



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
A Specialist Technology & Language College

February 2013

Dear Parents

SPRING NEWSLETTER

I am writing to enclose our half-termly newsletter in which you will find details about many events which have happened in and around school, some important information and some advance notice of things to come.

It has been a difficult half-term for our community with terrible weather and many unpleasant bugs and viruses suffered by many staff and boys, but as you will see in the contents of the newsletter our spirit remains unbowed and the school is still an exciting and busy place.

However the Sports programme this term so far has been disrupted by some fairly severe weather and although there have been plenty of events we have decided to postpone the usual Sports report until the next newsletter.

I am also pleased to be able to enclose on the last page a letter of congratulations from the Minister of Education recognising the achievements of the boys.

I wish you all a relaxing spring half-term break and look forward to seeing the boys return on Monday 25 February refreshed and ready for the second half of the year.

Yours sincerely

M Brown

Head Teacher: Mr M. Brown



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HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2013

You win some....and then you win some!

This half-term Hitchin Boys' School teams won:

The Faraday Challenge – Science Technology & Engineering competition held in Stevenage.

The Year 7 Maths North Herts Schools Team Challenge on Tuesday 6th February at The Priory School. The team now goes forward to the Hertfordshire final in March.

The Youth Speaks Competition – Local Level with some outstanding performances:

Senior Team beat HGS

Chair Peter Saville Year 11

Main Speaker Liam Mylles Year 12

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks Ben Chennells Year 11

Intermediate Team (Second place)

Chair Max Titterton Year 8

Main Speaker Patrick Sloan Year 7

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks Will Jackson Year 9

Intermediate Team (First place)

Chair Lee Brown Year 8

Main Speaker Humza Lone Year 8

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks Rory McPhee Year 7

Huge thanks and congratulations to all staff and boys involved – well done!

Christmas Party for the Elderly

In December Hitchin Boys' hosted our now annual Christmas party for around 25 elderly residents and their carers from our local Elmside residential home. They were joined by staff and boys for an afternoon of festive Christmas cheer. Entertainment was provided by the brass group and chamber choir who performed a number of songs and carols, accompanied by the Music staff. Jacob Callaghan in Year 7 performed a beautiful rendition of 'My Favourite Things'. Refreshments were provided by both boys and staff and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Mr Murdoch also delivered an excerpt from 'A Christmas Carol'. The Sixth Form Centre was beautifully decorated by Miss Hines and the science technicians who had spent the weeks before helping boys to make all manner of festive decorations. As a thoughtful extra, boys had individually hand-made personalised Christmas cards for every visitor.

The afternoon was a huge success and it was heartening to see boys as young as eleven chatting happily to residents in their eighties. My thanks go to the carers at Elmside for supporting us in making it possible, and, of course, to all the staff and boys who were involved. We hope to continue this partnership with our elderly neighbours into 2013.

Art

The Art department have been running a series of Art based transition projects with some of our feeder primary schools. They have been looking at the work of the artist, Keith Haring and are working towards producing large scale painted banners.

From The Parents' Society:

Are you like me? Often short of wooden spoons? Worry no more! Come and get your team to lose the family quiz night on Friday 26th April (which includes a fish and chip supper) and you are assured the booby prize. Alternatively, you can bring some brainboxes and win the first prize..... It is the first time that we have held this type of event for some time and I am sure it will prove to be a fun evening. Watch out for full details on Parentmail in due course.

Another date you can't miss! Our annual summer fair is being held this year on Saturday 22nd June and we are planning to GO LARGE. To name just a few extra activities, we plan to have an assault course, there will be a professional archery range with compound bows etc. Can you stay on a bucking bronco? All the boys will be invited to come and sell their unwanted tech so much will be happening – be there.

And finally, I would like to make sure that you are all aware of the date of our biennial summer ball which is being held on Saturday 6th July. Ladies and gentlemen, get out your glad rags and dancing shoes ready for a night to remember.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who helps organise and gives help to these events and also for supporting us by attending. We are now working toward our new goal of providing an outside seating area for the boys. The plans will be going on the noticeboard and we always love to get some feedback and ideas. Don't forget if you can offer help your school needs you!

Our next committee meeting is being held on Monday 25th February at 7pm in Woodlands, followed by a summer fair meeting. We would love to invite as many parents and guardians as possible to attend, to offer their help and advice.

Thanks

Sharon Edwards

Chair of the Hitchin Boys' School Parents' Society



Red Nose Day Friday 15th March 2013

This year Hitchin Boys' School are once again really excited to be raising money for Red Nose Day 2013. As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Red Nose Day brings the entire nation together to do something funny for money. In the last two years we have raised over £8,000 for the charity putting Hitchin Boys' School amongst the Top 30 schools in the entire country.

