



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL

An Academy Trust

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2024-2025

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 and why it's Great to be a Hitchin Boy.

Exam results: We are incredibly proud of the students and their achievements in their public exams. At GCSE, 88% of students achieved grade 4 or higher in English and Maths (considered to be a 'pass') and nearly a third of all grades were grade 7-9 (equivalent of the old grade A/A*). These are well ahead of national figures, and our current Value Added as published last year suggests that students at HBS achieve on average two thirds of a grade higher than their peers in other schools nationally, and will be amongst the leading boys state schools once national figures are released.

At A-level the vast majority of pupils were accepted at their first or reserve choice university, including two students who are off to Cambridge and many others heading to top universities such as Durham, Bristol, Imperial College and Manchester. 33% of all entries resulted in a grade A*/A.

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.

Four 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. Our fourth concert was a recital evening for soloists allowing them to showcase their talent. The Carol Services were excellent as always, with a mixture of the familiar and the less well-known carols 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 showcasing the high standards of musicianship across genres from Jazz and Rock to Classical and Blues. Students participated in masterclasses in piano and drums and busked in the town square to raise money for Comic Relief.

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. To round off a busy year, our Jazz Band represented HBS superbly in the finals of the Music for Youth Festival in Birmingham in July.

School Play: This year's school production was "Spamalot", where the comedy was superbly timed by an engaging and enthusiastic cast. The staff team always choose a production which will allow as many boys as possible to participate, while offering the chance for some star performers to shine. As ever the boys performed to a very high standard with over 100 students across all year groups 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 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels', which is already shaping up to be hilarious. Performances will take place in February 2026 and tickets will be on sale in January.

Head Teacher: Mr T E Bennett

**Ofsted
Outstanding
2021/2022**

Grammar School Walk, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. SG5 1JB
Tel: 01462 432181 Fax: 01462 440172 Registered in England No. 8286295
e-mail: admin@hitchinboys.co.uk
www.hbs.herts.sch.uk



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 weekday fixtures in these sports as well as individual racquet sports or track and field.

We have seen continued growth of Rugby in recent years with participation increasing amongst all year groups. This year we reached the latter stages of the National Vase competition, competing against many of the finest independent schools along the way. Hockey continues to see annual success with every age group reaching their respective regional finals. The U14s and 1st XI both reached the national finals; being the first time the school has had two age groups reach this stage in the same year.

We are now into the fourth year of HBS entering teams into competitive fixtures in football. This year saw plenty of finals and two of our teams become District Champions. 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. This summer we qualified for the regional A finals with the Junior Boys making the Track & Field cup final finishing 9th in the country.

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

Film Club: Our vibrant film club entered several films into the London Schools' Film Festival held at Mill Hill School which was a fantastic experience for our budding film makers. We came away with 19 nominations, 17 awards and 8 trophies including the top three awards in the Junior category. We hosted the inaugural HBS Film Festival during the summer term which was attended by students and their families.

STEM: A highlight this year has been the success of the Quadcopter team, who represented HBS at the National Finals in December and became 24/25 National Champions. We also entered two teams into the F1 in Schools Competition and won the best newcomer prize.

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 Scrabble, Chess, Debating, Music, Bake-Off, History and the Christmas Card design competition. A highlight of the summer term was the House Shakespeare competition which saw groups of students performing scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream in the school quad – a perfect summer evening.

Some of our House Events go back to the 1920s and 1930s with the trophies being much coveted by all who take part. 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, in its hundredth year, with this year's winners being Radcliffe!

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 and coastal locations plus the annual Year 7 team building experience.

Notable residential trips that took place this year were the STEM trip to Nasa (Houston), MFL trip to Paris and exchange visit to Germany, History trip to the WW1 battlefields, Sports Tour to Paris and an expedition to Malaysia over the summer, with Year 11 boys undertaking a series of challenges during the 3-week trip. UK-based field work in Geography and Biology continued to run successfully.

In the year ahead, we have planned trips to Austria for the annual school ski trip, Geography trips to Iceland and South Africa, MFL trip to Paris and a Sports tour to Canada. 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 9 and 10 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. Next academic year, students will have the opportunity to also participate in the Silver award in Year 10.

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 2025