



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

HEAD'S NEWSLETTER – February 2014

Contents:	Page
Celebrating Achievement: The Winners' Wall:	2
Hitchin Boys' again in the Top 100 Schools:	2
ParentView	2
GOOGLE APPS	3
Sign up for ParentMail	3
Elizabeth Ann Lucas Charity	3
“Vulnerability” Conference – Sholto's view	4
Hertfordshire Air Ambulance:	5
Mountain Biking	5
The Comet Sports Award 2013	5
100 Club Winners	5
Calendar	6

Celebrating Achievement: The Winners' Wall:

Great achievement comes from great effort – we celebrate the following students whose work was singled out for praise this half-term for its quality by various members of staff. They were all successful in being displayed on the Head teacher's Winners' Wall.



Dept		Form	
Geography	Max Wolstencroft	12Ad	UK Winter Floods Poster
Geography	Daniel Saville	12Hw	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Poster
Geography	Ed Laing	12Hw	Siberia poster
Art	Frank Hayward	8Hn	Sandwich picture
Art	Jacob Callaghan	8Ph	Sandwich picture
Economics	Hina Awan	HGS	Excellent poster on
RE	Hersh Vilas	7So	Merit points on exercise book

Well done !

Hitchin Boys' again in the Top 100 Schools:

Most of you will hopefully have seen the letter recently received from the Department for Education congratulating the school on its GCSE results. We were particularly pleased with these two paragraphs:

Your school is clearly equipping its pupils for success in both further study and future employment.

The results are a shining testament to the hard work and success of your staff, governors and pupils. I would like to offer my thanks to you and all at your school for your pursuit of the highest standards of educational achievement.

We would like to add our thanks to all the parents and carers who work so hard to support this school as well.

ParentView

Please visit the OfStEd Website to leave feedback on our performance:

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

GOOGLE APPS:

We are now six months into our deployment of Google Apps in school and by now your son will have had their login username and password. We are using Google Mail in school along with Google Docs and Google Drive, a form of cloud storage for documents, to support our learning in and outside the classroom and, as Google Apps are used by a range of international businesses such as EAT, ITV and National Geographic to name just three, we are preparing students for life beyond the school gates.

Many staff are now using Google Apps as a repository for key information and homework tasks. It is important therefore that you ensure your boys are logging in regularly.

Students can login to the new learning platform by vising www.hitchinboys.co.uk and entering their login information. There are certain aspects of this site that can only be viewed once your son has logged in but, similarly to our previous platform, we have open areas for students where you can find careers information and the latest on school clubs and activities. We are currently preparing a parent section of the site and you will see content added to this over the next few weeks.

Please encourage your son to login and show you what Google Apps looks like on the inside. If your son has forgotten his username and password then please ask him to visit Mrs Spencer in IT support to get a reminder.

This is an exciting development for the school as we are one of a few secondary schools to take a leading role in the deployment of Google Apps for Education. We will keep you updated with our progress and future developments with the platform.

Simon Warburton

Deputy Head Teacher

Sign up for ParentMail

We now have over 80% of parents registered to receive messages via the ParentMail email system. We use ParentMail regularly to send copies of letters and messages direct to parents, ensuring that they do make it home and don't get lost or forgotten at the bottom of school bags! Please consider signing up if you haven't already done so – it only takes a couple of minutes. If you would like a code to register with ParentMail, please email Mrs Hope on chope@hitchinboys.co.uk and she will email your code directly to you.

Elizabeth Ann Lucas Charity – please consider applying if you are planning a post-16 course, apprenticeship, university etc:

The Elizabeth Ann Lucas Charity supports young people under the age of 25 who in the opinion of the Trustees are in need of financial assistance and who are either resident in Hitchin or who have attended any maintained school in Hitchin.

The Charity can provide financial assistance to beneficiaries attending courses and apprenticeships including financial assistance toward the cost of tools, instruments, books, and other equipment required in that course or profession.