To do our bit and raise money we will be running all sorts of events. To start off the Comic Relief season we have Funny Red Dress Day (FReD day) – on Friday 8th March 2013 boys will pay £ 2.00 each and come dressed in the funniest red clothes they can come up with. (NB We recommend not wearing a cardboard Post Box since normal lessons will be taking place that day. Manchester United shirts are of course ideal being both red and a joke...)

During the week leading up to Red Nose day there will be numerous competitions, games and ways to raise money such as:

- Penalty shoot out
- Crossbar challenge
- Extreme Obstacle course
- Staff in stocks...and many others.

We are challenging all forms and year groups to come up with their own fundraising activity. There will be prizes for the best dressed on FReD day and for the form raising most money individually. Sponsorship forms will be available from the school.

Hitchin Boys' Play Hitchin Town Square: On Red Nose Day itself we will be taking groups of boys into Hitchin Town Square to be jugglers, buskers, artistes and performers. They will put on a range of musical and comedy performances while our Sixth Formers go round Hitchin shaking the buckets to raise money.

And, the best bit is, all the money we raise – every single penny - helps people living incredibly tough lives, both at home in the UK and across Africa. To find out more about Red Nose Day visit www.rednoseday.com/schools. We will also be using learning resources provided by Comic Relief so that our pupils can learn exactly how the money they are raising will help transform the lives of poor and vulnerable people.

We really appreciate your support and hope that you'll have fun helping us raise lots of money for Red Nose Day!

(PS thanks to the staff at Sweeney Todd rehearsals on Saturday for doing something funny)

COMMENDATIONS for EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE

The following boys have been noted as performing especially well since the start of the year as recognised in their December Progress Check. Well done!

7Br	7Cv	7So	7Tm	7Tr	7Up
Sam Bellinger Connor Dudley Rory McPhee Danny Mulley Daniel Ranson Bailey Robinson Joshua Stacey Jack Taplin Daniel Williams Charlie Dent	Louis Condon Tommy Corteen Daniel Martin Or Sinkovich Matthew Weston	Joshua Bickerdike Jack Burridge Louis Day Amman Dosanjh Oli Downes Connor Every Somerset Gough Joe Henderson Oliver Hill Chris Holes Julian Lewis-Knowles Robbie Nightingale Jay Pandit Owen Peel Joshua Rickard Connor Skene Benjamin Stewart	Felix Elliot Ira Johal Adam Mountney Elliot Thomas Kai Watkins- Hall Rhys West	Paul Robertson Angel Shikov Patrick Sloan Will Smith Ben Williams	Joshua Beckett Kieran Doyle Jonathan Howard George Hunt- Mount Oliver Jones Luke Marini Joseph Mullins Riegan Vincent

8Bt	8Dg	8Fn	8He	8Sg	8Wk
Finn Cain Alexander Diop Ollie Edmonds Tom Ferguson Ashley Gregory James Harris Declan Hodges Benjamin Mellor Tom Rice Thomas Rousell, Abid Uddin	Joseph Condon Jake Culverhouse Jack French Ethan Gray Oscar Ings Hamza Lone Stepan Mysko Von Schultze, Christopher Willis Benjamin Wilmot	Lewis Gibbs Archie Godfrey William Rodway	Thomas Bell Nathan Broadhurst Hector Duncan Zac Gbadebo Benjamin Russell	Peter Gull Joseph Keech George Mcelroy George Sewell Elliot Simpson- Rooke	Matthew Lisles Archie McPhee Ethan James-Perle

9Fm	9Gy	9H	9Md	9Ph	9Pn
Adam Anderson Elliot Colman Harry Edwards Thomas Hill William Mackinnon- Austin Monty McPhee Lewis Reyall, William Webb Tom Whittall	Leon Collis Alex Darrell Shaan Dod Alex Francis William Harrop Alex Robb Dean Semark Adam Stroud	Harry Digby Jordan Lavielle Tom Manning	Thanushan Aravinthan Jack Fry Will Jackson Adam Lund Louis Schopp Rory Shooter	Somsul Alom Ben Beattie Tyler Grey Kieran Morar Jay Patadia Jamie Sennitt Dominic Taylor	Raza Chandna Joseph Davis Sam Gamble David Garrick Ellis Hyde Billy Mulley Ben Wetherill Ben Wiggins

Hitchin Boys' School Cycling Club:

Cycling is now one of Britain's most popular leisure pastimes and competitive sports. The success of Team GB on the velodromes around the world and victories amongst in professional cycling has catapulted the sport into the centre of the nation's sporting consciousness. In Great Britain British Cycling is the governing body for cycling and as part of their ongoing development programme British Cycling are keen to encourage the next generation of riders to emulate the success of Wiggins, Pendleton, Cavendish, Cooke and Hoy.

