



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust



Newsletter

April 2019

Message from the Head

Dear All

I have been personally impressed with the wide range of activities outside lessons which boys could have been involved with since the last newsletter. If you consider the Art trip to Liverpool and the Ski trip to Austria in February half-term and then the upcoming trips to Rome for RE and Paris for PE you can get a sense of the range. However, if you then add in the outstanding school production of “Cabaret” which took place just before half-term, the Music Competition and Spring Concert which formed part of the superb Arts Week, “Into the Woods” along with the Drama performances and the Comic Relief lunchtime gig in town you start to think that there might be a lot going on. (By the way the Comic Relief fundraiser hit over £2,500 again, meaning that since 2011 when we first started this tradition of a performance in Town Square the good people of Hitchin have raised a massive £20,000 just for Comic/Sport Relief.)

The list of activities could go on as well: Race for the Line just last week where 80 Y7 boys were involved in engineering rocket cars, the Get Work Ready Day for Y10, Sex and Relationships Education Day for Y9, Work Shadowing Day for Y8 and a range of Careers talks for Y10-13 (Law, Medicine, Physiotherapy and Piloting). Events continued with our very own series of evening History lectures by visiting academics and the phenomenal activity around the library with World Book Day competitions, Blind Date with a Book and the North Herts Schools’ Book Awards. Last but not least of course continued our mass participation in sport with athletics, basketball, hockey and trampolining all going full throttle and producing U17 Herts Indoor Athletics Champions, Y7 Herts Sports Hall Athletics Champions, Y7 and Y8 District Basketball Champions and National (yes, National!) Trampoline Champions in Years 7-9. All of this can only happen with dedicated adults who make these opportunities available for our boys. We thank them one and all. Have a lovely relaxing Easter holiday.

Martin Brown

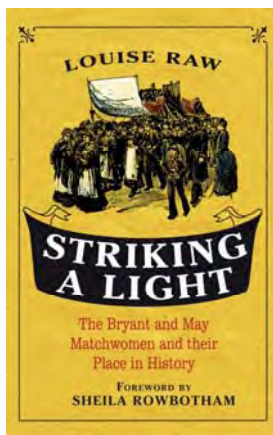


‘All of this can only happen with dedicated adults who make these opportunities available for our boys. We thank them one and all.’

History Society lecture success continues

The latest History Society talk took place on Monday 11th March, when Dr Paul Cavill spoke on the topic 'Aggressive Reformation: Henry VIII and the Monasteries'. Dr Cavill is a lecturer in Early Modern British History at Pembroke College, Cambridge. The talk was well attended and the audience of over 100 were able to put their questions to Dr Cavill at the end.

The next lecture is on Thursday 16th May at 7pm in the Sixth Form Centre. Dr Louise Raw will speak on the topic ‘Striking a Light - the teenagers who changed history’, about the Bryant and May match factory strike of 1888. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.50pm, all welcome.



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Seatbelt Campaign

The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership and Active and Safer Travel Team are running a campaign about the importance of wearing your seatbelt. Most people do wear their seatbelts but still nearly ten per cent choose not to – help them make the right decision for themselves and others.

If you have friends or family, who still do not realise how important it is to belt up, have that conversation and make sure they know how much you value their safety, and everyone else's in the vehicle. Please make sure children are secured in the most appropriate car seat for their age and height. For more on seatbelts and car seats go to

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/seatbelts

The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership is supporting the seatbelt campaign run by Roads Policing, raising awareness about the importance of wearing your seatbelt. You can receive a fine of up to £500 if you are caught not wearing your seatbelt.

Careers

This half term we have been lucky enough to have careers talks from both a Commercial Lawyer and a Physiotherapist. Both lunchtimes were extremely well attended, with boys keen to raise their aspirations for their future careers. During both sessions we thought about breaking the stereotypes associated with both professions. The next talk will be from the Army on Monday 29th April - these chats from the forces tend to cover the many professions open to young people joining them.