Application form at end of newsletter. Please return completed forms to the School Office.

“Vulnerability” Conference – Sholto’s view

A small group of boys represented the school recently at a conference on “Vulnerability” organised by Youth Connexions at the Letchworth District Council Offices. Thank you to Sholto Murray who has written a short report:

“At the beginning of the course the six of us were split up into 3 different groups, 2 in each. We were then sent to 3 different workshops to work with pupils from other school including Hitchin Girls School.

Workshop 1 – We were firstly shown a video of an older teenager’s life across a few weeks. It was showing us the difference between a good relationship and a bad one. Her brother makes her leave the house so that he can hang around with a girl that he likes which then develops into them going out, even after a few bumps along the way. This is the good relationship. The girl we are following then goes and gets to know some new people. She ends up in a stranger’s house with 3 guys and 1 girl that she doesn’t know. They steal her phone and to get it back she has to kiss one of the guys, also the other girl is pressured into doing ‘things’ that she isn’t truly comfortable with. This is obviously the bad relationship. The main character is scared so goes to her brother’s girlfriend for help, she then goes on to help her new friend who gets away from the boys and after a while starts to have a happier relationship with another guy. Following this video we were asked about it and what we thought but we had to give short answers.

This was then followed by a little show done by 4 of the helpers, which they called ‘The Jenny Kyle Show’. It was showing us how some people in relationships control their other half into doing things they aren’t comfortable with and keeping them from their other friends.

Workshop 2 – We then moved on to talk to 3 adults, 2 of whom were police officers. They took us through a PowerPoint slideshow of websites that we could go to if we need help or believe someone we know needs help (This is mainly to do with relationships with other people or with people in your family). We were then given a sheet with a short description of a certain person’s life, we had to work out the best way to help them through their problems and which website/organization would be best to refer them to.

Between lunch and workshop 3 we had a Q&A with Councillor Jane Gray, the majority of the questions asked were about her job and what she does and also about how she is planning to improve the county.

Workshop 3 – In workshop 3 we were learning about building trust with the right people and how to stay safe on the Internet. At first we were shown a short video of a girl who trusted her boyfriend with nude pictures of herself. He then sent them to his friend who posted them online so everyone could see. She was bullied for it and was so traumatised she ran away from home. We watch as she talks to herself until she convinces herself to go home and to face the problem. After this we went on to be asked a number of questions about the video and were told to choose if we agreed, disagreed or neither. At this point we all had many arguments about it because we disagreed about each other’s choices a lot.

At the end of each workshop we were asked to say how good we thought the workshop was, we had to mark it out of 10. The first two workshops were informative but not that interesting because we were more spectators, but then in the 3rd workshop we interacted more and I personally found it more interesting and fun to be a part of. To sum up, an informative and interesting day, I learnt a lot about being safe on the Internet, trusting the right people and how to get myself out of certain situations. But I felt like they could have made it better by creating more interaction in the workshops.”

Hertfordshire Air Ambulance:

It seems ages ago but at the end of last half-term we had a non-uniform day in aid of Hertfordshire Air Ambulance (the charity for which the boys had voted earlier in the year).

We also held a competition for best Christmas jumper on stage in assembly.

Several forms had their own events such as cake sales.

We banked a total of £1686.70 with great thanks to all concerned.



Mountain Biking:

Mr Shergold and Mr Warman took six boys away Mountain Biking for the day to Thetford forest, we would just like to put on record how well the boys behaved during the day, being polite and courteous to each other and any members of the public we encountered. Boys involved were:

- Matthew Priestley 12HH
- Adam Archer 12SI
- Charles Hewitt 12GA
- Jamie Hamilton 11TP
- Jamie Nayler 8PN
- Connor Every 8PN

The Comet Sports Award 2013

Hitchin Boys' School have been nominated in the School of the Year category together with Ardeley C of E Primary School and Longmeadow Primary School in a year that has seen a record breaking number of entries. All shortlisted finalists will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at MBDA in Stevenage on Monday 17 February hosted by Sky's David Croft. This is testament to the huge commitment to sport by staff, our five specialist staff supported by twelve colleagues, and students before, during and after the school day and at weekends.

