

# HOCKERILL NEWS

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## Principal's message

Richard Markham



It is nice to be able to look back on what has been a very busy half-term. As ever, the range of activities and achievements has been incredibly diverse. What has been particularly encouraging is the number of students who have represented the College, whether as MUN delegates, members of sports teams or as musicians. Hockerill is a busy place but this is a good thing!

As we look back on the first half of the Michaelmas Term, I would also reflect that the faces I see around the College are overwhelmingly happy. This isn't a glib observation, it is an important thing to check. As a component of success, happiness is vital. It stimulates confidence and allows students to thrive and learn. It is also something that

we must not take for granted. I hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend the session run by Dick Moore on Thursday 10th November. Dick will address the key question of mental health, resilience and wellbeing and I cannot recommend attendance at this enough.

I hope you enjoy this review of the half term and I look forward to seeing you at the numerous events which we will host in the run up to Christmas.

## Celebrating Exam Success

Mrs C Waring

Examination results are just one of the ways we measure achievement here at Hockerill, but an important one nevertheless. That's why we were delighted to be placed as the top comprehensive in the country for sixth form results by the Daily Telegraph for the fourth successive year and especially pleased that, when the Department for Education's provisional performance figures were released just before half term, our GCSE A\*-C in both English and Maths figure for 2016 was recorded as 92%, with 73% achieving the English Baccalaureate (against a national average of 22.8%).

Our final figure for those of last year's sixth formers going on to university in the UK was 80% to Russell Group destinations, our highest figures ever for those going on to these leading universities. The highest figure we could find for any UK state school in the last published figures (2015) was 77%, which makes us especially proud of this cohort's achievement. For some parents sixth form may seem a long way off but it is worth taking a look at the wide variety of courses and destinations our sixth formers go on to at [http://www.hockerill.com/uploads/assetfile/3\\_0\\_destinations16.pdf](http://www.hockerill.com/uploads/assetfile/3_0_destinations16.pdf)

## Hockerill Parents & Friends Round-up

Mrs I Gallo

This first half term has flown by, probably because it was so action-packed that there was not a moment to stop and reflect. What have we been up to?

We held two meetings, at which we spoke about the various events that we organise for the community in the course of this academic year. It's an exciting programme coming up and we hope for lots of participation. Come and join us!

It was wonderful to be able to welcome some new parents from across different year groups at the meetings and to see them get stuck in and helping out already – a warm welcome to all new parents!

The Year 7 reps and I went to the Year 7 socials organised by the College to meet some of the new intake of parents and show HPF's friendly faces.

In my last "Round-Up" I promised an update on how we spend it, the funds we raise with your support. This year, we have allocated in excess of £2000 to a number of departments who applied: Modern foreign Languages, CT STEM, Design and Technology, the library and the PE department. The latter applied for a subsidy to support the purchase of new rugby shirts for years 7,8 and 9. On top of that HPF have donated £300 each to Thames and Roding Boarding Houses in recognition of the support we receive from the Sixth Form boarders and the boarding houses for events and also to the College in general in support of learning. (Continued on page 8)



## NOTICES

### Thursday 10th November

Mental Health presentation to parents by Dick Moore  
1900 St Albans Hall

Year 8 German Exchange/Trip  
Parents' Information evening  
1830 Refectory

### Saturday 12th November

Sixth Form Open Morning

### Wednesday 16th November

Year 12 Parent Teacher  
Consultation evening

### Thursday 17th November

Hockerill Parents and Friends AGM  
1930 Sixth Form Centre

### Saturday 19th November

Hockerill Parents and Friends Wine  
Tasting evening  
1900 Chapel

### Monday 21st to Monday 28th November

Year 13 mock examinations

### Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December

Christmas Show  
1930 St Albans Hall

### Saturday 3rd December

Overseas Boarders' Open Weekend

### Sunday 4th December

Hockerill Parents and Friends  
Christmas Market

### Thursday 8th December

Year 13 Parent Teacher  
Consultation evening

### Tuesday 13th December

Carol Concert  
1930 All Saints Church

### Wednesday 14th December

End of term - students depart at  
1235

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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# IB Enrichment Day – Thursday 6th October

Mr G Pollard

Our first whole college off timetable day of the academic year took place last Thursday with each year group taking part in activities designed to give them the chance to look at issues in much greater depth than a normal lesson would allow and to consider topics broader than the scope of their everyday classes. These days take a great deal of planning if they are to be a success and involve the entire staff and some very complicated logistics, but are worth it for the benefits they can bring.

