Level. It was hugely gratifying to see the proud faces of all the families that night.

Christmas Carol Service

As usual we held our annual evening Carol Service and our daytime services for the boys at the wonderful St Mary's Church. The Rector was kind enough to say prayers and blessings and in the evening parents, staff and the Chair of Governors read passages from the Christmas story. The choir and musicians (young and old!) from Hitchin Boys' School were exceptional and special thanks to Mr Jenner for leading the brass group and Mr Sanders-Hewett the organist. Once again of course many thanks for the able organisation and conducting provided by our outstanding Music Department - Ms Rigby and Ms Hetherington.

Autumn Concert & Soloists' Winter Recital

Talking of the Music Department....yet again a sparkling evening of entertainment was provided by the performers at both the Autumn Concert & the Soloists' Recital. There were many high points of classical, jazz, blues and rock music... I hope I'm not too much of a philistine but I was particularly impressed with Alex Bishop's note-perfect guitar solo in Hotel California. The real point to note though is the huge number of boys who get involved – a choir of over 50 people of all ages and many more performing and helping backstage shows the strength in depth of music at HBS.

Parents' Society Christmas Raffle

Winners have been drawn and will be notified personally. The form selling the most tickets was 7Br with £482 worth of tickets sold (although 7Cv were within a few pounds). The individual selling the most tickets was Danny Mulley, who sold an amazing £150 worth by knocking on doors in his village. 7Br will be jumping the lunch queue for the first two weeks after Christmas and Danny will receive the book token or iTunes voucher prize. Well done 7Br and Danny in particular!

Christmas Party for Senior Citizens

We were delighted to welcome Senior Citizens from our neighbouring establishments to an afternoon of carols, readings, food drink and general Yuletide fun in our Sixth Form Centre. Many thanks to Ms Christou for organising the event. There were also a significant number of boys involved in talking to, serving and generally entertaining our Senior Citizen guests. A grand time was had by all!













Maths Challenge – two parts

A number of Sixth Form boys took part in the Senior Maths Challenge in November, achieving 1 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze.

Our other challenge is to you as parents. In a recent survey carried out in the Maths department only 72% of our Year 8 students had a calculator with them. Please encourage your son(s) to bring their calculator to Maths lessons all the time. We will survey again in the New Year and hope to be closer to 100%.

Congratulations Hitchin Boys' School Trampolinists

Hitchin Boys' School hosted the Regional Schools Trampoline Competition on 9th December. Our local trampoline club 'Sprung Loaded' set up and organized the event with the school's trampoline committee. Hitchin Boys' School entered two teams of seven competitors from Years 7 to 10. The Junior Team, Years 7 and 8, were Jamie Addison, Max Sidey and Peter Gull. Peter Gull qualified as an individual in second place scoring 45.6; unfortunately the team missed qualification by one place. The Senior Team were Spencer Ryan, Joe Pridmore, Joe Wilmot and Ben Beattie in Years 9 and 10; unfortunately they did not qualify as individuals but as a team were placed first. The Senior Team and Peter Gull will now go to the second round of the competition which is being held in Newport, Wales on 20th January 2013.

Hitchin Youth Music Festival

Four of our students, Peter Woodin, Dan Addison, Remi Campbell and Cameron Easton, have recently won best performance in the Hitchin Youth Music Festival. Their band 'Kamara Junction' came first in the secondary schools category and were awarded Distinction for their performance.

Government & Politics - Young People's Debating Competition Final

Mr Howie and Mr Philippou took a team of four enthusiastic and keen Year 12 history and politics students to the young people's debating conference this half term. Having been through previous rounds they were in the final against three Independent schools. Our boys debated on the issue of genetic engineering and did a fantastic job and, whilst we did not make it through (it was a long and difficult decision for the judges to make), it was a pleasure to see young people engaging in the current issues of today. I would like to thank Mr Howie for keeping the debating society going strong and in particular to the team of Glenn Lewis, Cameron Barker, Matthew Else and Liam Myles for putting themselves forward for a great competition.

AS History Conference

Mr Philippou and Mr Newham took a group of Year 12 historians to an AS level conference on Tsarist Russia. The boys were privileged to have talks given by lecturers from Cambridge, Oxford, Warwick and East Anglia universities. It was a very successful and informative trip for all

Donation to Art Department

The Art Department would like to thank Mike Knowles for donating photography equipment for pupils to use in the darkroom, which includes 2 enlargers, 3 film cameras with lenses, paper and much, much more. The approximate value would be in the region of £1,000. This has come just at the right time as we try to keep our resources plentiful and up-to-date. As more pupils are opting to study photography we couldn't be happier to receive this kind donation.













