

HOCKERILL NEWS

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Top Ranked
Comprehensive
School (UK)

The Sunday Times
Guide 2018

Principal's message

Richard Markham



Happy holidays ...

The Michaelmas term is by far the longest of our three terms. As the pages of this Newsletter show, there has been a wealth of activity since half-term and we could have included more! As the final week of term looms and the excitement levels rise, October feels a long time ago.

Since October the College has gained planning permission for the Sports Hall and the Science Block (subject to satisfactory resolution of surface water drainage). We have also been awarded first place in the Sunday Times Parent Power school league tables for our GCSE and IBDP results. To these whole College successes can be added a multitude of individual achievements and awards, a flavour of which I hope the following pages

reflect. None of these would be possible without the 'magic of Hockerill' that incredible community spirit and the supportive atmosphere.

I hope that you all have a chance to enjoy a wonderful holiday. It is important to rest and relax and to make resolutions for the New Year. We are eagerly anticipating the next phase of the Capital Development Project and I will be writing to you all in the near future to outline how you might help in our efforts to raise £500,000 to bring the Capital Projects to fruition.

I wish you all a wonderful break.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Many of you will have heard our exciting news that the Sunday Times published their Schools Guide and we did rather well, taking top slot for comprehensive schools in the UK. We are extremely proud of this achievement which is a true testament to the hard work of the whole College community, in which you play no small part.

Joint Chairs of Governors:

Rachel Lawson and Judith Braeckman

It has been a busy and exciting term for the College and its Governing Body. Against the backdrop of the College's national recognition of its hardworking staff and student body, with the Sunday Times describing academic performance as "astonishing", focus internally has centred on further enhancing student experience. The granting of planning permission for the Sports Hall and Science Block (subject to drainage) means we now need to launch a concerted campaign to raise funds. £500,000 is urgently needed to secure the most significant strategic development of the site in College history.

We need to appeal to you for your help... and your money! Any offers of skills, networks or much needed financial assistance, to deliver the final 10% of project costs, cannot come soon enough. If your company offers match funding for fundraising, please consider applying for this to support Hockerill.

In other news, the Governing Body is working with the College to prepare for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and next term will see a recruitment campaign to the post of Vice Principal Curriculum.

We wish you a restful and festive Christmas.

Match Funding

Richard Markham

The College was very grateful to Mr Chris Wall and Liquidnet Europe Ltd for the match funding of the HPF Burns Night which raised \$2,500 for the College Development Fun. If you are able to match fund please contact supportus@hockerill.com to see how you might help the College.



NOTICES

Wednesday 3rd January

Inset Day
Boarders return

Thursday 4th January

Term commences
Year 11 mock exams commence

Saturday 6th January

Year 11 Study Day

Wednesday 10th January

Year 9 Parent Teacher
Consultation evening

Saturday 13th January

Non-Uniform Day

Thursday 18th January

Saturday B lessons,
periods 1, 2 & 3

Tuesday 6th February

Year 8 Parent Teacher
Consultation evening

Friday 9th February

Half term holiday commences
Students depart at 1540

HOW TO CONTACT US

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GCSE Presentation Evening

The students who made up Year 11 last year had the opportunity to come together again on Friday 17th November to celebrate their fantastic GCSE achievements. The evening was arranged by Mrs Fay Whiteley who, as their Head of Year for four years, guided their development from Year 8 through to the exam period in May, and who did a fantastic job of putting together a thoroughly memorable evening.

The event began with a drinks reception before the students and their guests, an audience of 280, moved to St Albans Hall. There they were addressed by the Principal who, whilst being delighted by their exceptional exams results, urged them never to forget the importance of the small things in life like being punctual, being polite and always being kind that are really the mark of an individual.

As well as the speeches from Mr Markham and Mrs Whiteley the students were treated to a talk from serial adventurer James Ketchell who, after recovering from an accident sustained in a motor cycle race that threatened to leave him unable to walk, has now rowed the Atlantic single handed, climbed Everest and cycled round the world which, as the title of his book suggests,

must be "The Ultimate Triathlon". The students could not have failed to be inspired by his anecdotes.

The hugely successful evening was rounded off by the presentation of GCSE certificates and musical performances from the Year 12 Band lead by Katherine Lewington and Karen Isaacs. Reflecting on the evening and her students Mrs Whiteley commented "It has been an absolute pleasure to organise this event for my former year group. They all thoroughly deserve the praise that has been awarded to them this evening and I am delighted to see so many parents in attendance."