**Year 7 - Model United Nations** - The students worked in small groups each representing a country and spent the morning studying their designated country and its issues and needs. In the afternoon the General Assembly took place with each group acting as the delegation for the country they have studied – often including traditional costume.

**Year 8 - Human Rights Day** - Students took part in a variety of simulations and learning activities designed to illustrate challenges to human rights in different parts of the world. Lunch was taken in St Alban's Hall, sitting on the floor ... and was a handful of cold rice. At least that is what they were told, and then given time to think about for a while before being sent to the Refectory for lunch.

**Year 9 - Disease Day** - A Geography-Science based day of activities, leading to a Model WHO conference in the afternoon. Students worked in groups of four researching diseases and their transmission / acquisition from the perspective of a particular country; they then made a presentation to the conference, which included a debate on the relative importance and priority attached to particular diseases.

**Year 10 - American Politics/ Study Skills day** - Year 10 had two half days of activity with students taking part in a number of activities designed to improve understanding of electoral systems different to ours, especially the American system.

For the second part of the day the students, who are near the beginning of their GCSE programmes, were given a range of strategies to improve their ability to engage with, absorb, process and reprocess, use, create with and demonstrate the knowledge and skills they need for academic study in this new phase of their schooling.

**Year 11 - Maths/English** – The day gave Year 11 students the chance to spend a more extended time than is possible on normal days, working on strengthening skills and knowledge specific to these two important subjects which was especially useful given the changes to both these subjects this year.

**Year 12 - Group 4 Project** – This is the Group of subjects in the IB Diploma programme that includes sciences and the project is a collaborative exercise for all students to work together on a challenge which requires the input of students of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Design, Technology, Environmental Systems and Sports and Exercise Science. This year the students must identify and propose solutions to challenges which might be inherent to the planning and execution of a mission to Mars.

**Year 13 - Theory of Knowledge** – the students took part in workshops throughout the day to help them prepare the essay and presentation that they are required to produce for the ToK part of their Diploma programme.



# Summer of Individual Sporting successes for Hockerill Students

Mrs A Winship

Three Hockerill students have started back to college after very busy sporting summers. Year 10's Amber Mays was selected to play her first match for Essex Women's XI against a representative side from the Club Cricket Conference. She was then, on the strength of her performances for Essex U15 and for Bishops Stortford Ladies 1st XI over the summer, invited to play for the Club Cricket Conference against Kent which was a huge honour.

With her off spin bowling she has finished the leading wicket taker for Essex U15 and for Bishops Stortford Ladies, as well as very high up in the ECB national U15 bowling averages and in the Women's Southern Cricket Championship averages. She was an ever present member of the Bishop's Stortford Ladies 1st XI which narrowly missed promotion to the Southern Premiership by 0.1 of a point.

Amber was also a member of Wanstead Ladies 1st XI in the North London league, helping them win the league and taking her first hatrick against Harrow Town. She was also a member of their Girls U16 team that won the Essex U16 Matchplay Trophy, so, a very successful season for someone so young playing in adult cricket.

Meanwhile, Year 11's Martha Hoult has been attending U16 JRPC (Junior Regional Performance Centre) training sessions at Northwood through the summer, which is one of 12 regional centres that make up England Hockey's Performance stream where nominated players from Hertfordshire, Essex, Bedfordshire (and some from Middlesex) come together.

Martha was selected from this group of players to represent Northwood Tigers at the JRPC Tier 1 'cluster competition on Sunday 18 and Sunday 25 Sept at Lee Valley Hockey Centre. At this tournament, the Northwood Tigers team played against other JRPC teams from Bury and Tonbridge.

