



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
A Specialist Technology & Language College

March 2013

Dear Parents

EASTER NEWSLETTER

I am writing to enclose our half-termly newsletter in which you will find details about:

External Summer Exams – GCSE & GCE timetables are now out; please check your son's bag!

Hitchin Boys' have won the RIBI Youth Speaks regional finals, the Hertfordshire Maths Challenges and the Rotary Music Bursary.

We have had great artistic experiences with our outstanding drama production of Sweeney Todd, the Music Competition winners, the annual Spring Concert and the Junior Choir in the St Matthew Passion.

We have raised money for OXFAM with a bake sale and a significant amount for Comic Relief with lots of fun activities.

You will also find news from the Parents' Society about upcoming events such as the Quiz Night, Family Fun Day (this will be a great day out!), Summer Ball and Work Experience Week.

There is news from the PE department of great results in hockey, basketball and athletics.

Finally there is a calendar of events for the first half of the summer term. Yes, that did say summer term – it may be hard to believe when you look outside but we will be entering the summer phase of activities in just a few short weeks.

I wish you all a relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing the boys return on Tuesday 16 April refreshed and ready for the summer term.

Yours sincerely

M Brown

Head Teacher: Mr M. Brown



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HEAD'S NEWSLETTER:

SUMMER EXAMS

All students in Years 11, 12 and 13 should now have their own personal exam timetable for May and June. Make sure you check it VERY carefully (especially any Foundation/Higher options) and report any errors to Mrs Berry in the first week of term.

NEWS FROM ENGLISH - RIBI YOUTH SPEAKS

On Saturday 16 March boys from Year 7 and 8 competed in the Regional Finals of the RIBI Youth Speaks competition in Ipswich. The team comprised of Lee Brown, Year 8, as Chair, Humza Lone, Year 8, as Main Speaker and Rory McPhee, Year 7, as the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks. Competing in the Intermediate division, which is open to teams from Years 7 - 9, the boys had already won three rounds and represented Herts, Beds and Bucks. After a morning of superb presentations from teams representing Cambridgeshire, London and Essex we were delighted when our team, the youngest in the competition, were declared the winners. The boys now go on to represent the South East in the National Finals which will take place in Hull on Sunday 28 April. We would like to thank the Hitchin Rotary Club as well as the families of the boys for their support and wish them all the best of luck.

NEWS FROM MATHS

Year 7 won the Hertfordshire Team Maths Challenge.

Year 8 came 1st and 2nd in the North Hertfordshire Team Challenge. Final to come.

OXFAM BAKE SALE

We raised £141.55 in the Oxfam bake sale on Friday 8 March as part of Oxfam's Get Together fundraiser to help support women living in poverty around the world.

NEWS FROM MUSIC

This term has been a really active and exciting one for the school's musicians. Since the success of the school musical, *Sweeney Todd*, just before half term, we have had the music competition and the Spring Concert. The competition was fierce this year and we saw some excellent performances on a wide variety of instruments. The overall Music Cup for 2013 was awarded to Thomas Gimson in Year 13, who also won the Woodwind Cup. The other winners were Daniel Addison (String Cup), James Abrams (Piano Cup), Conor Black (Brass Cup), Timothy Cranfield (Singing Cup), Peter Woodin (Guitar Cup) and Finn Cain (Junior Cup). Thank you to Mr Chambers from HGS and to Mr Brown for adjudicating the competition.

The cups were given out at the Spring concert, where some of the winners performed their pieces as soloists. We also had a show stopping performance on the bagpipes by Alex Hawkins. Once again, the standard of musicians and the number of students taking part, was fantastic to see, so well done to everyone who played or sang.

Musicians also took a leading part in helping to raise money for Comic Relief by playing in the town centre on Red Nose Day. Despite the cold weather, we had performances going on in the market square and the arcade for two hours. Performers included the Brass, Saxophone and Woodwind Groups, Junior and Chamber Choirs, Jazz Band, Street Dancers, Them And Us and Kumara Junction, as well as individual buskers and drama students doing comedy sketches.