Year 13 Berlin History Trip

Mr L Jackson, Head of History

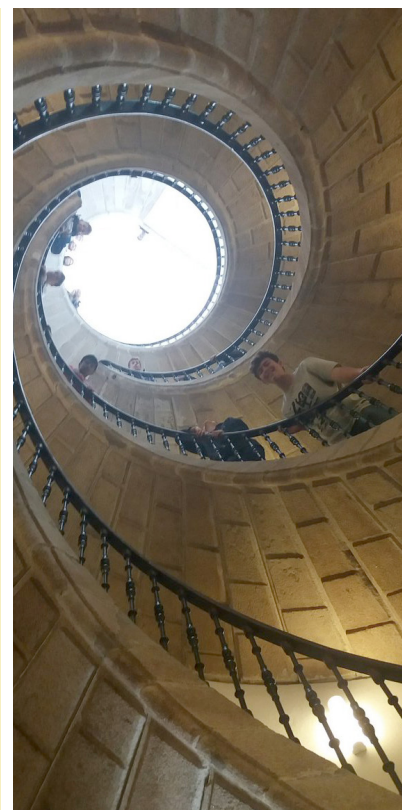
A group of sixth-form students spent part of their October half-term break in Berlin on our annual History study trip. Students visited a range of museums and historic sites in and around Berlin including the German Historical Museum, Sachsenhausen concentration camp and the House of the Wannsee Conference. This was an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate and extend their knowledge of this topic. In addition the group visited sites connected with modern Berlin. Highlights included a visit to Mauer Park Flea-market and a guided tour of Berlin's thriving street art scene. It was a very successful trip and an enjoyable experience for both students and staff.



Santiago de Compostela

Dr C Millan Varela

During the first week of October half-term, 20th-27th October, the Spanish Department organised another successful exchange to Santiago de Compostela. Year 10 students enjoyed a week's immersion experience, living with Spanish families from our partner school, IES Rosalia de Castro, attending lessons and visiting local attractions. All students behaved impeccably and were real ambassadors for Hockerill. We are now looking forward to welcoming our exchanges in April.



China Trip

Mr A Geissler

Land of Dragons and Emperors

And also a country of vast proportions, contrasts and phenomenal contradictions which the 15 participants of this year's third visit to China were able to experience and enjoy first hand.

The starting point of our two leg journey was the old former capital of Xi'an which has grown and developed into a modern affluent, and by Chinese standards, middle sized city of 10 million. It is one of the oldest cities in China and the oldest of the Four Great Ancient Capitals, having held the position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history including Western Zhou, Qin, Western Han, Sui, and Tang. Apart from taking our first steps in getting to know this mesmerising country, its culture and people we were able to visit the beautiful Giant Wild Goose Pagoda. The pagoda is part of a Buddhist temple and was built in 652 during the Tang dynasty. Other highlights here were the Muslim street market, a food market which sells an amazing array of exotic dishes, praised loudly by the proud market people and lit by thousands of neon signs and lights! The Terracotta Army depicting the soldiers of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China is phenomenal. It is a form of funerary art buried with the emperor in 210–209 BCE and whose purpose was to protect the emperor in his afterlife. And lastly the tranquil and traditional calligraphy quarter with shop after shop selling all sorts of calligraphy equipment, art, books and antiques.

Beijing was our second leg of the journey and we travelled the 1500 kilometres by bullet train, a comfortable and fast mode of transport with the train exceeding 300 km/h for the majority of the journey.

Beijing, the massive capital city of China, has a population of more than 20 million people and a history that stretches back 3 millennia. The city epitomises in many ways the contrasts of old and new that seem to pervade the country in so many places. Giving a detailed summary of our experiences is not possible and so I will only name some of the most memorable moments of our visit here. Both the visit to the Great Wall and the Lama Temple have left lasting memories. The Great Wall overwhelms through its enormity as well as the location and on the day of our visit nature provided a spectacle of clouds, mist and sunshine for us. The Lama Temple in the centre of Beijing, surrounded by constantly congested motorways is an oasis of calm and reflection that at the same time offers the opportunity for critical reflection on the political reality in this country. The Forbidden City, former imperial palace and a walled city comprising 2000 buildings within the city, is very impressive and located adjacent to the infamous Tiananmen Square were history meets the modern Chinese police and surveillance state in all its public and hidden facets. The Temple of Heaven is yet another opening into old Chinese culture and traditions that provides space for quiet contemplation or social interaction for the people of Beijing. We came here on a rare crisp, clear and sunny day with uninhibited views over the great City.