To complete the trio golfer Jon Hopkins, who plays at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club, from Year 13 represented England on Monday 12th September in the Schools International match against Scotland at Fairhaven Golf Club in Lancashire. After the morning's foursomes the English boys went into singles



matches 2 points down. Jon, one hole down after 7 holes, then went on to birdie the next 6 holes and left his opponent unable to respond to the onslaught with Jon winning 6 and 4. The English team won the last four singles which took the final score to 9 each, and as Scotland were the holders they retained the cup.

The College is very proud of all three students and look forward to watching their continued success.

## Girls U16 Hockey

Mr R Markham

The Girls U16 Hockey team should be congratulated on an impressive performance in the recent Hertfordshire County Finals. With players drawn from Year 9, 10 and 11 the team had never played together before the tournament but certainly did not allow this to hamper them. Drawn in a difficult pool containing last year's finalists (Haileybury), Bishop's Stortford College, Aldenham School and Royal Masonic School, the team knew that they would have their work cut out to repeat the performance of last year. The pool matches proved to be tense, but ultimately the College topped the pool with 3 wins and one draw. The Semi-final was against Dame Alice Owen, and despite having 90% of the possession and pressure, Hockerill could not score in normal time which resulted in a penalty stroke competition. Bella Wagstaff performed heroics in goal and with all of the Hockerill penalty takers successful the College progressed to the final against Presdales School. Up until this point, Hockerill had not conceded a goal in normal play, and so it was a surprise when they found themselves 1 down to a confident and mature Presdales side. As the game progressed the Hockerill girls found their strides and the final half was played in and around the Presdales 25. Unfortunately, as in the semi-final, Hockerill could not force the breakthrough and the final whistle saw the side surrender to a solitary goal. With only five Year 11s in the side this is clearly a team with great promise, and the girls deserve congratulations for their valiant efforts. The side now qualifies for the Regional Finals on 15 November.



# Odysseus II

Rebecca Hayward & Eleanor Ivey

After our success in the Odysseus II Space Contest regional semi-finals in Denmark, Eleanor and I represented the United Kingdom in the final round in Belgium. We had an amazing four days in July at the Euro Space Center near Brussels competing against students from all over the world. During first two days we participated in activities such as a virtual reality moon walk, piloting a space shuttle, visiting the European Space Agency in Redu and an evening at an observatory, all of which gave us a great opportunity to get to know the other contestants. On the third day, we presented our entry, MissionRed 2030 (a Martian travel package) to the panel of international judges from the space sector. Although we didn't win, we received positive feedback and enjoyed the time with new friends, including the Portuguese team, who definitely deserved to win, especially after having to repair their working, prototype rover through the night, when it was damaged during the flight to Belgium.

The Odysseus competition is already open for next year, it's a great opportunity for anyone interested in space. If you want to enter or see all the entries from this year, visit: <http://www.odysseus-contest.eu>



## Induction day

On Monday 5th September we welcomed a diverse group of Year 12 students to the Hockerill Sixth Form. As part of their induction to the Sixth Form, all students took part in a number of team building activities and Form Tutor activities. These activities provided an opportunity for students to work together and were a catalyst for developing new friendships. The day was a huge success and was a brilliant platform for students to get to know one another and familiarise themselves with the College surroundings and Sixth Form Tutors.



## Autumn Ball

Noah Lawson on behalf of the Sixth Form Leadership Team

Saturday 8th October saw the first major social event of the year with 240 Year 12s and 13s along with some of the Sixth Form staff attending the Autumn Ball. After welcome drinks and a delicious three course meal the evening continued with a variety of live musical performances from the College Big Band, individual vocalists and an un-named, but thoroughly entertaining, student band lead. A disco brought the evening to a close. The Ball is always popular and this year's was judged to be one of the best yet with a fantastic atmosphere and was a great opportunity for the two year groups to mix and for Year 13 to get to know the new Year 12 students better. We would like to thank Holroyd Howe for the fantastic meal and Mrs Lee for all of her help.