MESSAGES FROM THE EXAMS OFFICE

- Summer 2012 A-Level and GCSE Certificates are available for collection from Reception now.
 The Examination Boards allow for any uncollected certificates to be destroyed and they will not
 issue replacements. Make sure you collect yours they are your only proof of those hard earned
 qualifications!
- Years 11 13: Please make sure that you have a copy of your January Examination Timetable and remember that you must use a black pen for all written examinations.

MESSAGES FROM THE IT DEPARTMENT

Wireless Access Filtering at School – new scheme from January 2013

At present any wireless device can join the school's wi-fi network if the wireless network name and its password are known. Not surprisingly, with the increased ownership of smartphones and tablets, there has been an increase in demand for wireless access to the internet from staff and pupils which has been growing steadily over the past few years.

In order to ensure that access to the network is available for school laptops and other school devices as a priority, we will be operating a registration scheme for personal devices from January 2013. If your son needs to have access to the network he will need to register his laptop/netbook/tablet with the IT department. Registration will require agreeing to the Acceptable Use Policy and the recording of hardware identification details. Access will be withdrawn if the Policy has been violated and sanctions will follow.

School Laptops

I am pleased to report that there is very little intentional damage done to the laptops. However, when it does occur it is very important that the next user reports the damage immediately using the reporting procedures. Your son may be billed for the damage if he has used a computer or laptop that is already damaged and did not report it.

IT Monitors

Having had a great response this term from pupils wishing to learn more about technology, we have recruited 18 new IT Monitors from Years 7, 8 and 9. IT Monitors not only receive training on all the school equipment we use but learn how to diagnose technical problems, solve networking issues and practise working under pressure. IT Monitors are very much valued in the classrooms and feedback received from teachers and current IT Monitors has been positive.











PARENT-SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year 11 Consultation Evening

This will be held on Wednesday 16th January, details of which can be found on our website. Please look out for the letter and appointment sheet that will be given to Year 11 students on the first day back in January.

Parent Consultation regarding selection policy for School Trips

The choices were:

- a) Cancel a trip if it is not possible to take everyone who wants to go.
- b) Operate a "first-come-first-served" policy for who gets on to a trip.
- c) Operate a straightforward "lottery" for every oversubscribed trip.
- d) Operate a modified "lottery" whereby a failure to obtain a place in one lottery entitles the boy to a guaranteed place on the next oversubscribed trip.

These were the votes received for the single preferred option

a) 0 b) 3 c) 4 d) 30

As a result we will henceforth operate a Modified Lottery as detailed in point d)

Surveys:

Parents Evenings

There have been Parents' Evenings this year for Year 7, 8 & 9: At each event we have collected parent views in the form of a paper survey. The results are shown below. The results have been very positive and we thank parents once again for the superb support shown to the school. It is only by working together that we can ensure the boys achieve their potential.

Years 7, 8, 9 combined (percentages of 141 responses)	Strongly agree/agree	Diasgree/Strongly disagree
My son likes the school	100	0
My son is making good progress in the school	98	2
Any difficulties have been well-managed	96	4
My son is receiving regular homework	94	6
The school expects my son to work hard and achieve	95	5
The school works closely with parents	94	6
I would feel comfortable about approaching the school	94	6
My son has been involved in activities outside lessons	91	9













Kirkland Rowell survey

We have engaged the services of an external agency to carry out a separate survey. This will be analysed by the company themselves and they will provide us with useful data compared with national benchmarks which will help us understand our strengths and our areas for development. I would like to say thanks to the many parents who returned the paper survey. The surveys were confidential and passed by us unopened to our research company. Should there be any doubt about that, please note that the company have since contacted us to inform us that a number of parents had enclosed cheques with the survey! If you are one of those parents do not worry as we will be getting the cheques back shortly.

Parent View

OfStEd have opened a new website to gather opinions from parents about the schools their children attend. Please take the time to visit this website to express your thoughts about the school. You can find a link to it on the front page of our website: www.hbs.herts.sch.uk.

