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**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL**  
An Academy Trust

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**HEAD'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2013**

**European Week of Languages:** We have had European languages week with fun assemblies and activities in a range of foreign languages culminating in a marvellous European breakfast on Friday morning.

**Open Day & Evening:** Over two morning sessions and an evening the school has opened its doors to prospective parents hoping to join us in September 2014. Thanks to all the boys who acted as tour guides and helpers and gave a great impression of the school. Once again the main worry for parents was whether they would be successful in their applications. We would like everyone who wants to join us to be able to do so and we wish them all well.

**Black History Month:** We have also raised awareness of Black History throughout October with presentations and assemblies focusing on Martin Luther King, the Windrush Generation and questions about identity and multiculturalism. There have been quizzes, lunchtime activities and as an added bonus, we have had some excellent Caribbean and Indian food selections in the Dining Hall.

**Shelter Box:** We committed to raising money for the Shelter Box charity which provides life-saving shelter, cooking equipment and other essential supplies to families in refugee or crisis zones.



In the summer term the senior prefect team organised a fun run and non-uniform day and many forms invented their own fundraising activities. Last week we presented the cheque for £2,572 to Tile House Rotary Club who operate the scheme. This will purchase at least 4 Shelter Boxes – potentially saving the lives of 4 families in crisis, war or refugee zones around the world.

**Winners Wall:** Each half-term we will be celebrating outstanding work produced by some of our boys. Here are the first two entrants to Mr Brown's Winners' Wall. A Geography assignment on the four units taught at AS Level which are cold environments, population change, health issues and river management by Tim Christey-Reid (Year 12) and a History assignment on the Great Depression in America by Steven Boakes (Year 11). Good effort gentlemen.



**ParentView:** Please visit [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to let us (and Ofsted!) know what you think about Hitchin Boys' School.

**School Council:** Each form now has elected two representatives for the School Council and the Sixth Form Senior Prefect Team will now be gathering their views.

**Local Charity Competition:** One aspect which we want the School Council to contribute to is the decision on which local charity to support this term. In Spring we always support Comic Relief/Sport Relief – a national and international charity. Last summer and this summer we aim to support Shelter Box – a international charity. However for this first term we would like to support one local scheme. We have therefore asked each form to propose a charity and we will then take votes from the whole school in a proper democratic exercise to decide on our chosen charity for this year.

**School Trips:** By the time you read this, our Choir will be on the way to Germany and a group of History students will be in Berlin and later Poland.

So far this half-term there have been trips to the World War One battlefields for History and Geography students have been to the Barton Hills National Nature Reserve.

Attached you will find a list of all proposed trips during the next academic year. This is provided to give parents an indication of likely expenditure, but is of course subject to change.

**Rugby Spectators:** As an incentive to parents to come along and support on Saturday mornings, Mrs Hall, the new Chair of the Parents' Society and parent of one of our rugby players, is very kindly giving up her time to provide hot drinks and sausage and bacon rolls (free to our players, cost price to parents) during the home rugby matches played by Year 9 and of course all other parents are welcome. Please come and support if you can.

**Swimming:** Congratulations to the intermediate relay swimming team of Matthew McPherson, Alex Evens, Sam Gamble and George Rodger for qualifying for the National Schools Relay Championships in November. At present, they are ranked 18th in the freestyle relay and 10th in the medley relay nationally.

**Exam Timetables – Year 11:** All Year 11s now have individual printed exam timetables for both GCSE mathematics and all their mock exams. Students must check the details on them and report any errors to Mrs Berry before half term. Anyone losing their timetable should request a new one from Mrs Berry as soon as possible.

### Parents' Society Monthly Draw

The winners are:

September	1st	C Fowler
	2nd	J Felstead
	3rd	T Young
October	1st	L McElroy
	2nd	P Furphy
	3rd	C Plummer

**Job Vacancies:** We are looking to recruit an additional Learning Support Assistant/Cover Supervisor – please keep a lookout for the advert if you or anyone you know might be interested.

**Library Competition:** There are four competitions for boys to enter to win one of four signed books - each prize has its own set of entry criteria. The titles are on display in J-Block and will be on plasma screens. I will be distributing some entry forms to most form tutors but obviously the boys may pick up forms from me as well. Please return them to form tutors or simply ask the boys to bring them to me. Forms are due by 6 November which allows boys some time over the break to complete the task.