On 6th March, Patrick Young from Speakers for Schools spent an hour with Year 9 talking about his career in the media and, as importantly, how he went from being a boy with low aspirations to being a very successful business man. The feedback we had from the boys was incredibly positive and I hope they left the talk thinking about how they may shape their own futures.



Tuesday 12th March was Get Work Ready day for Year 10. Students rotated around six sessions, all aimed at focusing boys on interview techniques and in particular, group assessment centres. The day involved 30 volunteers from both local and national businesses who gave up their time to come in and help our boys.

Year 10 should now be focusing on their Work Experience week in July. If they haven't already found a private placement they should register their preferences for the placements provided by YC Herts on the Link 2+ website.

Our Careers Adviser Mr Aylward is in school on Fridays and is keen for boys to drop in with any questions they have on careers or options at lunchtime in the interview room. Individual appointments can be organised by emailing me at arogers@hitchinboys.co.uk

*Mrs Rogers
Careers Co-ordinator*

Comic Relief 2019

Hitchin Boys' School spent a week in March raising money again for Comic Relief, mostly through a non-uniform day, where students paid £2 to wear something red to school on Friday 15th March, and through musical entertainment and other activities in the market square at lunchtime on the same day. In total £2,533 was raised for the charity, beating last year's Sport Relief total of £2,344.



After more than 30 years we still have to talk about seatbelts. Please just wear it.

HERTFORDSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Road Policing Unit

Library News

Only one term left until the end of the year and we've still got lots going on in the library.

On 20th March, a group of boys and the librarians attended the North Herts Schools' Book Awards, hosted by Fearnhill School. Books shortlisted by local school librarians were discussed by groups of students from 10 schools, who then voted for their favourite in two age groups. We were also treated to a talk by the author of last year's winner, Red Ribbon, Lucy Adlington.



Above: Joseph from Year 7 and Joe from Year 8 meeting author Lucy Adlington

The winners were *The Land of Neverendings* by Kate Saunders in the younger age group, and *A Skinful of Shadows* by Frances Hardinge in the older age group. Both are shortlisted for this year's Carnegie Medal, so we must all have good taste! The other shortlisted books were:

Younger category: *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes and *Boy 87* by Ele Fountain. Both of these books are thought provoking and politically very current.

Older category: *I am Thunder* by Muhammad Khan and *Optimists Die First* by Susin Neilsen. Both deal with

serious issues uncompromisingly but accessibly and with a sense of hope, and in some cases humour.

The Excelsior Award judging draws to a close at the end of the month, and the shortlisted graphic novels (<http://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/blue.html>) have been thoroughly read and assessed by many boys both during lessons and at break and lunchtime. In addition, our display is entered into their 'Nuff Said Award, and can be seen here:

<http://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/nuffsaid.html>

Our Carnegie Shadowing group began their reading this week too, and are already devouring the eight shortlisted books and giving us enthusiastic feedback. Details of the Carnegie shortlist and what shadowing means can be found here: <https://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

We had a lot of fun with World Book Day this year. Our now regular quiz was well attended, and with one or two trickier rounds this year was a much tougher contest! Each lesson throughout the day began with a section read from 'The Children of Loki' from Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology: this was extremely well received and the book is in demand even before it has hit the shelf! Blind Date with a Book again proved massively popular, possibly due to the added competitive element of a draw to win an Easter egg. Congratulations to Hayden in Year 9 who won and who will be sharing the egg with his friend. Even without the inducement of chocolate, the boys seem to have genuinely enjoyed sampling books they wouldn't necessarily have chosen for themselves.

Reminder: polite reminder that the library is open until 4.30pm Monday – Thursday for personal study, homework, or reading. One of us is always on hand to help. However, we will occasionally (very rarely) be closed after school, and when we have advance notice the boys will be told in plenty of time.

