

# HOCKERILL E:NEWS



## Principal's Column

This is our last edition before a well-deserved half term break. You will be aware that Mr Christopher Wright our Director of Boarding is leaving the College after 33 years of loyal service. It has been a privilege to work with someone who is so enthusiastic and committed to the students and the boarding life at the College. Under his careful guidance we have opened two new boarding houses, refurbished the other four houses and the number of families who wish their child to board at Hockerill is at an all time high. Two outstanding Ofsted boarding inspections in the last five years are a reflection of his hard work and enthusiasm. He will be greatly missed by us all and we wish him every happiness in his retirement.

Saturday night saw our Annual Sports Dinner being held in a different format with a guest speaker, rugby player for the Saracens, Hannah Gallagher. The evening was a tremendous success and thanks must go to Mr Loveday, Mrs Vernon and the rest of the PE department for all their hard work. We are privileged to have so many young people who are keen and committed sportsmen and women competing successfully at the highest levels.

For those of you fortunate enough to have attended our Spring Concert you will have been treated to some excellent music played by some of our younger musicians ably led by Miss Morrison and Miss Stobart.

Finally we would like to wish our Year 11 students every success this summer as they depart on Friday for study leave.

### STOP PRESS

I am delighted to report that our planning application for a new sports hall was approved on the evening of Wednesday 22nd May. This proposed development will deliver a purpose built facility boasting five 5 badminton courts, climbing wall, dance studio, fitness studio, two teaching spaces, toilets, four changing rooms and a social space for the whole College. The governors will be meeting in the Michaelmas term to review the next stages of this development.

This development will provide world class sports facilities for our students both day and boarding. We realise that we still have to raise further funds but with the support of our parents I am sure we can achieve this ambitious project together.

Mr Simon Dennis

## Sports Dinner 2013

The Annual Sports Dinner was another huge success with over 250 students attending. The students looked amazing in their suits and dresses and thoroughly enjoyed the new formal dinner. Mr Loveday started the evening off by commending those students who had achieved exceptional performing colours. The wonderful Mrs Mellis put together a fantastic slide show highlighting outstanding individual sporting performances by our students. We then heard about the success of our sports teams this year and the 11 trophies we have won.



Hannah Gallagher

We were lucky enough to have Hannah Gallagher the England and Saracens rugby superstar talk to us about how she made it to the top in her chosen sport. Mr Capener and Hannah Gallagher awarded the following students the Player of the Year trophies:

### Players of the Year

Junior Girls Hockey Player of the Year:	Izzy Budd
Senior Girls Hockey Player of the Year:	Elizabeth Crane
Boys Hockey Player of the Year:	Dan Hodder
Junior Football Player of the Year:	Sonny Dewhurst
Senior Football Player of the Year:	Michael Grant
Junior Netball Player of the Year:	Katie Miles
Senior Netball Player of the Year:	Phoebe Evans
Junior Basketball Player of the Year:	Robert Ball
Senior Basketball Player of the Year:	Jordan Godfrey
Girls Basketball Player of the Year:	Lily Fakile
The Rounders Player of the Year:	Rebecca Wye
The Junior Dancer of the Year:	Bethany Cave
The Senior Dancer of the year:	Lily Pope
The Gymnast of the Year:	Martha Hoults
Female Athlete of the year:	Fran Pettengell
Male Athlete of the Year:	Seb Priest
Junior Rugby Player of the Year:	Tom Stenhouse
Senior Rugby Player of the Year:	Euan Davies
Girls Most Improved Rugby Player of the Year:	Daisy Kershaw
Girls Rugby Player of the Year:	Pat Metcalfe-Jones

A special mention must go to Martha Hoults who managed to achieve nine colours and three exceptional performer badges plus a trophy.



Martha Hoults Yr7

A new addition to the awards this year were the prestigious coach of the year award which were given to two outstanding members of staff who give up time to run several sports teams.

Male coach of the Year:	Alasdair Mackenzie
Female Coach of the Year:	Katherine Mellis

The Catering department put on a superb three course menu that was served by our wonderful team of Year 12 CAS students; led by Lauren Godfrey and Tom Jagielski. Our amazing sports technicians had put together a fantastic film of the sporting year that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. After the meal the students enjoyed a fabulous laser disco and boogied till 22:45. These events are so successful at Hockerill because of the amazing attitude and behaviour of our students. The Sports Dinner has become a key event in the Hockerill Annual Calendar and we really appreciate the students and parents continued support of the PE Department and sport at Hockerill.

Thank you.

Mr R Loveday

## Music Department

Last week the Music Department staged a very successful concert for students in Years 7-9.

This featured highly accomplished performances from a wide variety of students and ensembles from classical guitar to Cabaret with a tremendous rendition of Johnny B. Goode by the Lower College Rock Band. As well as ensemble performances there were many stunning solo performances at an incredibly high standard, these students were: Oliver Dellow, Stephanie Parsons, Kristian Peters, Harry Croft, Nadia Nishizono-Miller, Thomas Lewington, Sophie Rutter, Harry Zhang, Robert Palmer-Fenny, Jada and Naomi Olumbori, Shadeh Sohrabian-Bailey and Erin Cacace. Very well done to all students for a very professional and entertaining evening. Also a special thank you to Mrs Morrison and Miss Stobart for organising the event.