Health & Behaviour Survey

HBS recently took part in a Hertfordshire-wide survey of Health & Behaviour in schools. Over 1,700 boys were involved and the analysis of results was both fascinating and very favourable. We were pleased to note the following responses especially where we exceeded the Hertfordshire average significantly.

Q1: "My work is marked so I can see how to improve it" – HBS responses exceeded the Herts average by 15% here which is very pleasing. Teachers have been working really hard to ensure that their marking is both efficient and effective this year and this seems to be bearing fruit.

Q2: "The school prepares me well for when I leave the school" - HBS responses exceeded the Herts average by 8%

Q3: "I feel happy talking to other pupils at school" – HBS responses exceeded the Herts average by 9%

On the other hand less encouraging answers were:

Q1: "I have met someone in real-life whom I first met online" HBS responses exceeded the Herts average by 10%. This suggests a need for us all to be vigilant about the online lifestyle of our boys.

Q2: "School lessons are my main source of information about relationships and sexual health" HBS responses were lower than the Herts average by 10%. This suggests some further work is needed on our programme of sex education. Or it could be interpreted to mean that parents in Hitchin are particularly good at talking to their boys about relationships and sexual health.













SPORTS Report

Mr McPherson writes:

Rugby has yet again grown in stature this year with players showing remarkable dedication and commitment to representing Hitchin Boys' School. With regular communication via Parentmail across all age groups, numbers attending training and matches have increased and the perennial problem of boys not turning up on a Saturday morning, without any reason, has finally be eradicated. For the first time in at least the last decade we have been able to field an A & B team in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 as well as run a 1st XV & 2nd XV squad. This commitment was clearly evident in the last fixture of the season against Haberdashers' Aske School where over 200 boys were selected to represent Hitchin Boys' School – one fifth of the total pupils at school!!

The 1ST XV have had the best season for a number of years. This has been due, in part, to much improved numbers at training and a large increase in the number of players making themselves available for weekend fixtures. Notable wins have been against Enfield Grammar and Watford but the highlights of the season were, actually very narrow, defeats to very strong sides from Tring (last year's U'18 County Champions) and Verulam School.

On the playing front, David Gumbrell has been outstanding in the front row at both set plays and around the park, carrying the ball with conviction and dazzling the crowds with his exceptional goal kicking ability. Russell Attwood has played his 3rd season for the senior side, throwing in at the lineout with precision and demonstrating a tremendous work rate around the pitch. Tom Worbey and Steven Bryan have been very good in the back row making countless tackles and doing much of the unseen hard work around the pitch. Finally, the addition of the two Moores: Dominic and Krishan, have added an exciting dimension to an already talented backline. With the majority of the team returning next year, expectations are deservedly high about what this squad can achieve next season and build on what has been a productive season.

The **U'15** team this year is a much improved squad culminating in some excellent performances. A committed and enthusiastic approach brought success to a team who have only lost three games all season. Excellent wins over Richard Hale and Enfield Grammar demonstrated the improvement the boys have made. A big factor in their success has been the hard work made in defence. Over the past term only a handful of missed tackles were shown and commitment in defence was produced week in week out. Unfortunately the run in the Daily Mail U'15 Plate competition came to an end having lost to St Albans last Friday afternoon. This was the fifth round of the competition after narrowly beating Wooton Upper School in the previous round. Again, this is an indication of all the hard work put in by the boys. A big thank you for your commitment this year and we look forward to building on your success next season

The **U'14** squad have had an excellent season. Many new players have joined the squad, increasing numbers in training to around 40 players. This has allowed Year 9 to represent Hitchin Boys' in both A & B fixtures this year. Many of the B team fixtures were midweek in which we saw excellent organisation and structure within the games. There is still plenty of work to do; however, the commitment of the players to improve this year has been such that I am sure we will grow as a team. The A team have shown great improvement. They have a strong and dynamic pack with the likes of Joe Henshaw, Ally Warner, Matthew Holroyd and George Marvel leading the way and providing quick and clean ball for some exciting backs. The tactical brain of Euan McRobbie has







now been able to release the strike runners of Thanushan Aravinthan and the leading try scorer of the team, Antoine Oget. The B team have only lost one game all season and provides an excellent arena to breed new talent. Particular mention must go to Austin Ephgrave, Gawsul Alam, and Luke Crabtree who are now pushing for a place in the A team for next season.