Tom Pitchford, Librarian

### SAHARA TREK

On 2 November Helen Dudley, mum to Connor in Year 8, will be embarking on a crazy challenge to raise funds for a remarkable charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital. Her challenge will be to trek 100km in 5 days across the Sahara Desert. It will be early starts to avoid the midday temperature of 35-40c whilst the evenings will be cold (around 5c) sleeping in a Bedouin tent.

Please support Helen in her challenge and help raise monies for this incredible charity via <http://www.justgiving.com/Helen-Dudley73> or text SAND65 to 70070.

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity and support.

Helen Dudley

## Tough Guy Challenge 2014



Can Joe Page prove he is a Tough Guy? Who knows, but he's giving it his best shot in aid of a very worthwhile cause. Teenage Cancer Trust's vision is a future where young people's lives don't stop because they have cancer. They make sure they're treated as young people first, cancer patients second. Around seven young people aged between 13 and 24 are diagnosed with cancer every day in the UK. They need expert treatment and support from the moment they hear the word 'cancer.' This is the only charity dedicated to making this happen.

Joe will run a course of 15k in January, the original and toughest test of its kind anywhere in the World. His fear of heights, tight spaces, fire, water and electricity will be tested to the max. Everyone bar the very toughest will be beaten.

Want to donate? Head over to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/josephpage1> to give money. Thank you in advance.

## Calendar

<b>November</b>		
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ski Trip meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE English resit am
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	AS Music Performance Exam
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Drama Performances 1.30pm
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Maths Challenge
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Y13 Subject Staff Consultation Evening 5pm
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Health & Safety Committee 6pm
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Society Katwalk Fashion Show 7.30pm
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Maths exam am (B391/1 B391/2)
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Writing Assessment 2 (all week)
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Maths exam am (B392/1 B392/2)
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Y9 Subject Staff Consultation Evening 5pm
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Concert
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Mock Exam fortnight
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Y12 Subject Staff Consultation Evening 5pm
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Resources Committee 6pm
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Music Recital
<b>December</b>		
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Main Board meeting 6pm
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group meeting 6pm
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Lower School Disco 7pm
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service, St Mary's Church 7.45pm
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	School Carol Services
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term

## School Trips 2014-2015

Below is a list of proposed trips to give parents an indication of likely expenditure, but is of course subject to change.

Date	Location	Duration	Subject	Year(s)	Approx Cost
April 2014	Moscow		History	12/13	
April 2014	Norfolk (Castles)	Day trip	History	7	£13
June 2014	Hertfordshire	Day trip	Maths	7/8/9	
June 2014	Alton Towers	Day trip	Maths	8	£25
September 2014	France/Belgium WW1 Battlefields	4 days	History	9	
October 2014	Henry Moore Foundation	Day trip	Art	10	£20
October 2014	Tate Modern	Day trip	Art	11	£20
October 2014	Barton	½ day x 2	Geography	8	£5
October half term 2014 (27 – 31/10)	Andalucia, Spain	5 days	MFL	10-13	£500
October/November 2014	Tate Modern and Tate Britain	Day trip	Art	12/13	£20
November 2014	The Workhouse Southwell, Notts	Day trip	History	12	
Nov/Dec 2014	Hazards Day	Day trip	Geography	13	£30
Nov/Dec 2014	Kirby & Liverpool	Day trip	Geography	13	£25
Last week Jan/first week Feb 2015	Northwood (to meet holocaust survivor)	½ day	RE	8	£10
February 2015	The Alps (probably Italy)	Week	Ski Trip	9/10/11	£900
Feb/March 2015	Colchester Zoo	Day trip	Biology	12	£18
March 2015	Lake District	5 days	Geography	12	£350
March 2015	Gallery (tbc)	Day trip	Art	12/13	£20
March/April 2015	AS/A2 Conference (with HGS)	1 day	Geography	12/13	£35
Easter 2015	Barcelona	5 days	MFL	7/8	
Easter 2015	Paris	4 days	Music	7-13 (musicians)	£360 (based on 35)
Easter 2015	Morocco	12 days	World Challenge	9/10	
Easter 2015	Paris (Rugby Tour)	4 nights	PE	8/9	£500
April 2015	Norfolk (Castles)	Day trip	History	7	
Late Apr/May 2015	Dorset	3 days	Geography	10	£160
May/June 2015	Local churches	½ day	RE	7	£0 in past
June/July 2015	Hertfordshire places of worship	Day trip	RE	9	tba
September 2015	France/Belgium WW1 Battlefields	4 days	History	9	
October 2015	Berlin and Poland	6 days	History	10/11	
November 2015	The Workhouse Southwell, Notts	Day trip	History	12	
July 2016	South America	12 days	World Challenge	9/10	£3,500