Mr L Kenningham-Brown

## A Special thank you..



A very sincere thank you to all past and present boarders, parents, colleagues and friends who so generously contributed to a fantastic travel voucher which was presented to me on Sunday evening. I have been completely overwhelmed and touched by the kindness and generosity from so many people and I am extremely grateful to you all.

I was both delighted and surprised to see so many former Thames boys all of whom had made such an effort to return and make my retirement party so very special. To see so many of them; some now doctors, barristers and architects made me very proud of the contribution that Hockerill and boarding has made to their lives.

I cannot end without expressing my most sincere thanks to three special people; the Principal, Simon Dennis; my successor Natalie Pierrejean and my long time PA and Deputy Head of Thames, Linda Peacock. They have been truly fantastic in dealing with me in my final weeks and making everything so perfect for my retirement.

I wish everybody at Hockerill continued success and happiness.

Chris Wright (Thames Housemaster, retired)

## Auschwitz Visit

On the 25th April, Bryony and I visited Auschwitz as part of the Holocaust Memorial Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project. The day started with a very early flight to Poland where our first stop was at a Jewish graveyard in the town of Owi cim, or in German, "Auschwitz". The sight of the graveyard showed us that there was death in Auschwitz before the Nazi invasion; however that it was a natural part of life within the Jewish community and not the intentional human genocide that followed.

The next place we visited was Auschwitz 1, where the famous "ARBEIT MACHT FREI" (work is liberating) gate loomed above the entrance to the labour camp. Many of these original buildings had now been turned into displays of what the living conditions for the prisoners were like, and also display cabinets of their personal items that were taken from them upon arrival: their suitcases, shoes, clothes and even hair. The intention of the Nazis was to strip any Jews of their identities, and one of the focuses of our day was to re-humanise the holocaust, in order to remember individuals and their loss. At Auschwitz 1 we were able to go inside the gas chamber there, and in doing so, follow the last steps of many thousands of prisoners who were murdered in that one room.

Visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau was a highly contrasting experience to Auschwitz 1, mainly because of the vastness of the site and the lack of buildings around. The Nazis destroyed many of the buildings of the camp including the large gas chambers and crematoriums when the British and French troops began to enter Poland to liberate the camps, in an attempt to hide the genocide from them. Whilst standing outside one of the destroyed chambers we were read a diary extract from a German worker at the camp, who buried the pages of his diary in hope that the "citizens of the free world" whom he addressed would find them and learn about what had been happening. This single man's plea for us, citizens with rights and freedoms, to remember the horrors which occurred made me realise that is our responsibility to use our rights to prevent such an inhumane event like the Holocaust from occurring again.

Lauren Godfrey Yr 12

## Oxford Trip



On Tuesday 14th May a group of twenty seven Year 12 prospective Oxbridge applicants visited Oxford for the day. We spent the morning at Balliol College, the Hertfordshire link college in Oxford, for a talk on the structure of the university, the application process and life as an Oxford undergraduate, as well as a tour of the college including the impressively stocked library, which the students were intrigued to hear is open twenty four hours a day, seven days a week! After lunch at Balliol, we braved the rain for a short walking tour of the city centre and then students had the remainder of the afternoon to explore Oxford, with most of them visiting as many colleges as possible to help with their applications this autumn. The evening was rounded off with a pleasant early dinner, where we were joined by some former Hockerill students who are now studying at Oxford, who were kind enough to answer the many questions our Year 12s put to them. It was a very successful trip and will hopefully be an annual event for our Year 12 applicants.

Miss J Barker

## NOTICES

### Friday 24th May

Year 10 Annual Report published

Half term holiday begins (students depart at 3.40 pm)

### Monday 3rd June

Term re-commences

### Friday 7th June

Dagneux and Muenster exchange trips depart

GCSE Design and Technology Exhibition 8 pm Refectory

### Sunday 9th June

Dagneux and Meunster students arrive at Hockerill

### Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th June

Creative Activity Days

### Saturday 15th June

Non Uniform Day

### Special Notice

College closed on Monday 4th November 2013

To view Term Dates for 2013-14 please [click here](#).

To view the dates of Parent Evenings for next term please [click here](#)

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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## Urgent Request from the Careers Department

We are still one or two interviewers short for the Year 10 Mock Interviews that are taking place on Monday 10th June and Tuesday 11th June. Students have produced a CV and will have a mock interview based on this. They receive feedback on their CV and interview technique. If you are able to volunteer for half a day or a whole day on either of the above dates, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Ms McCulloch, Head of Careers by Monday 3rd June if you are able to volunteer.

[mccullocha@hockerill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mccullocha@hockerill.herts.sch.uk)

Ms A McCulloch

## Year 12 Mock Interviews

On Tuesday 21st May all Year 12 students were interviewed by business volunteers from Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce. The day was a great success with both students and volunteers learning from the day. The students had prepared a draft Personal Statement and based around this had a fifteen minute interview. Students will be given feedback on both their Personal Statement and their overall interview technique and presentation skills. A couple of our students impressed the business volunteers so much that they emerged with a business card. The Speed Dating Careers Event on Saturday 15th June will allow our Year 12 to 'turn the tables' and quiz volunteers about their line of work and career paths.

Ms A McCulloch