

HOCKERILL E:NEWS



Principal's Column

This week has seen some wonderful news for the College in relation to its GCSE results last summer. Following the publication of the Department of Education's annual performance data, the College has received a number of accolades. These include being the top comprehensive school in England for successful achievement of the EBacc, and in the top three for average points score per student.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these students and staff who worked so hard to achieve this recognition.

Alongside this news, the College is also celebrating the success of four of its Year 13 students in gaining conditional offers to Oxbridge. Gen Hall has been offered a place at St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics and Harry Lukakis to read Modern Foreign Languages at Wadham College, Oxford. Oliver Jenkins received an offer to read Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge whilst Hannah Waring received one to read Modern and Medieval Languages at Homerton College, Cambridge.

I hope you enjoy reading the events in this month's newsletter, they certainly reflect upon the range and excellence of life at Hockerill.

Mr Richard Markham



Left to right: Richard Markham, Oliver Jenkins, Hannah Waring, Harry Lukakis and Gen Hall

NOTICES

Friday 7th February
Quiz Night 1930-2130
(St Albans Hall)

Tuesday 11th February
Enrichment Day
Equipe Songwriting Competition
all years 1930 (St Albans Hall)

Friday 14th February

Half term holiday begins –
students depart at 1540

Monday 24th February

Term recommences

Wednesday 26th February

Year 10 Parent Teacher
Consultation evening

To view Term Dates for 2014-15
please [click here](#).

HOW TO CONTACT US

By Post
Hockerill Anglo-European College
Dunmow Road
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 5HX

By Email
admin@hockerill.com

By Telephone
+44 (0) 1279 658451

By fax
+44 (0) 1279 755918

www.hockerill.com

Enigma Challenge Days – for highly able learners



On the 15th and 16th of February, Potential Plus UK is holding a special event aimed at students' who are 12 years or older at Bedford College. The programme includes two workshops focusing on using electricity creatively, and setting up a business enterprise. Please look at the following website for more details about this event:

http://www.potentialplusuk.org/file_upload/files/Enigma2014%20Flyer.pdf

GIFT, providers of enrichment courses for highly able learners, have organised a series of stand-alone Masterclasses at the request of local parents and schools. The venue will be the Tate Britain Gallery, Millbank, Pimlico, London SW1. The projects are all aimed at National Curriculum Years 7-11 (with one for VI Formers); are based in creative sketchbook art, the history of art, and creative writing with art as a stimulus; and take place from January to May on either Saturday or Sunday. Please see details at the following address:

http://www.giftltd.co.uk/files/TateSecEmail_27.pdf

Mrs A Rajakumar

Visit to Darley Thoroughbred Rehoming & Retraining Centre

On Sunday 19th January Mrs Harris took us to visit Darley's at Badlington Manor on the outskirts of Newmarket. The horses are stabled in an American style barn where it is light and airy. The centre rehomes and retrains geldings only; most of whom have raced but there are others who have simply not made the grade. On arrival they are given a minimum of two months turnout to allow them time to wind down and socialise with other horses. In some cases this can be as much as six months rehabilitation if the horse is recovering from an injury. Their training then begins this includes learning to stand at the mounting block, tie up outside the stable and basic handling as well as schooling them and ensuring they are safe to hack. At the end of their training they are carefully matched to a suitable rider who if found to be compatible can have him on a trial for 3 months and then has the option to have him on a permanent loan. It was a great afternoon out for us all.

Katya, Lottie, Rebecca & Kika
Rochester House

For Highly Able Learners

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Mrs A Rajakumar

Bird Boxes to Hatfield Forest



On Monday 9th December the Year 10 Resistant Materials group delivered a new set of bird boxes to the National Trust Estate Office at Hatfield Forest. Sarah Barfoot, the estate's Community Engagement Manager took possession of them, commenting that they were the best quality boxes they had received to date. Due to tree protection laws, the boxes will not be hung in the forest, but will instead be donated to a local primary school who have just introduced a new environmental study module into their curriculum.

Mr A Russell

Maths Challenge News



Last term Nina Egli and Jordan Starks-Browning from Year 13 sat the Maths Olympiad for Girls. The results were 2 distinctions, Nina did especially well to be in the top 30 of all entrants in the UK.