Don't forget you can follow us on Twitter [@HBSLibrary](https://twitter.com/HBSLibrary)

Mrs Baugh and Mrs Rushton, Librarians

Useful information on ParentInfo



There are a number of interesting articles this month on Parent Zone, part of the www.parentinfo.org website. The first has been provided by NCA-CEOP, part of the National Crime Agency. NCA-CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children, and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account. The article, 'Harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people: what parents need to know', can be accessed by clicking this link:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/harmful-sexual-behaviour-in-children-and-young-people-what-parents-need-to-know>

Also on the site is an article by Clinical Psychologist Dr Asha Patel on the signs and possible causes of low mood in children and young people, and how parents can help. The article can be read by clicking this link:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/low-mood-a-guide-for-parents>

The website has lots of other useful information and advice and can be accessed here: <https://parentinfo.org/>

Key Stage 3 Update

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) is an important part of the school curriculum and we have been extra busy this term ensuring that students have covered some important issues.

Year 7s

Students have been using their lesson each week to look at Social Media. Starting secondary school is the time when many Year 7s get their first smartphone and with it comes the capacity to engage with the internet and social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram, where the recommended minimum age is 13 years old. WhatsApp now has a recommended minimum age of 16 years old. For any parent keen to learn more about WhatsApp a useful guide can be found here: <https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Year 7s have been looking at the pros and cons of social media, how to stay safe online and the warning signs when something might not be as it first appears and crucially what to do about it. Some classes have also moved onto communication skills such as how to formally write an email and letter, including when to use 'Yours sincerely' rather than 'Yours faithfully', for example.

Year 7s have also followed on from the 'Breaking the Chain' drama production they saw last half term. We asked each Year 7 form group to split into groups of three to five and come up with their own mini play of no more than two minutes to build on the issues discussed in 'Breaking the Chain'. The form tutor then picked the best one to be seen by Mrs Gale, who as Head of Year 7 and lead teacher of Drama was ideally placed to pick the winning performance for the Year group. This was awarded to Seb C, Oskar F, George F and Terrell G of form 7A. As we are all too aware from the media, knife crime is an increasing problem. Tackling this issue is important to us and we were delighted with the quality of the performances put on by the Year 7s.

As a school community we are doing all we can to educate students about the dangers of carrying a knife and the importance of our younger years especially in having the power to "Break the Chain".

Year 8s

The Year 8s also went to see the 'Breaking the Chain' production at Letchworth Broadway and they too spent time in form groups discussing the issues in form time as a follow up. In their PSHEE lesson this term they have been looking at what it means to go from pre-teen to teenager and then to an adult. What are the impacts on families of teenagers suddenly 'arriving'? What causes a person to become a teenager and what are the potential problems faced by the individual?

Year 9s

Year 9 students spent a day off timetable looking at improving their knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex on Tuesday 12th March. To ensure the day was as engaging and informative as it could be, we invited in some external agencies who deliver specialist lessons on topics around the subject matter. Having the boys undertake seven different sessions of 45 minutes each was a positive way of maximising their engagement and maintaining their focus. The sessions offered were:

- Sexual Intercourse - Mr Cook (Head of Science)
- Contraception - Mr George (Science teacher)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (Mr Thorp - Head of Biology)
- Consent and the Law - Herts Young Homeless
- Healthy Relationships - PHASE
- Dangers of Pornography - Matt Summerfield (Zeo Church)
- Domestic Abuse - Laura Coles (HGS Specialist Teacher in Education for PSHEE)

Hitchin Boys' School would like to extend a big thank you to all the staff

and external agencies who supported with this day. We are also delighted to confirm that Herts Young Homeless will be coming back next term to do some more sessions with some of the Year 9 form groups who are available.

Next term we look forward to covering more important topics, with Year 7s focusing on coping with exam stress as they undertake their first end of year exams here at Hitchin Boys' School. Year 8s are looking at what it means to be financially secure and Year 9s will hopefully have a session on basic first aid from Mr McPherson.