The U'13 team have had a very successful season, winning all but one of their games. They have demonstrated a high level of skill and ability and things look very promising for this age group moving forward to next season and their trip to the Euro Disney Tournament in Paris during Easter. Particular mention must be given to Connor Emson who has been very good in the 2nd Row and has improved with each game – he not only carries the ball really strongly but he hits as many breakdowns as any player in the team and shows a great deal of promise for the future. Matthew Waters has turned into an accomplished fly half, demonstrating skills beyond his age. Precision passing and kicking have been huge positives for the team and he is certainly one to watch for the future. The centre partnership of Joe Hall and Will Rodway has been excellent in defence and attack with some strong hard running line and this has enabled an exciting back three of Peter Keefe, Michael Stocker and Ben Wilmot time and space to show their attacking flair and pace.

Finally the **U'12** team have only played a few games so far, but have shown enough potential to hazard a guess that their season, which starts in earnest after Christmas, should be a successful one. They recently competed in a North Herts U'12 festival at Letchworth Rugby Club with the actual Final being played between HBS 'As' v HBS 'Bs'!

Many thanks from all the players to those members of staff who have assisted and helped in some way or form this season. The ability to run 10 rugby games each Saturday morning, both home and away is often a logistical nightmare. However, with the support of the Mr Bajak, Mr Pugh and Mr Smith and the additional help of Mr Cook, Mr Brown, Mr Dawson, Mr Booton, Mr Thomas, Mr Kelly, and Mr Bashford, this task has been has been made much easier.

Table Tennis

Another successful table tennis season for our boys as our U'13s, U'16s and U'19s all reached the Hertfordshire School Games County Finals. Our U'13s and U'16s were District Champions and in the County Finals the U16s and U19s were runners up and received silver medals - both lost in the County final having won their group, quarter finals and semi finals. The U13s came 4th after a play off and just missed out on the medals.

U19s – James Abrams, Ben Smith, Toby Nicholson, Quentin Lau.

U16s – Jia Gu, Max Burrows, Harvey Walton – Adams, Christian Lloyd – Williams, Tom Shelley, Kieran McQue.

U13s – Sam Kester, Daniel Martin, David Hume, Harry Isherwood, George Fitter, Patrick Sloan.

Well done to all boys who represented the school in the above competitions and to those vast numbers who have attended practice on a Monday evening.













Christmas Sports Awards

RUGBY

Year 8 Player of the Year Matthew Waters
Year 8 Most Improved Player of the Year Brandon Norman

Year 9A Player of the Year Joe Henshaw Year 9A Most Improved Player of the Year James Hunt

Year 9B Player of the Year Austin Ephgrave Year 9B Most Improved Player of the Year Gawsul Alam

Year 10 Player of the Year Frazer McGown Year 10 Most Improved Player of the Year Daniel Cowell

Senior Player of the Year Tom Worbey Senior Most Improved Player of the Year Stephen Bryan

RUGBY SPORTS COLOURS

Ben Cowell

Junior Full ColoursSenior Full ColoursFrazer McGownRussell AttwoodGeorge ThorntonDavid GumbrellColin BuggRobert SmithOliver PomfrettTom WorbeyDaniel Cowell

Junior ½ ColoursSenior ½ ColoursSpencer RyanStephen BryanDaniel BarnesNathan DefraineGeorge VivianFinley BurkettGeorge MarvelJamie McPhersonEuan McRobbieBrandon WhatesAlly WarnerDominic StevensDaniel Wiggins

Lastly.....if any parents have any running spikes or hockey sticks that your son has grown out of, the PE Dept can find them a good home!













January 2013	
7 th January	Term starts today
9 th January	External Exams start
15 th January	Governors' Main Board Meeting
16 th January	Y11 Consultation Evening
18 th January	KS3 German visit (details TBC)
22 nd January	Governors' Resources Committee Meeting
23 rd January	Y9 Options Evening
30 th January	Governors' Health & Safety Committee Meeting
31 st January	Y10 Consultation Evening
February 2013	
1 st February	External Exams finish
4 th February	Y8 Holocaust Memorial Day visit
7 th February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
7 th February	Governors' Main Board Meeting
12 th February	Governors' Student Attainment & Curriculum Committee Meeting
13 th – 15 th February	School Production: Sweeney Todd
15 th – 19 th February	Y12/13 Business Studies & Economics trip to New York
16 th – 24 th February	Ski Trip to Italy
18 th February	Half term starts