## Audley End

Ms Barker's Year 13 Higher Level English Literature class spent the afternoon of Saturday 1st October at Audley End to help bring Jane Eyre to life. The students listened to an explanation of the history of Audley End and then toured the house reflecting on similarities to the characters in the novel. They were then fortunate enough that the weather improved and they could enjoy Capability Brown's Gardens and the chance to see some of the local history around Bishop's Stortford.



## Library News

On Saturday 1st October, the HAEC Parents' Reading Group held a MacMillan Coffee Morning and Book Sale, to which Year 7 parents were also invited. Thank you to the group members who provided cakes to sell, and to all who donated so generously, over £260 was raised for this very worthwhile charity.



# SPOTLIGHT ON DRAMA

Miss N Day & Mrs V Marsh

## Drama Term 1

### Kathakali Workshop

On Monday 3rd October, the Year 12 and 13 IB theatre students took part in an Indian Kathakali workshop run by professional Kathakali actor Kalamandalam Vijayakumar and Barbara Vijayakumar, the only female chuti make up artist in the world.

Throughout the day the students got to understand the important cultural, social and religious significance that Kathakali performance has as well as being able to take part in an acting master class. Students learnt how to use Mudras, communicating the language of the performance through scared gestures, as well as the challenging facial and eye movements. The students were commended on their maturity and professionalism and they created some fantastic work.

In the afternoon we watch Vijaya perform a mesmerising story seeing all of the important aspects of Kathakali, music, costume, make up and action come together.

We were then able to experiment with creating our own make up under the guidance of Barbara.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students working with a famous actor learning about how theatre communicates to its audience in different countries and cultures.



### Professional actor Workshop

This half term we were privileged to have former Hockerill student Robin Hatcher come back to us to help prepare our Year 11 students for their first practical examination. Robin is a professional actor, writer and comedian. He is part of a comedy trio act called Three Half Pints. You may recognise him from Cbeebies for which he writes and performs. He specialises in comedy and clowning and was able to give our Year 11 students some excellent training for performing their comedy plays next half term. He gave each Year 11 class an intense 2 hour

workshop with emphasis on exaggeration, mime and movement. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we look forward to seeing Robin on CBeebies in Justin's House over the coming weeks.



### Macbeth theatre trip

On Monday 26th September the Drama department took all Drama students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to see Macbeth at the Pleasance theatre in Islington performed by the renowned Splendid Theatre company. It was a highly innovative production performed by 1 woman and 2 men with minimal staging. Students were asked to participate in the production and learnt a great deal about stagecraft and how to take famous stories and retell them in an exciting way.

### 1984 Theatre trip

On Wednesday 12th October we were off to the theatre again this time to see 1984 Robert Icke's and Duncan Macmillan's chilling 101 minute version of George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984 at the Playhouse theatre in London. This was a complete contrast to Macbeth with an intricate set and use of technology to enhance the experience. Students remained gripped throughout and recognised the relevance of the story today. They will now be undertaking the writing of detailed reviews of both of these productions.



## Model United Nations

To mark the 70th anniversary of the first Model United Nations Conference Jacob Grunberger, Sean Grant, Silvia Tauro and Alex Chen, the Presidential Team for Hockerill's MUN, and Mr Jackson, attended a conference at Westminster Hall. The conference, attended by other school MUN groups, looked at issues such as nuclear weapons, atomic energy and refugees from a 1946 viewpoint. Our team represented the Philippines and found it fascinating to see just how relevant the issues they were discussing still are today.

On Thursday 29th September the same four students, this time accompanied by Ms Davids, were given the opportunity to give a presentation on International Mindedness and Student Leadership at Cambridge University, Department of Education. This was part of a four day conference with speakers from as far away as Mexico, Canada, Spain and Latvia and attended by academics, and leaders in the development of education. The conference was to mark the centenary of the publication of John Dewey's "Democracy and Education" – a text which has been influential in both education and social reform.

Though used to addressing audiences of fellow students this was the first time the team had the opportunity to speak to an audience of professionals and they all agreed they learnt a lot from it, and also from taking part in discussions on subjects such as student empowerment after the other presentations they attended.