The Senior Maths Challenge took place at Hockerill on 7 November. 10 dedicated students came and puzzled over the questions to the best of their ability. Calculators are not allowed, only pencil, paper and brain power! The results were good: Harry Lui was "Best in School" with a gold award. Ricardo Teruel, Grace Xu, Emilie and Vanessa Facon, all gained Silver awards and Emilie was "Best in year". Well done to all the students who participated.

On 14 November, four mathematicians went to Cambridge University for the Eastern region Senior Team Maths Challenge: Lucia Wesenberg & Simone Zambetti from Year 13 and Grace Xu & Marco Pistone from Year 12. Competition was fierce and we came a creditable 18th overall out of 30.

Mrs A Goldsmith

Interact Quiz Night

The Interact committee will be holding the Hockerill Annual Quiz Night on Friday 7th February in the College Refectory raising money for the Aplastic Anaemia Trust and Breast Cancer Care. Tickets cost £10 per person and would include a choice of either fish, chicken or a vegetarian option, all served with chips.

A licensed bar will be open throughout the evening. Doors open at 1900, the quiz will begin at 1930 with an approximate finishing time of 2230. The maximum size of a team is 6 people. Smaller groups are very welcome to participate but you may be asked to share a table or merge with another team.

This promises to be a very enjoyable evening for all and is an excellent opportunity for parents to invite any relations and friends of the College. This event is only suitable for adults.

Please contact the College as soon as possible if you would like to purchase tickets.

Charles Kerr, Year 12

Out and about with the Science Faculty



Looking at how Hand warmers work

On the 6th December ten students from Year 9 attended a Chemistry at Work morning at the Sele School in Hertford organised by Setpoint Hertfordshire. They took part in four workshops and enjoyed themselves finding out the chemistry behind popping candy and how to construct molecular models amongst other things. In February I shall be competing at Year 10 students to a Science/ engineering competition at GlaxoSmithKline in Ware. They will have to work together to complete certain tasks and will be competing against several other schools. Last year they had to improve the streamlining of basic Scalextric cars, and work out how to prepare the best rocket fuel to propel a plastic bottle across the gym. I wonder what they will come up with this year? In March we shall be sending a Year 8 team to the Festival of Chemistry in Cambridge to compete against other schools in a Forensic Science challenge. We won in 2010 and 2011 so are looking for victory again. Several Year 10 students are applying for places at one of the Salters Chemistry Camps during the summer holidays, and Year 12 are applying for Nuffield Work placements in all the STEM areas.

Congratulations go to Daniel Eniade who was one of only thirty students out of 300 who gained a work experience placement at GlaxoSmithKline during the February half term break.

Mr J S Chalmers

Tokyo Exchange



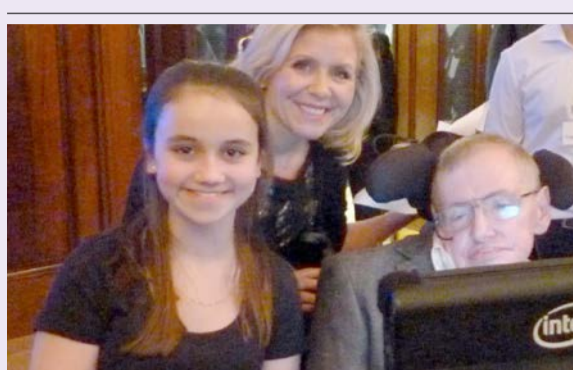
In October 2013, eleven of us went on the Japanese exchange. It was an amazing experience and one which has taught me so much in such a marvellous and interesting environment. The



pure experience of being in a different culture and being completely immersed in the language has helped so much with my fluency in Japanese. By travelling so much about the culture it has enabled me to have a better understanding of the Japanese people. By far the best part for me was the 'Tokyo Challenge'. The excitement that we got from being in a city and being able to explore it by ourselves, was fantastic. My group decided to make all our decisions by flipping a coin. This led to some amazing experiences and we found some wonderful places in Tokyo that we would have not otherwise have found. Japan was such an incredible experience that I will never forget. I made such great friends on the trip and I'm already planning my next trip.

Katya Turner, Year 11

Canada House



On 20th December 2013, I was invited to a talk by astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield at Canada House in London. I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Chris before his talk and presented him with a Mission X Astrobear on behalf of all the Mission X children. We then met Gordon Campbell, the Canadian High Commissioner.