Japan Trip October 2017

Mrs A Rajakumar

In addition to our usual varied activities in Japan, this year we were able to experience the full force of two Japanese typhoons. Despite the wet and windy weather, students gained an invaluable insight into both rural and urban parts of Japan: visiting two primary schools and spending five days with a family in the centre of Tokyo at Keio Chutobu, one of Japan's most prestigious junior high schools.



At the primary schools, our students were able to cook their own lunch and dinner with our Japanese host students; learn about traditional children's pastimes; and even have a lesson in Wadaiko, traditional Japanese drumming. They cleaned the school with the students after lunch, which all agreed was an excellent part of Japanese school life, although not all agreed that we should introduce the same system at Hockerill!

In Tokyo, students participated in the annual Tokyo urban orienteering activity, known as 'The Tokyo Challenge', and experienced modern Japanese culture from karaoke to 'Cat Cafes'.

The students were a great credit to the school and firm friendships were established, which I am sure will continue into the future.



Air Pollution

Ms C Perrone, Go Green Hockerill

Earlier in November, we were very pleased to be visited by two members of the East Hertfordshire Council, Simon Barfoot and Benjamin Weeks, who came to discuss initial efforts to raise awareness of air pollution.



We have consolidated our partnership with the council and we will be hosting a collaborative session with all key stake holders in the region. Our plan is to introduce hands-on projects into the MYP Curriculum. These initiatives are consistent with our UNESCO school status.

Curriculum Update

Mr G Roberts, Curriculum VP

This has been a busy academic term. As well as all the amazing extra-curricular feats that you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter, Hockerill's students have been working hard to improve their own personal academic performance in order to make as much progress as possible.

Year 7 and Year 12 students have risen to the challenge of starting life in a new school or, at least, a new part of it. Year 7 students have successfully found their way around the buildings to all their new classes and their first report in January will confirm the progress they have made, adding to the information parents and students received at the Consultation Meeting in October. Year 12 students have had their first report and Parents' Evening and have proved to be a very hard-working Year group. Their efforts were rewarded with a Cake Break in early December when Mr Markham congratulated the students on their hard work so far.

Year 13 students underwent a gruelling but rewarding series of IBDP Mock Examinations in November. More intense in terms of schedule than the real examinations in April and May, the students were given as realistic an experience as possible with invigilation expertly carried out by Mrs Wright's band of examination gurus. Our thanks go to Mrs Wright, our Examinations Officer and her deputy, Mrs Trimble, for organising these exams so superbly. Mrs Wright commented that this was one of the best-behaved year groups she had come across in her long career; this is a great testament, not just to the students, but also Mr Clark and the Year 13 tutors. The Year 11 GCSE mocks will take place after Christmas and we expect the Year 11s to find time for a carefully planned and executed revision programme over the festive season.

The Year 13s have also been sending off applications to universities both at home and abroad, with many of the earlier applicants having already received excellent offers from the universities of their choice. Oxbridge applicants have been visiting their Colleges for interviews and they hope for good news in early January. Thanks go to Mr Snell and the team of tutors for all the excellent work they do on helping the students with their applications. We wish all the applicants the very best of luck.

Mr Whiteley is Head of Lower College and is very pleased with the way the Lower College students are maturing; he works very closely with Ms Humphris and Miss Rowan to create an excellent atmosphere in the Lower College classrooms. The Lower College students have been working hard to develop the IB Learner Profile attributes. Challenged by their teachers to understand the 'big ideas', they investigate and develop skills, knowledge and understanding. The IB Enrichment Day in October was a highlight of the term and allowed students to gain a little more understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

The youngest examination cohort is the Year 10 group, headed up by Mrs Whiteley who has taken over from Signor Soriano-Vidal who is now working back in his homeland. As you all know, Mrs Whiteley expects the very best from her students and she is very keen that her new charges will emulate the success of last year's Year 11 and 13 students who recently helped Hockerill to top place in the recent Sunday Times Parent Power rankings for state comprehensive schools. This is an accolade we are all very proud of here and is a really impressive reward for the work of the staff and students. We will continue to work with and encourage all our students to achieve academic excellence in their own individual way. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Poetry by Heart Competition

Ms E Frontain

Poetry by Heart is a National competition that focuses on a different theme within poetry each year. This year, students were asked to memorise and present a World War One poem to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. We had the first level of the competition last week within our classes. The winners' videos will be sent off to take part in the National competition.