The Go Ride programme is British Cycling's mechanism to develop the sport at grass roots level and is a great way for riders of all ages to learn bike handling and racing skills as well as encouraging people in to exercise.



Hitchin Boys' School (HBS) is working with the local cycling club, Hitchin Nomads CC to kick-start the Go Ride programme in the local area. HBS and Hitchin Nomads will be working closely together over the coming months to run a series of after school clubs (weekdays) and Saturday coaching and racing sessions. The after school clubs and coaching sessions will take place in the school grounds and some of the Saturday activities will also feature guided rides and activities based on the British Cycling Go Ride "Gears" syllabus.

All coaching will be delivered by accredited British Cycling coaches - all of whom volunteer their time and are experienced cyclists, all of whom are also CRB checked.

An after school club will be taking place on Fridays commencing on the 1st of March, the Saturday Go-Ride club will be commencing on the 2nd. Further details will be publicised both in the school and via the learning platform. This is a great opportunity to get in to cycling in a coaching environment and could well lead to HBS alumni featuring on a podium in the near future.



Attendance

Just a reminder that all unforeseen absences should be reported to the school as early as possible, ideally by 8:45am. You can either ring the school or email the school on absence@hbs.herts.sch.uk. Full details regarding attendance (including the attendance policy) can be found on our website http://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk/do/pages/about_us/attendance

Mentoring/Counselling Services

We have a number of outside agencies working closely with our students offering mentoring and counselling services. In most instances they work with the young person on a one-to-one basis where confidentiality is paramount; more recently they have provided group workshops where a number of students experiencing the same issues can be supported eg developing coping strategies for stressful situations.

If you are a parent/guardian of a pupil at the school and feel your son would benefit from one of these services please contact Mrs Lee, our Pastoral Secretary, in the first instance. Students at Hitchin Boys' School may also ask to see someone by speaking to Mrs Konanec, Mr Streets or Mrs Lee. At the moment there is a waiting list for these services but we would encourage you to contact us and we will do our best to arrange an appointment as soon as possible.

Sign up for ParentMail 2

Last September we upgraded to ParentMail 2, a new and improved version of the ParentMail system that we have been using successfully for a couple of years. We now have over 70% of parents registered to receive email messages from school using the system. We are also able to send text messages using ParentMail 2 in an emergency, if parents have also registered a mobile number. If you would like a code so that you can sign up with ParentMail 2, please email Mrs Hope on chope@hbs.herts.sch.uk, and she will email your code directly to you.

Calendar

Spring Term - Second Half

February		
Monday	25	Parents' Society Committee Meeting – Woodlands, 7pm
Tuesday	26	Year 12 Headstart Day @ The Priory School (20 students)
Wednesday	27	Year 8 Consultation Evening 5pm
Thursday	28	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group Committee 6pm
March		
Friday	1	Year 12 Geography Lake District trip departs
Monday	4	Year 11 Speaking Assessment 3 (Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri)
Monday	4	Year 8 Maths Challenge
Tuesday	5	Year 12 Geography Lake District trip returns
Wednesday	6	Music Competition
Wednesday	6	Barcelona Trip Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Friday	8	Music Competition
Tuesday	12	A2 Politics Study Day
Tuesday	12	Governors' Student Conduct & Welfare Committee 6pm
Wednesday	13	Spring Concert
Saturday	16	World Challenge Strictly Come Dancing Evening 7.30pm
Monday	18	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Monday	18	Year 12 Oxbridge Day (Leicester)
Tuesday	19	Year 11 Writing Assessment 3 (period 2)
Wednesday	20	Governors' Resources Committee 6pm
Monday	25	GCSE Music Performance Assessments
Tuesday	26	GCSE Music Performance Assessments
Wednesday	27	GCSE Music Performance Assessments
Thursday	28	Y8/9 Spain trip departs
Thursday	28	End of term
April		
Monday	1	Year 8/9 Spain trip returns
Sunday	7	Year 8/9 Rugby Tour to Paris departs
Thursday	11	Year 8/9 Rugby Tour returns
Monday	15	INSET Day
Tuesday	16	Summer Term begins



Rt Hon David Laws MP
Minister of State for Schools

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Mr Martin Brown
Hitchin Boys' School
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25th January 2013

Dear Mr. Brown,

2012 SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TABLES

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the excellent GCSE performance of your pupils in 2012.

There are many ways to assess school performance. On this occasion we have looked at the performance of pupils in five GCSEs: English and mathematics, and the pupil's three best other GCSEs.

Your results show that you are amongst the 100 top performing non-selective schools in absolute terms on this measure.

It is clear that your school has equipped its pupils to be successful hereafter, both in terms of their readiness for further study, and in terms of their readiness to enter the world of work in due course.

I would like to congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and success and thank you for your leadership in continuing the drive towards high standards of educational achievement.

Yours sincerely,

David Laws MP