Our final performance this term involved members of the Junior Choir taking part in a performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at the Coptic Centre in Stevenage with the North Herts Guild of Singers and the Orpheus Choir. Our singers represented the school with style and their contribution was much appreciated by the conductor and the choirs.

Finally, many congratulations to Daniel Addison, who won the prestigious Rotary Peter Lambourne Youth Music Bursary, and to James Abrams, who was placed third. They faced fierce competition from musicians from other schools and performed with real credit to themselves and to the school.

Members of the school choir will be going on tour to Germany in October this year. There are still places for a few more performers. If you are interested, come and speak to Ms Hetherington in the Music Department or get in touch by phone or email.

NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' SOCIETY

Quiz night Friday 26 April at 7pm

The preparations are going well for our family quiz night. The tickets are now on sale and we have a special offer for family tickets (2 adults and 2 children). If you do not have a team of 8, no problem we will allocate you randomly to a team. Please buy your tickets now and support this event of fun, food and facts.

Family Fun Day Saturday 22 June at 11am

Formerly, known as the Summer Fair, this event is going to be huge. We are utilising all school fields to incorporate some amazing events such as Bucking Bronto, Gladiator Ring, Adult Bouncy Castle, Archery, Assault Course to mention a few. There will also be our traditional stalls, BBQ, Thai and Indian food available. However, for this event to be a success we need volunteers to help for a few hours, please email me on chair.hbps@gmail.com, any help will be gratefully received.

With this Family Fun Day is our Annual Summer Raffle, the prizes are incredible, for example, first prize is two VIP hospitality ticket to a race of the British Touring Car Championships worth £1,000; but more so you cannot buy these tickets. You need to be in it to win it, so watch out for the raffle tickets coming to you after Easter.

Summer Ball Saturday 6 July

Ladies and gentlemen, get out your glad rags and dancing shoes ready for a night to remember. Tickets are selling fast so if you want to be part of this event please purchase your tickets soon, as places are limited.

Committee

Last but not least, we are always looking for committee members. Without the support of parents we cannot function; we are currently looking for three volunteers to take over the position of Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. These positions will not take up much time and I am looking to have them filled by the start of next term so that a smooth transition can take place. If you are interested in sparing an hour or two of your time please email me.

Our next committee meeting is being held on Tuesday 16 April at 7pm in Woodlands, followed by a summer fair meeting. If you would like to become a committee member, it would be lovely to see you there.

Best wishes and have a lovely Easter break. Sharon Edwards, Chair

COMIC RELIEF

Andy Smith of the Senior Prefect team writes.

“After two weeks of intense, sweat-drooling, nerve-testing, heart-pumping, ‘fun raising’, I can conclude that our Comic Relief efforts have come to a sad end for another year. Our fundraising fortnight kicked off with a penalty shoot-out tournament on Friday 8 March, (non-uniform day). Hundreds of pupils queued up to challenge our very own Joe Harts, needing to score 3 out of 3 to get on to our elusive Winners List - congratulations to Olly Garside, Daniel Martin, Ben Montanaro, Louis Lomas, Matt Chappenden, Alex Merrison, Jason Freeman, Joe Henderson, Jed Wheeler, Cameron Calderon and Rhys West.

Our second event took us to the School Quad, where seven brave teachers took on the wrath of our very own teenage terrors, armed only with water and a sponge. Unsurprisingly, the ‘Teachers in Stocks’ event was very popular, with some teachers attracting longer queues than others (no names mentioned).



Special thanks go to Mr Hanahoe, Mr Mansfield, Mr Smith, Dr Towalski, Mr Thorp, Miss Hines and Mr Terry for being excellent sports and participating despite the bitter temperature and frequent snow showers.

The main event this year was truly innovative and somewhat broke the mould of previous fundraisers. The Senior Prefect Team managed to put together a ‘Sumo-Suit Obstacle Mayhem’ assault course.