Year 12 DT trip to Prague

Mr A Russell, Head of DT

On 22nd November Mrs Lumbers and I took 20 Year 12 students to Prague for 3 days to look at architecture, design and manufacturing, including a visit to Skoda's production plant and museum. An added bonus was Ai Wei Wei's powerful "Refugee" exhibition, which was purpose built for the National Gallery building, which in a former life was a processing station for Auschwitz. It was an enjoyable and useful trip and the standard of the students' sketchbooks, which were on display in the library the week after we returned, demonstrated how much they had got out of it.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Mrs N Ashlee-Macrae, Head of RE

Year 9 will be attending the Holocaust Memorial Day events at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue on 30th January 2018. A parent mail has been sent out and replies are to be handed in by 10th January 2018. This is an annual event which the RE department has been involved in for many years now and one which offers an invaluable experience for students to be able to listen to a Holocaust Survivor first hand.

This year's theme is The Power of Words, Words can make a difference – both for good and evil.

'I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.' - Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944

Students will be leaving college at 1100hrs and should return at 1700hrs. They will complete follow up work in their RE lessons which will allow them to reflect on their experiences.



Music Tour

Mr O Bond Director of Music

In October half term, 57 pupils and staff took part in a 9-day tour across Central Europe. We performed an evening concert at Hotel Britannia on Lake Como, following an excursion to beautiful Bellagio by boat. The following day, we spent an afternoon in Venice before heading to our partner school, Liceo Torricelli, in Maniago. Our second concert was a joint performance with the Maniago students at the grand setting of the town's Verdi theatre. After a final

tour and informal performance at Duomo Spilimbergo, we departed Italy to visit the Salt Mines of Salzburg in Austria. Our next concert took place in Bavaria, following visits to Salzburg city and Mozart's birthplace. Finally, we ending our tour with two enthusiastically-received performances at our Belgian partner school, College St Veronique, in Liege. The students were a huge credit to the College, performing to an incredibly high standard and showcasing the best of Hockerill's wide-ranging musical talent.





Amnesty International Youth Advisory Group

Esther Grunbaum and Ieuan Chappell, Yr 13

On a chilly Saturday morning, we found our way through London to Amnesty International UK headquarters in Shoreditch. Here we were to participate in Amnesty's Youth Advisory Group, counselling the organisation on how to further their appeal to young people as well as gaining advice on how to improve our own Amnesty club here at Hockerill. We were both immensely proud to have been selected for this important role, and excited for this opportunity to meet other people as passionate about human rights as we are.

The day unfolded with introductions to each other, to the Advisory Group, and to Amnesty International as a whole. We gave advice on how to promote Amnesty within school, as we shared our experiences of putting on a film night for the sixth form and leading a petition-signing event about selling weapons to Saudi Arabia, while taking note of the recommendations of others. Additionally, we had the opportunity to gain an understanding of how the charity worked and meet several of the amazing people who work there.

Overall, the day was a worthwhile experience, which provided us with many ideas to take back to Hockerill. We have been elected to the Youth Advisory Group for a year, and so we are now very much looking forward to partaking in the upcoming meetings, where we will be able to delve even further into Amnesty activism.

Christmas Jumper Day 2017

Mr Whiteley Head of the Lower College

I am sure many of you will be as annoyed as me when we hear, "Christmas is about this or that.", but whatever you think Christmas is about or believe there is little doubt that it is always good to try to do something for others. On Wednesday 13th December we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day at Hockerill. All student were invited to wear a festive Jumper, in addition to or instead of a blazer. As we had just had the coldest day of the year an extra layer was most welcome!



There were nearly 500 students who participated in the event, each donating £1, the money was collected by the excellent team of Equipe prefects (diligently recording the names of those who had forgotten their £1) as the students entered the Refectory for the College Christmas Lunch. The scope of the Jumpers was extensive, from home knits to high fashion, from comic to religious and some with built in electronics! It was good to see some old favourites, putting in their second or even third appearance and some being worn again by younger siblings of older students.

