



EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2022-2023

The Prospectus gives you a description of the school in broad terms, but this document gives you a further insight into what we feel we achieved last year, and some examples of the events which took place: events and achievements which demonstrate the ethos of Hitchin Boys' School in practice.

Exam results: On a national level, public exams have returned to 2019 distributions, which means that the proportion of passes have been reduced.

We are incredibly proud of the students and their achievements in their public exams. At GCSE, almost 90% of students achieved grade 4 or higher in English and Maths (considered to be a 'pass') and over a third of all grades were grade 7-9 (equivalent of the old grade A/A*). These are well ahead of national figures, and we estimate that our Value Added figure as published by the Fisher Family Trust is +0.5 (this suggests that students at HBS achieve on average half a grade higher than their peers in other schools nationally, and will be amongst the leading boys state schools once national figures are released).

Our A-Level results were once again well above national averages with some outstanding individual outcomes (including over 20% of all grades at A/A*). Over 70% of all grades were in the A*-C range and this enabled over 100 students to access the university of their choice, with others choosing college, apprenticeships and gap years. Once again, HBS was proud to participate in the Hitchin Consortium with results across all three schools being very strong. Full information on results and destinations can be found on our website

https://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk/about_us/exam_results

Music: With well over 250 boys learning and performing music on an extra-curricular basis this is a vital element in the life of the school. We were able to make full use of the excellent rehearsal and performance space in the new Performing Arts building after having to put live music and audiences on hold during the pandemic.

Three major concerts took place – one in each of the three terms - showcasing some outstanding talent and entertaining audiences with music of a quality one might pay to hear. The Carol Services were excellent as always, with a mixture of the familiar and the less well-known in both the Monday evening and Tuesday school services held in St Mary's Church. Music is also a strong element of the House competition, with performances in the atrium on each of the House days and the music competition and Battle of the Bands showing the high standards of musicianship across genres from Jazz and Rock to Classical and Blues.

At the start of July, Founders' Day at St Mary's Church was attended by all of years 11 and 13 from the Boys' and the Girls' school. As always, the music at the service in St Mary's was outstanding and a real credit to the students involved. Of particular note was the fanfare written especially by a Year 13 Music student to accompany the procession.

School Play: This year's school production was "Young Frankenstein", where the horror was hammed up by an engaging cast. The staff team always try to choose a production which will allow as many boys as possible to participate, while offering the chance for some star performers to shine.

Head Teacher: Mr F Moane

Ofsted
Outstanding
2021/2022

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Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

As ever the boys performed to a very high standard with over 100 students involved in acting, the music, stagehands and managing the audio and lighting. The production aims for 'West End' standards and was a great success.

The next production will be 'Lucky Stiff', which is already shaping up to be hilarious. Performances will take place in February 2024 and tickets will be on sale in January.

Sport: We are incredibly proud of our sports provision, and aim to support pupils under two strands, Participation and Performance. Our Performance Groups aim to represent the school or county at county, national or international level. We have had over 600 students represent the school in some form last year, from Saturday rugby, hockey and cricket fixtures through to individual racquet sports or track and field. The day that the Under 15 rugby team triumphed in the National Vase competition at Twickenham stadium will live long in the memory, with over 1,000 students making the journey to support the team and a large accompanying group of parents and students back at school watching the live stream. This is the first time that we have won a national competition in rugby and defeated the finest independent schools along the way.

We also celebrate the success of the U18 hockey team, reaching the national final in Nottingham in 2022 also. Sadly, we lost by a single goal, but the 3-0 win over Eton college in the final pool stages will live long in the memory. In 2023, we had several teams qualify for the regional finals, our U14 team finishing second in the East and becoming the National Vase state school champions. Our Yr7 team finished in the top 32 teams in the county. Finally, our U18 indoor team became Herts champions for the first time in the school's recent history. A promising few years ahead for the hockey programme.

We are now into the third year of HBS entering teams into the National Cup in football. Every age group reached the last 64 in the country, with several reaching the last 32 stage. The introduction of football has been well received by students, without detriment to our traditional sports.

In the summer sports, our Athletics continues to be a strong area of school sport. In 2023 several year groups became district and county champions. In 2022, the Year 9 and 10 squad finished in 5th place in England in the National Athletics finals in Oxfordshire. We also had 8 students who represented Hertfordshire at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Manchester. The cricket programme is rapidly growing again post Covid, with our Yr7 team becoming the Herts Champions.

The breadth of sports on offer is remarkable, with further success in cricket, badminton, tennis, basketball, trampolining and swimming and it is a testament to the dedication of our PE staff that training for sports run every lunchtime and training or fixtures each weekday after school and a number of Saturday mornings.

House Events: Throughout the year the boys are in competition with each other for house points, which are rewards for good attitude, commitment, effort and contribution to the school. In addition to all the sports you can think of the House competitions provide a chance for many boys to represent Mattocke, Pierson, Skynner or Radcliffe, in many non-sporting events such as the General knowledge quiz, Scrabble, Chess, Debating, Graphic Design, Music, History and this year for the first time Poetry. This year, each house had their own 'House Day' when they fundraise for charity and have

competitions, music performances and bake sales. The competition culminates on the last day of term when the winning house is revealed in a colourful display of (biodegradable!) confetti. At this point the House Captain takes possession of the much-prized Times Shield, with this year's winners being Mattocke!

Trips: It would be difficult to provide an exhaustive list of the trips offered to the boys because there are so many. Most are curriculum-related and are local or national such as theatre, museum, art gallery, places of worship, the Lake District, and coastal locations plus the annual Year 7 teambuilding experience.

However, notably residential trips that took place this year were the sports tours to Paris and Canada for Year 8 and 9 and Year 10 and 11 respectively and the expedition to Malaysia again over the summer, with over 50 boys undertaking a series of challenges during the month-long expedition.

UK-based field work in Geography and Biology continued to run successfully and we also introduced this year a Year 9 PGL trip which we would like to expand to the whole year group moving forward. In the year ahead, we have planned trips to Austria for the annual school ski trip, a technology trip to Munich, a history trip to Berlin and a resumption of the MFL trip to Spain. After the success of the Costa Rica trip in 2022 they are returning for another Geography linked trip during Easter 2024. Staff give up their holiday time to support these life-changing experiences for our students and regularly come up with innovative ideas for new trips and experiences.

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme continues to grow with significant numbers of Year 10 students undertaking the bronze award, developing their skills in route-finding, camping and volunteering. Furthermore, a group of sixth formers completed the gold award that is a test of endurance over an extended period.

It is this determination to give students the best possible experience both in and outside the classroom which characterises Hitchin Boys' School and I hope this has given you just a flavour of the variety, breadth and success of what we offer.

September 2023