We saw multiple jumps, leaps, struggles, flips and falls – the majority of which coming from the teachers’ races at lunchtime.



Our year's work was rounded off by the traditional day in Hitchin Town Centre, entertaining the crowds with musical and dramatic performances alongside a number of additional acts including magicians, joke tellers, impressionists and jugglers.



Unfortunately, the usually reliable British weather let us down on this occasion, failing to provide with crowd-enticing warmth we were hoping for. Despite this, those who were out were more than happy to turn out their pockets in supports of our boys' fantastic performances. Huge thanks to Miss Hetherington and Miss Gale for organising the afternoon and an even bigger thanks to students who participated – you really did yourselves proud!

Extra thanks go to Miss Maddocks' form who raised £137 with a very popular cake sale and Bailey Robinson who raised £69 in Ms Baratiny's form with a "charity guess". People had to guess how many sweets there were in the jar.

Overall we can conclude that so far we have raised a spectacular £3,250 for Comic Relief with more donations to come – well done to everyone involved and a truly great contribution.

Special thanks to:

Ray Worbey – Graphic Designer responsible for our outstanding posters, giving his time and skills free of charge.

Joe Wilmot – Our very own photographer, responsible for all the comic relief photos in this newsletter. (This is his company name and website address: ExposurePhotography www.exposure-photography.org)

Keith Hoskins – Hitchin Town Centre Initiative.

More photos of the events can be found on the school website at www.hbs.herts.sch.uk.

...and the fun is not over yet with a staff and governors meal planned in April cooked and served by the team which aims to take our total over £ 4,000.

In the last 24 months with the help of all the boys and staff and all the parents as well as the good people of Hitchin we have managed to contribute over £10,000 to the Comic/Sport Relief charity. Every penny going to help truly needy causes at home and abroad.



WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK – YEAR 10

We have been inundated with praise again for Hitchin Boys' School and the behaviour of our Year 10 boys while on work experience last week.

This is just one note received from the Fire Service:

“I visited the group again this morning and they are still performing really well. All are a credit to themselves and to the school. All at Herts Fire and Rescue were full of praise for the work the students have done this week all engaged well with the HFRS staff. Their behaviour was also excellent.



Thank you for setting up the visit to Whitehill School. They made us very welcome and the students gave a very good presentation including acting out a hoax call scenario.”

Similar reports were received from many of our partners in the world of work. We are very proud of the vast majority of the boys who took part.

Huge thanks to all who stepped in to help organise this year, especially Ms Spencer.

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Hockey Review

During the season we played 48 matches, won 21, drew 9 and lost 18. Both the Under 14s and Under 16s excelled themselves by reaching the Eastern Regional Finals, as Hertfordshire representatives and performed creditably against the top private schools. The U13 side came 3rd in the County Championships and our 1st XI enjoyed a day out with 27 other schools at the prestigious Weybridge Sixes competition in Surrey. The development of hockey within the school has continued apace. We are very fortunate and grateful to Blueharts Hockey Club who have assisted with the coaching of our players as they have promoted the game and provided our boys with excellent opportunities which we hope will continue for many years to come. Dean Wheeler coached our Year 7 boys on a Thursday evening from September until Christmas with 60 boys regularly attending practice and developing their core skills and tactical awareness. Other coaching sessions were helped by the regular presence of our senior hockey players Andy Smith, Michael Williams, Sam Rees and Andy Munn who supported the younger teams on a weekly basis through coaching and umpiring. Paul Buckland, the Blueharts 1st team captain, coached our 1st XI and U16 with success and they are a side who show great promise for the future. Many thanks too, must go to both Geoff Edwards and Mike Tipper for umpiring our home matches thus allowing our staff to coach from the sidelines.

We are delighted also that the following boys gained Representative Club honours:

Junior Development Centre – Will Smith, Daniel Dove.