***Mr Dawson
Assistant Head, KS3 Progress,
Welfare and Conduct***

HBS presents cheque to nominated local charity

At the end of February HBS presented a cheque for over £2,000 to Herts Young Homeless (HYH), the school's nominated local charity for the current academic year. The money was raised through events that took place in school throughout the autumn term, including a non-uniform day, a basketball competition, cake sales at break and a Mario Kart tournament. In addition, 11 Hitchin Boys' staff took part in the Endeavour Swanbourne challenge - a gruelling 5k off-road endurance "tough mudder" event through streams, woods, haystacks, fields and even fire, raising a further £1,200 for the charity.

Pictured below: Mrs Christou, Head of Y13, Head Boy Adam Mountney, Vicky Flynn of HYH and Head Martin Brown



Race for the Line

On 27th March, 80 Year 7 students spent the day designing, building and racing cars powered by rocket motors, as part of the annual Race for the Line competition. Sponsored by Chasestead of Letchworth, they were divided into groups of four, and each House was represented by five groups. Three Year 10 students, Tom Bowers, Alfie Burberry and Joe Welton, were also on hand to help.

The Race For The Line competition objective is simple: student teams must design and make the fastest rocket powered car they can and compete with their designs across multiple stages in a national competition.

Every team's car uses the same size rocket motor and competes over the same track distance. The winning teams on race days are the cars that have the most efficient aerodynamics, have lower mass and that have safe, well designed wheels that reduce friction and can survive the forces of a high speed run.



The key challenges for the teams are:

- to shape their foam block into the most aerodynamic and lightweight shape possible within the safety guidelines and rules,
- to create efficient wheels and axles that are safe and strong and meet size limits. Teams may use laser cutting to 3D printing to make wheels,
- to develop a precision timing solution to measure the performance of their cars, and
- to devise and carry out tests to evaluate, refine and improve their designs.

Each team had a block of foam approx. 30cm x 5cm x 5cm from which they could carve out their car's design. The design brief had zones they couldn't cut into, so they had to be considered with their cutting. Wheels were made out of wood, and laser cut. The most successful teams sanded their cars smooth, rounding off edges to make the cars as streamlined and lightweight as possible. Myself, Mr Kotecha, Mr Walton-Adams and Mr Lawrence supported the boys, but ultimately the design choices were all theirs.

The race itself was held on the tennis courts. Each car runs along a guide wire, and its journey is filmed. From there its speed can be calculated, as this is how success is determined.

The fastest house of the day with an average speed of 31.3m/s was Pierson, followed by Radcliffe, Mattocke and Skynner. However, the fastest individual team on the day, with a top speed in excess of 80mph was Hot Rocket, made up of James Scoot, Harry Hatch, Henry Benson and Jacob Perry. Their team earned a place in the regional final, where they faced off against other winning teams from schools in the East of England.



The regional finals were held at Duxford Imperial War Museum on Tuesday 2nd April, and the boys, this time accompanied by Mr Warman and Mr Cook, had to build their cars from scratch, taking into account the lessons they'd learned in the school final. They only had one hour to build a new car from scratch, and aside from a last minute problem with a jammed front axle, produced a very slimline design. The competition was



fierce; other schools had built far more sophisticated wheels and axle set ups, but the boys had confidence in their design.

The race itself was a typical British affair - it was pouring with rain. The guys from the RAF loaded the cars onto the guide wire, and set them off in quick fashion. Our car was clearly fast; disappearing down the track at a vast rate of knots, but at this point we didn't know if it was faster than the other schools. The organisers then went through the top three places in reverse order, and the boys were getting very excited! (me too!!) When the name of the team "Hot Rocket" was called out as winners, they shouted for joy.

The boys deserved their success; they had worked hard as a team, had considered different ideas but ultimately had followed through on building a winning design. They have now been invited back to the National Finals in June, where we shall see how they measure up against the other regional champions.