CELEBRATION EVENING - AWARD WINNERS SUBJECT AWARD WINNERS

KEY STAGE 3

Art	Louis Sherno
Design & Technology	Alexander Wearing
Drama	Joseph Wilmot
English	Lee Brown
	Euan McRobbie
	Stepan Mysko von Schultze
Geography	George Thornton
History	Yasin Khair
	Harry Major
Mathematics	Max Burrows
Modern Languages	Brandon Purmessur
Music	Jonathan Taylor
Physical Education	Benjamin Cowell
Religious Education	Ketan Gahir
Science	Calum Buchanan
	Jia Gu
	Matthew Livesey
Improvement Award	Charlie Crichton
	Mehdi Paul-Sediri
	Benjamin Thomas

KEY STAGE 4

NET STAGE 4			
Art	Charlie Housham		
	Joseph Wonham		
Business Studies	Jamie Castle		
	Ellis Lockyer		
Design & Technology	Thomas Barks		
English	Ibrahim Baig		
	Robinson Antony Vincent		
Geography	Jake Carver		
History	Freddie North		
	Peter Saville		
Latin	Charlie Housham		
	Sam Macer		
	Toby Nicholson		
	Peter Saville		
Mathematics	Callum McGrinder		
	Jamie McPherson		
Modern Languages	Harry Stanbridge		
Music	Daniel Addison		
Physical Education	Michael Waters		
Religious Education	Harry Folgate		
Biology	Christopher Moore		
Chemistry	Christopher Woodham		
Physics	Samuel Luck		
Special Award: GCSE Science	Jake King		
Improvement Award	Sebastian Tooley		
Best Outcome from Work Experience	James McLeod		













KEY STAGE 5

KEI SIAGE 3			
Business Studies	Adam Cooper		
Design & Technology	Thomas Stewart		
Drama	Thomas Watson		
Economics	Dalvinder Gill		
English	William Coles, Sam Day		
	Markian Mysko von Schultze		
Geography	Jonathan Woodhead		
	Robert Smith		
History	Thomas Worbey		
ICT	Daniel Wilson		
Mathematics	Joel Daramola		
	Ross Williams		
Modern Languages	Jack Colman		
Music	Michael Moscatiello		
Photography	James Woodin		
Physical Education	Edward Ringe		
Politics	Tom Murrell		
Psychology	Duncan Clark		
Religious Education	Thomas Watson		
Biology	Matthew White		
Chemistry	Patrick Bridge		
Physics	William Oram		
Special Science Award	Joel Daramola		

CHINA TRIP PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Winner Josh Massey
Runner Up Jack Burgess

CITY & GUILDS AWARDS

Adesoji Akinjomo	Imad Rahman	Michael Taylor
William Duell	Adam Ross	
Ryan Mulcahy	Tom Swain	

ACADEMIC AWARDS GCSE

James Abrams	Samuel Luck
Daniel Addison	Tom Marsh
Robinson Antony Vincent	Jonathan McAllister
James Bourne	Callum McGrinder
Remy-Jude Campbell	Jamie McPherson
Sam Cartwright	Christopher Moore
Humza Chandna	Peter Newbery













Matthew Christey-Reid	Edward O'Donnell
Ruman Dhaliwal	Callum Peel
Cameron Easton	Matthew Puckey
Dominic Edwards	William Ridgway
Jonathan Evans	William Ringe
Harry Folgate	Barney Ross-Smith
Harry Fowler	Alex Scott
Michael Fowler	Erik Spiro-Larrea
Edward Goater	Joshua Torbett
Charlie Housham	Alom Uddin
Philip Jones	Ben Waterman
Jake King	Joseph Wonham
Yong Sung Kwon	Christopher Woodham

ACADEMIC AWARDS AT A-LEVEL

George Ackerman	Scott Kirkman
Daniel Anderson	Danny McCullough
Daniel Barker	James Miley
Ruari Bradburn	Markian Mysko von Schultze
Patrick Bridge	Davis Nicholson
Ian Bugg	William Oram
Rikesh Chandarana	Graeme Peters
Ryan Clements	Edward Ringe
Hanuman Coceal	Oliver Sunderland
Joel Daramola	Jack Waterhouse
Sam Day	Matthew White
Kieran Easton	John Willans
Charles Evans-Critchley	Ross Williams
Jonathan Firth	Jack Wolstencroft
Thomas Hooper	