Junior Academy Centre – Toby McCormack, Will Smith, Nathan Edwards, Chris Davies, Rob Donald, Dominic Lloyd- Williams, Alex Hubbard, Oliver Pitts, Adam Auld, Rob MacDonald, Ganesh Sivasothy, James Smith, Jamie Wright.

Finally we must thank Mr Thomas, Mr Flint and Mr White who have provided support in helping develop our hockey players this season.

Results (including County and Regional Finals and Weybridge Sixes)

	Played	Won	Drew	Lost
1 st XI	10	1	2	7
2 nd XI/U16	9	6	1	2
Year 10	4	1	1	2
Year 9	10	5	1	4
Year 8	13	6	4	3
Year 7	2	2	0	0

D Smith, Director of Hockey

Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 7 Basketball team who won the District Basketball final 56-48 beating a very talented Greneway School on Friday.

Congratulations to the Year 8 Basketball Team who also beat Greneway in the District final 58-36.

Athletics

Year 7 – Hertfordshire Indoor Athletics Champions 2013

Year 8 – Hertfordshire Indoor Athletics Champions 2013

Congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 8 indoor athletics teams who beat the other 12 district champions to win the County title. We are now the first school in the County's history to hold both outdoor titles U14 and U16 and both indoor titles at the same time. This is a credit to the pupil's hard work and determination.

The regional final is on Wednesday 24 April. Hitchin Boys' will compete against the county champions from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. The event will be held at Hatfield Sports Village 11am – 4pm.

Year 9 Athletics – Wednesday 27 March

The Year 9 Athletics team have made the final of the Lee Valley Indoor cup which will see them compete against four of the best five schools in the Country.

Stevenage and North Herts Athletics Club

Any pupils who have shown a talent for athletics should consider joining the local club Stevenage & North Herts. They are holding an induction for prospective members the first Thursday of each month. The school is already strongly represented there and all pupils who compete for the school should seriously consider maximising their talents.

Next induction Thursday 4 April at Ridlins Track, Stevenage.

Athletics Equipment

If you have any unused athletics equipment or spikes please get in touch with Mr Bajak [bajak357@hbs.herts.sch.uk] or leave them at the school reception for him.

CALENDAR – FIRST HALF, SUMMER TERM

April		
Monday	15 th	INSET Day
Tuesday	16 th	Summer term begins
Tuesday	16 th	HBS Parents' Society Committee Meeting: Woodlands, 7pm
Wednesday	17 th	Y11 PE moderation
Thursday	18 th	Y11 PE moderation
Friday	19 th	Y10 Geography trip to Dorset departs (till Sunday 21 st)
Wednesday	24 th	AS Politics Study Day
Wednesday	24 th	Governors' Main Board meeting 5pm
Thursday	25 th	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday	26 th	GCSE Music Evaluation Exam (2 hours)
Friday	26 th	HBS Parents' Society Quiz Night 7pm
Saturday	27 th	HBS Old Boys' Association Annual Reunion Dinner 7.45pm
Monday	29 th	Y10 Exam Week
Monday	29 th	Bag2School Collection
May		
Wednesday	1 st	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group 6pm
Wednesday	1 st	Summer Soloists Recital
Friday	3 rd	Y11 Art Exam
Monday	6 th	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	7 th	Y11 Art Exam
Wednesday	8 th	AS Art/Photography Exams
Thursday	9 th	AS Art/Photography Exams
Thursday	9 th	Governors' Student Attainment & Curriculum Committee 6pm
Friday	10 th	AS Art/Photography Exams
Monday	13 th	External Exams start
Monday	13 th	AS Art/Photography Exams
Tuesday	14 th	A2 Art/Photography Exams
Wednesday	15 th	A2 Art/Photography Exams
Wednesday	15 th	Governors' Health & Safety Committee 6pm
Thursday	16 th	A2 Art/Photography Exams
Wednesday	22 nd	Governors' Student Conduct & Welfare Committee 6pm
Thursday	23 rd	Y7 Parents' Evening
Friday	24 th	Y13 Revision Timetable/Study leave starts
Monday	27 th	HALF TERM