Mr Warman,
Race for the Line Co-ordinator



Spring Term Sports Awards

Basketball	Most Improved Player	Player of the Year
Year 7	Elliot Oughton	Noah Tingle
Year 8	Jerome Bossman-Ceasar	Callum Every
Year 9	Tom Tingle	Evan Tarbutton
Year 10	Kai Brophy	Will Lawler
Seniors	Jude Schoeman	Jack Winterbourne

Hockey	Most Improved Player	Player of the Year
Year 7 A	Noah Tingle	George Turner
Year 7 B	Felix May	Harry Storey
Year 8 A	Stanley Howell	Callum Every
Year 8 B	Michael Trulock	Harry Lowe
Year 9	Harry Dollimore	Fintan Rogers
Year 10	Tom Sadler	Matthew Olley
Year 11	David Addison	Matt Hutchinson
Seniors	Joe Williams	Daniel Brooks

Year 7 Rugby	Most Improved Player	Player of the Year
Year 7 A	Curtis Howman	Tristram Harwood
Year 7 B	Noah Tingle	Leo Rainbow

Sports Colours

Hockey

Junior Half	Junior Full	Senior Half	Senior Full
Iwan Cromack	Joe Myhill Will Lawler	Adam Taplin Joe Williams	Adam Mountney Isaac Strickland

Basketball

Junior Half	Senior Half	Senior Full
Evan Tarbutton	Aman Johal Harvey Deans Saran Chahal	Jack Winterbourne Jai Johal

Helpers

Thank you to the following students who have regularly turn up to support younger age groups training this term:

Sport	Helpers
Hockey	Iwan Cromack Brandon Mahra Adam Taplin Matt Hutchinson Adam Mountney George Storey Joe Williams
Year 7 Rugby	Alfie Tennant-Wareham Ollie Owen
Year 7 Cricket	Elliott Beard Leighton Gibbs

Sports Centre News



HBS Sports Centre has gone from strength to strength over the past year, with a number of successes in different fields.

Last summer 14 HBS Revolutions gymnasts qualified for the British Gymnastics National Finals in Nottingham, bringing nine medals back to Hitchin. In October the club expanded, starting three new gymnastic clubs on a Saturday morning with space for 50 more gymnasts, and also in October the club hosted its first High Performance DMT (Double Mini Trampoline) Coaching course for national coaches wanting to further their qualifications.

January 2019 started with some fundraising success, with £800 secured from the Eastern Counties Gymnastics Association and \$600

raised from a 12 hour sponsored bounce. Sports Centre Manager Jenny Newman was also asked by British Gymnastics to represent the Governing body at the upcoming NDP Regional Trampoline, DMT & Tumbling Team finals in Birmingham and at the National Finals in Coventry in July 2019 as Floor Manager.

Towards the end of January the Year 7-9 Boys Elite Trampolining team represented Hitchin Boys' School at the Central Zonal Schools Trampoline Competition in Hatfield, and qualified for the national school finals in Cannock in March.

February half term saw the first ever Mad Science Camp held at HBS Sports Centre, and February also saw the centre hosting its first British Gymnastics Intro to Judging course for 11 year olds and their first Regional DMT competition.

March saw the launch of the new Sports Centre website, and also in March the club enjoyed great success at the national finals of the British Schools' Trampolining Competition. 24 gymnasts from various Hitchin schools travelled to Cannock for the finals, and gymnasts representing Hitchin Girls' School, Hitchin Boys' School, The Priory School, Whitehill Junior School and St Ippolyts Primary School all coped well with the high standard of competition winning many medals and trophies.



The HBS Year 7 - 9 Elite Boys team became National Champions on the day - congratulations to Lewis Cromack, Stanley Deacon, Noah Welland and Jamie Bridge (pictured above right).

All of the gymnasts involved are members of HBS Revolutions Trampolining Club and the school would like to thank the staff and coaches for their dedication and support in preparing the students to enable them to achieve at this level.

Later in March, 42 gymnasts competed at the Regional Team Qualifiers in Hatfield, with 17 gymnasts competing in both Trampoline and DMT. The top two in each age group and grade qualified to represent the region in Birmingham in June.