The team were also heavily involved with the Year 7 IB Enrichment Day, where along with some of the Year 12s who have joined MUN this year, they helped facilitate the MUN day. They are also looking forward to Stort MUN in November.



## Post 16 Event

Mrs A Lee

The Post 16 Event at the Leisure Zone in Harlow on Wednesday 12th October was very successful. We took five students, Griff Williams-Renouf, Sonya Sinadinova, Lucy Palmer, Anitalise Ogedengbe and Magdalene Zajac, all of whom were brilliant ambassadors for Hockerill. We spoke with a large number of students and parents from a variety of schools in Harlow and it was a superb opportunity to raise Hockerill's profile as well as that of the International Baccalaureate. We anticipate a number of students will sign up to attend our Sixth Form Open morning on Saturday 12th November following this event.

## From Bach to Bublé



The music department is proud to present its new CD, recorded this year, showcasing the talents of the many outstanding musicians within the College's instrumental and vocal ensembles. Copies are available for £12 in the Music Department office. Please speak to Mrs Wood for details.



## Leadership College

Mrs S Davids

On Thursday 22nd September the Hockerill Leadership College was delighted to welcome Angela Riviere, Senior Curriculum Strand Manager for the International

Baccalaureate Organisation into College to talk about Emerging Themes in International Education. The audience, made up of current sixth form, staff, governors and other guests heard her stress the importance of inquiry-based learning and study that emphasises skills acquisition for today's students who will embark on careers doing jobs that do not currently exist.

## Youth Champions

Ms A McCulloch

Eleven of our students in Years 9 and 10 have started the RSPH Youth Health Champions Scheme this half term. This is a club which runs on Monday evenings from 4pm-6pm. The aim is for them to be trained as 'health advisors' to their peers. It provides knowledge and vital practical skill sets, harnessing young people's natural energy and enthusiasm to facilitate peer to peer education and mentoring about lifestyle related risks to health to effect real and lasting change in the wider community.

Learners will explore how people fall into unhealthy practices; personal and social consequences of such involvement; and how to provide help and support to anyone who is currently engaged in any health damaging activities. At the end of the course the students will gain a Level 2 qualification.

## National Equestrian Schools Association

Mrs N Pierrejean

### Arena Eventing hosted at The Jays, Bury St Edmunds

Hockerill fielded an equestrian team consisting of Ines Harper (Guinness), Kitty Haslam (Gwynfaes Hedfanwr), Alice Somerville (Jasper) and Estelle Pierrejean (Mr Pickles). They had to negotiate a course of a mixture of showjumping and cross country style fences as fast as possible without any time added penalties. Ines set the standard with a fast yet tidy round in the 80cm with impressive tight turns to win the class individually. The team were placed 6th. In the 90cm, the team were placed in 4th spot. Alice was the sole Hockerill individual in the challenging 1m class and was rewarded with her efforts with 4th place.



Ines Harper – Winning Individual of the 80cm class

## BMX Club

Mr A Russell

It has been another successful half-term for the Hockerill BMX Club who go from strength to strength. With a mix of existing members and newcomers we have enjoyed 6 sessions at Braintree track with coach Jools Allen.

Everybody has made great progress in their technique and confidence but I would like to highlight 2 students in particular:

Alfie Kane in Year 7. As some of you will know, Alfie has hemiparesis and hemianopia, which affects both the right hand side of his body and his field of vision. In just 3 weeks Alfie has gone from not being able to mount the bike at all to completing a whole rhythm section: a truly phenomenal achievement that all of us in the club are very proud of.

James Mills in Year 11. James started BMXing with us at the end of Year 9 and progressed massively before suffering a bad wrist break from a fall at the start of the year. James has showed great courage in getting back on the track and has justifiably been rewarded with a place in Jools' Elite Training Squad. James has potential to go far in the sport and is a brilliant role model to the younger members.

[Click here](#) to see a video of both riders on the college website. We now have a break for the winter but will resume again after Easter.