SCHOOL TRIPS 2013-14

Month/Year	Location	Duration	Subject	Year Group	Approx Cost
2013			•	-	
September	Tate Modern/Britain	Day trip	Art/Photography	11-13	£15
September	Battlefields	4 days	History	9	£280
October	Barton *	½-day x 2	Geography	8	£5 est.
October	Glyndebourne	Day trip	Music	10-13	£25
October	Henry Moore Foundation	Day trip	Art	10	£15
October	Berlin and Poland	6 days	History	10-11	£700
October	Rhineland	5 days	Music (Choir)	All	£ 414
Oct Half-Term	Spain	4-5 days	Spanish	10-13	£450
Oct Half-Term	Bay of Naples	5 days	Classics	8/9/10	£550-600
Nov/Dec	Hazards Day	Day trip	Geography	13	£30
2014					
Jan/Feb	Holocaust Memorial	Day trip	RE	8	£10
Feb	Russia	6 days	History	12-13	£1,000
Jan/Feb ish	Hertfordshire places of worship	Day trip	RE	10 & 11 RE GCSE	£15
Feb Half-term	Austria Ski Trip	5 days	Ski-ing	9-11	£ 830
March/April	AS/A2 Student Conference	1 day	Geography	12/13	£35
March	Lake District *	4 days	Geography	12	£ 315
Easter Hols	China	8 days	Geography	10-11	£1250
Easter	Barcelona	3 days	Spanish	8-9	£ 350
Easter	Paris	4 nights	Rugby Tour	8-9	£500
Late Apr/May	Dorset	3 days	Geography	10	£160
July	Rhine/Moselle, Germany	4 days	German	9-10	£350
July	Hertfordshire places of worship	Day trip	RE	9	£15
July	London	1 day	Geography	9	£30 est
July	Activity Centre	4 days	Year 7 Pastoral	7	£ 150













*These are the only Compulsory trips. However, subject-specific trips are particularly designed to enable boys to complete work more effectively.

Any trip lasting more than 3 days will involve at least some time over a weekend and/or part of a school holiday period.

Remember the year group indicated is the year group your son WILL be in from September 2013.

Costs are completely approximate at this stage and cannot be guaranteed but should give parents a rough indication of likely overall trip payments.

Bear in mind that lengthier trips may also have additional costs such as food, equipment etc. There may be one or two additional day trips not shown here but which should involve a minimal cost.













BARCELONA!

Mrs Del Río writes about the Barcelona trip:

In October 2012 half term we went to Spain for 5 days.

On Friday the 29th of October we arrived in <u>Malaga</u> at about 12.00 and we met our tour guide. We took our coach and headed to Nerja where we had lunch. We went to the "Balcon de Europa"; there was a beach and a lovely view. After that we checked into our hotel in Fuengirola.

The second day we went to <u>Granada</u>, and went for a walk through one of the oldest areas in the city (Albaycin) and we also went to <u>The Alhambra</u> a beautiful Moorish palace. Despite the weather being wet inside we had an amazing experience learning about the past of the city and the palace.

We met our new partner school "Ramon y Cajal School". We spent the day in different lessons and met lots of new friends. They cooked some tapas for us and we played volleyball in the school grounds.

Thursday we went to a birds of prey exhibition and we spent the afternoon in Malaga. In the evening we went to a famous tapas restaurant and we enjoyed a taster.

"I went on the Malaga trip primarily because I wanted to improve my Spanish speaking but also because it featured an itinerary full of fun and interesting places. Over the week we went to lots of places. But my favourite which was a surprise to me was the Spanish school which gave us an insight into an authentic Spanish school and was really fun"...T Clark Y10

"...I enjoyed the entire trip but for me the highlights were the Spanish school, the cable car and visiting the Alhambra. We explored two cities, visited sites within them, went to a birds of prey show and visited a small Spanish seaside town with the best ice cream in the world. We also had spare time in which we explored the area around our hotel and visited the beach. To provide some positive criticism I would say that the days were perhaps too long as I was always tired at the end of them, but I suppose the action packed days allowed us to do lots. I'd say the trip increased my confidence, gave me life skills and of course improved my Spanish. I would recommend it to anyone and would do it all again"... T Boyle Y10.