28 gymnasts from HBS Revolutions qualified, 10 of them competing in both Trampoline and DMT. They will represent the Eastern Region in the NDP Regional Team Finals in June 2019. HBS Revolutions gymnasts will make up a third of the Regional Team this year.

Coming right up to date, HBS Sports Centre will host their first ever regional floor and vault competition this Sunday, 7th April.

For more information on any of the clubs, activities or holiday courses on offer at HBS Sports Centre, visit www.hbssportscentre.co.uk



Calendar Dates: Apr - May 2019

Date	Event
Tuesday 23rd April	INSET Day
Wednesday 24th April	Term starts at 8.45am
Wednesday 24th April	A level Recitals
Friday 26th April	Y10 Geography Field Trip to Dorset
Monday 29th April	Y10 Geography Field Trip to Dorset returns
Monday 29th April	Y11 GCSE Art Exam
Tuesday 30th April	Governors' Audit & Resources Committee 6pm
Tuesday 30th April	Y11 GCSE Art Exam
Wednesday 1st May	Summer Recital 7pm
Tuesday 7th May	Y11 GCSE Photography Exam
Wednesday 8th May	The Big Match 2019 5pm
Wednesday 8th May	Y11 GCSE Photography Exam
Friday 10th May	Y11 Leavers' Breakfast
Monday 13th May	World Schools Athletics Championships, Croatia
Tuesday 14th May	Governors/Staff Tea 3.45pm
Thursday 16th May	History Society Lecture: 'Striking a Light - the teenagers who changed history.' 7pm
Friday 17th May	Y13 Study Leave starts
Tuesday 21st May	Y8 Geography Stanborough Lakes trip
Wednesday 22nd May	Y10 Consultation Evening 4.30pm
Wednesday 22nd May	Y8 Geography Stanborough Lakes trip
Thursday 23rd May	Y10/Y12 History trip to Berlin
Monday 27th May	Half term starts
Monday 27th May	Berlin trip returns

Year 7 - the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

At the start of this term, Head of Year 7 Mrs Gale introduced a new competition for Year 7 students - the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. The Inter-Form House Competition is a league-based competition that is designed to:

- Reward students for positive contributions they make.
- Develop a sense of teamwork within form groups.
- Develop pride in student and staff relationships.
- Help teachers to motivate students through incentive.

Students earn points for their form through a variety of positive contributions they make to school on a daily basis, as shown in the table opposite. In addition the following weekly awards are made:

- Student of the Week – one student selected by Mrs Gale from Tutor nominations.
- Achievement Point Winner of the Week – student in whole with year with most Achievement Points.
- Secret Student – one student from each tutor group randomly selected by Mrs Gale; winner is the student with the most merits from those selected.
- HoY Resilience Award – Student selected by Mrs Gale who has demonstrated resilience.

This term additional points included five points per student nominated in their form for the Theatre in Education project plus 30 points per student in the winning form (7A). The winners were announced earlier this week, with 7M coming in first with 1992 points, just ahead of 7T with 1899. Pictured right are the very happy form group with their teacher Mr Rule, and the class enjoying their winner's breakfast at the Four Leaf Clover. Congratulations 7M!

Achievement Point	1 point
100% Attendance (over two weeks)	3 points
Student of the Week	5 points
A.P Winner of the Week	10 points
Secret Student	20 points
Head of Year Resilience Award	25 points
Behaviour Points	Minus 2 points for each Behaviour Point





HBS SUMMER BALL

SATURDAY 13TH JULY 7PM - 1AM

♦ DINNER ♠ DANCING ♥

♣ BAR ♦ RAFFLE ♠

Live music from

THE DEFINITIVE RAT PACK

£60pp ♠ All welcome: 18+ ♣ Evening wear

Held in the Grand Marquee in the Quad, Hitchin Boys' School
Grammar School Walk, Hitchin SG5 1JB

For more information and tickets, please email: hbsball@hitchinboys.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1051599 - Hitchin Boys' School & Parents' Society