## The 2016 Spanish Extended Exchange

Dr C Millán

As teachers, our main driving force is to constantly improve our students' learning experiences. As an international school, strengthening links and cooperation with our international partner schools is not only an aim, but also part of our ethos at Hockerill. With these two aims in mind, in September 2014, the Spanish Extended Exchange was born as a joint effort between the Spanish Department at Hockerill and the Department of English at I.E. S. Rosalia de Castro in Santiago de Compostela.



At the end of the summer term, Year 9 students of Spanish are given the unique opportunity to experience a six week linguistic and cultural immersion in Santiago de Compostela. Their stay involves living with a host family from our partner school, as well as becoming integrated into the local school community. At the beginning of Year 10, during the autumn term, the Spanish students return the visit and spend six weeks at Hockerill.

I am delighted to report on the success of the 2016 extended exchange. Ceci Catmur, Sidney Price and Dominic Tatchell were selected to take part in the 2016 exchange and acted as proud ambassadors of the College whilst in Santiago; their exchange partners (Claudia Lareo, Gonzalo García and Yago Barriuso) are about to complete their return stay at Hockerill. Speaking to the six students about their experiences of this exchange, the feedback could not have been more positive. The whole experience has been described as "amazing" by all of them, not only because of the obvious linguistic benefits, but also the invaluable cultural impact it has had on their young lives.

Claudia, Gonzalo and Yago find it hard to believe that they are about to complete their six week stay. In their eyes, settling into Hockerill was easier than they thought. They were all grateful for the opportunity and felt touched by the friendliness and kindness of both teachers and fellow students. With regards to their integration into College life, Mrs Ashlee-McCrae, Head of Year 10, commented that "they have become a very well established part of our Year 10. They have fitted into the year exceptionally well and they have been a delight to have around the college. They have been model students and have embraced all that Hockerill has offered to them. They have participated in lessons and have now been immortalised in our biannual whole college photograph." Echoing Mrs Ashlee-McCrae's words, it has been very rewarding to watch first hand and see all the students grow as young people, as a result of this experience. We hope to see the students back at Hockerill in the near future and we wish them well in their studies!!

I cannot finish without thanking the parents of the current and also former students, for their encouragement and invaluable role in this experience. Without their support, this exchange would not be possible.

## Hockerill Parents & Friends Round-up

(Continued from page 1)

On the more "boring" side, the HPF committee looked at its governance and governance in the big picture and we will propose some changes at the AGM. Please come and join us for some Cheese and Wine, lively debate and election of Committee members. When HPF was first set up, cheese and wine was served at the meetings to entice you people along. This year, we are reviving this for the AGM.

And finally a vacancy, an opportunity for you to volunteer: HPF are looking for a treasurer – if you have what it takes and are willing to spare a bit of your time, please get in touch via email [hpf@hockerill.com](mailto:hpf@hockerill.com)

## Strategic Plan

Mrs R Lawson and Dr J Braeckman, Joint Chair of Governors

### Hockerill Anglo-European College Strategic Plan 2017-2020

On an annual basis the governors and leadership teams of the College meet to discuss their strategic plans for Hockerill over the next three to five year period. Given the current climate and pace of educational, economic and political change, the next phase of Hockerill's strategic development has been framed within a three year time period.

The Hockerill Anglo-European College Strategic Plan 2017-2020 is now available to view in draft form by clicking on the following link: [Draft Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#)

You will note from this draft document that there are no big shifts in direction or policy. Our core purpose, mission statement and vision for Hockerill remain largely unchanged. The key projects and priorities, which drive our work, are shared on page seven of the current draft. It is envisaged that the process of consultation will help to further shape and scope this section of the document.

The Governors are happy to discuss the document and are interested in any views you may have in connection with it. You are invited to attend open forum sessions on Saturday 5th November at either 9.00 am or 9.45 am in the Refectory or Wednesday 23rd November at 7.00 pm in the Chapel. Also on Saturday 5th November, you are very welcome to join us for a coffee at The Nags Head with Hockerill Parents and Friends, as previously advertised. These forums are being carried out alongside similar sessions for staff and students. The objective of this approach is to ensure that the Hockerill community has a sense of joint ownership and a collective sense of purpose around its key priorities over the next three years.