Chris started the evening singing his ISS song with a children's choir and, with questions from the new presenter of Sky at Night, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Chris gave a fascinating talk about his life and time as an astronaut. This was followed by several interesting questions from the room including can you sneeze in space – you can and without going into gory detail, you have to cover your face with your arm as things travel further in micro gravity! When asked what his greatest achievement was, Chris told the story of how he and his neighbour built a pier by their houses and that is what he is most proud of.

Chris also gave a brilliant live performance of David Bowie's Space Oddity, the version he did on the ISS has had over 20 million hits on YouTube!

When an astronaut is in awe of a man, you know you are in the presence of someone truly amazing! That amazing person was another guest, Stephen Hawking. His daughter, author, Lucy Hawking kindly introduced me to her father.

I'd like to say thank you to Heather MacRae, Stephen and Lucy Hawking, Jeremy Curtis (UKSA) and last, but by no means least, Commander Chris Hadfield who has shown us a whole new side of being in space.

Rebecca Hayward, Year 8

Sports News

Congratulations to the following Hockerill students who have been selected to attend The Hertfordshire Hockey Junior Academy Centre (JAC) (equivalent of County Level) following recent hockey assessment camps:



U13: Martha Houl
U14: Elizabeth Ward Booth
U14: Niall Trimble
U16: Dan Hodder
U17: Francesca Pettengell
U17: Olivia Brookhouse

District Swimming

Our preparations had a minor setback when the Herts & Essex swimming pool became unusable as this is our training facility. Unfortunately this meant we had to postpone our Equipe swimming competition which was also part of our trials used for selection.

Well done to all the boys and girls who represented Hockerill College at the recent District Swimming Gala. Notable performances from our senior boys team made up of Luke Sears, Ross McGarry, Jon Hopkins and Rory Sale. Well done also to Beatrice Braithwaite.

Boys Hockey

Thank you to all the boys who have attended training so far this year. Congratulations to the Y8 Legends team who beat the Y8 Rovers team 1-0. Freddie Havers and Alex Wenham were excellent captains leading their teams well and a special mention for two outstanding goalkeepers in Colin Dornekamp and Tolu Osiyemi.

Girls Netball

All girls throughout the College have had the opportunity to attend extra curricular netball sessions. Commitment has been great throughout the College and all teams have had the opportunity to play against other schools.

The U15 Netball team started the season with a great win against St Marys. Their score was 10 – 7.

The U14 Netball Team played against St Marys in a match that was end to end throughout the game. We made our opportunities count and won by 7 goals to 6.

The U13 A and B teams have had the opportunity to play against Herts & Essex and Newport. Their results were as follows:

Hockerill A 17 - 11 Herts & Essex A
Hockerill B 6 - 6 Herts & Essex B
Hockerill A 17 - 2 Newport A
Hockerill B 6 - 7 Newport B

The Year 7's have taken part in both lunch time and after school sessions this term. With the high numbers of students attending club sessions we have been able to select A, B & C teams so far this year and in the future weeks we hope to get a D team in order to allow all those who want to play the opportunity to be involved and enjoy the sport. Results to date are:

Hockerill B 9 v 10 Herts & Essex A
Hockerill C 4 v 5 Herts & Essex B



Congratulations to Ines Harper who has recently won the 'Jack Petchey Award' at Crosskeys Netball. According to Ines' coaches she is keen to learn, listens to her coach and really gets involved with training. Her standard of play has improved and she is now a regular member of the Year 8 squad.

Girls Hockey

This term all girls have had the opportunity to train and there have been fixtures for the various year groups. Thursday morning training in particular has been a great success and has allowed all pupils from Years 7 – 9 to take part in various drills and games. Their learning has been transferred in to matches and results have been great.

U13A Hockerill 2 - 0 Queenswood B
U12A Hockerill 1 - 0 Dame Alice Owen A
U12A Hockerill 1 - 0 St Francis A
U12 B Hockerill 2 - 0 St Francis B
U12A Hockerill 2 - 0 Queenswood A

The U13 hockey team have finished at the top of their pool and will go through to the next round of the Hertfordshire Cup.

Girls Football

This year we have introduced two sessions for girls football for all age groups. Training so far has been well attended and we hope to get some friendly fixtures with local schools ahead of the Girls Football Districts later in the term.

Mr R Loveday & Miss N Hyde