No other Sports Report in this newsletter mainly due to bad weather.

100 Club Winners

January	1 st	N Footer
	2 nd	G Burke
	3 rd	C Plummer
February	1 st	K Lund
	2 nd	H Hofmeister
	3 rd	M Bennett

Calendar

February		
Tuesday	25 th	AS Drama Moderation 5pm
Tuesday	25 th	Governors' Chairs' Steering Group 6pm
Thursday	27 th	Y11 English sets 5/6/7 Controlled Assessment P1 - 3
Thursday	27 th	Y8 Subject Staff Consultation Evening 5pm
March		
Tuesday	4 th	Y11 Drama 'Road Safety' Workshop
Thursday	6 th	Y8/9 Paris Trip Meeting
Friday	7 th	Y12 Geography Lake District Trip departs
Monday	10 th	Y11 MFL Speaking Assessment 3 (all week)
Tuesday	11 th	Y12 Geography Lake District Trip returns
Thursday	13 th	Music Competition
Friday	14 th	Music Competition
Wednesday	19 th	Spring Concert
Thursday	20 th	Year 11 Drama Moderation
Thursday	20 th	AS Music Performance Exam
Friday	21 st	Year 11 Drama Moderation
Monday	24 th	Y10 Work Experience Week
Monday	24 th	Y11 MFL Writing Assessment 3 (all week)
Wednesday	26 th	Governors' Student Attainment & Welfare Committee 6pm
Thursday	27 th	Y12/13 Biology Colchester Zoo Trip
Monday	31 st	GCSE Music Performance Assessments (until Wednesday)
Monday	31 st	Y11 English sets 5/6/7 Controlled Assessment P1 - 3
April		
Tuesday	1 st	Governors' Resources Committee 6pm
Friday	4 th	End of term
Friday	4 th	China Trip departs
Friday	4 th	Y8/9 Paris Trip departs
Tuesday	22 nd	INSET Day
Wednesday	23 rd	Term starts

**APPLICATION FOR A GRANT
ELIZABETH ANN LUCAS TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

The Elizabeth Ann Lucas Charity supports young people under the age of 25 who in the opinion of the Trustees are in need of financial assistance and who are either resident in Hitchin or who have attended any maintained school in Hitchin.

The Charity can provide financial assistance to beneficiaries attending courses and apprenticeships including financial assistance toward the cost of tools, instruments, books, and other equipment required in that course or profession.

Applicant's full name	
Applicant's address	
Date of Birth	
Secondary School(s)/Colleges attended and dates of attendance	
Qualifications obtained	
Your intended course: Please include here the details of the course you wish to attend. Include the venue, details of the course, course length and date it commences.	

<p>Purpose of the Grant:</p> <p>Please include here the purpose of the Grant. Include the amount and provide details of what you need this for. If possible please support your application with copy documentation, for example if your course provider has given you a list of material you need include a photocopy. Include a cost estimate of the materials required.</p>	
<p>For the Trustees to assist you there must be in "financial need" please include here details of why you believe you need financial assistance. For example here you could include your income and savings and whether you are living with or supported by your parents.</p>	
<p>Have you made a similar application to another charity? If so please provide the name of the charity, whether your application was successful and if so the amount of the grant you received.</p>	
<p>Any other information</p> <p>Include here any other information in support of your application that you wish the Trustees to consider</p>	

<p>Please include here any reference in support of your application for example from your head teacher, teacher, support worker or employer.</p> <p>(here your referee may include comments in support of your application but this is optional)</p>	
<p>Declaration</p> <p>I confirm that the information I have given in this application is correct and I give permission to the Charity to discuss my application with other charities, my school/educational establishment and my intended course provider.</p>	<p>..... Signature of Applicant</p>