The student are to be congratulated on raising £503.88. Traditionally we split the money raised between 4 charities nominated by students who have a particular interest in these or which they personally support. This year we will support The Save Foundation which is an organisation who work to enrich, educate, and empower various township and settlement communities by providing equipment, supplier and skills in southern Africa. The Herts and Essex Air Ambulance who attended Mr James' serious cycling accident in February. The RNLI, who we don't see often in Bishop's Stortford and our ex Deputy Head Boy from 2012 to 2013, Gerard Murphy as he recovers from a life changing spinal injury.

I do hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes.

Amnesty International's Write for Rights

Jen Winship, Yr 12

On Friday the 1st of December, members of Hockerill Anglo European College gathered in the Humanities department to share the spirit of Christmas through Amnesty's Write for Rights campaign, organised by the Amnesty International group and the Human Rights Club. The students wrote Christmas cards and words of comfort to people from around the world whose basic rights had been violated. It is based on the idea that a few words of support to someone who is struggling can help them immeasurably in the holiday season. This year, the campaign was focusing on ten different cases from Chad to China. They include people such as Hanan, an Egyptian woman who last saw her husband injured on the news, after protesting in 2010. Her husband is one of the many people who have 'disappeared' at the hands of the Egyptian Security Forces. However Hanan did not stop looking for her husband. She looked so much that she was arrested and accused of being part of a 'banned group'. Write for Rights allow people to give their support to people like Hanan who have been wrongly imprisoned, as well as push governments for their release. The turnout for Hockerill's part in the world's biggest human rights movement was the largest we've seen since we started taking part. With help from Mrs Rittman and Mrs Garland, many sixth formers and other College members took time out of their day to try and help people less fortunate than themselves; an ideal that Hockerill encourages their students to have and carry with them through life. Hockerill members sent only a few of the near 700,000 emails, letters and petitions sent out to people this year. Those 700,000 different documents can give someone the hope they need this Christmas time or nudge the authorities that little bit more to do the right thing. We look forward to next term when we continue Amnesty's good work. New members are always welcome to Amnesty (Y12-13) and Human Rights Club (Y7-11).



Charity Bake Sale

Olivia Waring, Year 10

Well done to everybody who supported our bake sale for Gerard Murphy on Monday 6th November, either by baking some of the delicious cakes or buying/donating at break time and after school. You all helped to raise our record breaking total!

Thank you to all the organisers and helpers: Hannah B, Anouk, Diya, Josie, Olivia B in Year 10 and Esme in Year 7.

Thank you also to our Head of Year, Mrs Whiteley, who really supported us as well as baked lots of cakes.

If you'd like to know more about Gerard or donate, please follow this link

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/we-love-gerard-murphy>



PE Update:

Continued Golfing Success for Yr 10's Max

Mr P Hopkins

Max flew to Portugal on 6th November along with the other 11 Boy and 9 Girl Finalists to play in the final of the Telegraph Vitality Junior Championship 2017. Max was the youngest finalist in a group including 6 England Internationals and in which all other boys were aged 16-18. The competition is the largest and most prestigious junior competition in the UK with over 21,000 players competing in qualifying events and the 9 boys with the lowest Gross scores in qualifying competitions go through to the final played on Quinta Do Lago North Course, it's home for the last 5 of its 34 year history, to play in a 54 hole final. Max qualified by shooting a 5 under par 66 at Berkhamsted en route to winning the Hertfordshire Boys U18 County Championships in July.

The event not only involved 3 rounds of competition but included seminars and fun events, such as an evening with former Ryder Cup Captain Paul McGinley on how to make it in the professional ranks. It also started with an 'Am:Am' event where the players played with sponsors and this also served as a practice round. The course was set up as for a professional event with very fast greens and tough pin positions and a first round 71 (1 under) put him 2 shots off the pace. In Round 2 Max shot a best of the day Level Par 72, including a closing Eagle 3, in windy conditions and moved to joint leader. In the final round composure beyond his years led to him having a 5 shot lead with 6 holes remaining and his eventual 71 saw him winning by 3 shots to become the youngest winner ever in the history of the competition and the only boy to break Par in the event. He joins an illustrious list of winners including current World Numbers 6 and 29, Justin Rose and Matthew Fitzpatrick, and the win has seen him on Sky Sports in a highlights programme that will be repeated over the Christmas break.

Max flew to the UAE 3 weeks later to play in the Faldo Series Grand Final, hosted by Sir Nick Faldo, at the Al Ain Resort. The field consists of winners of qualifying events from around the world in 3 age groups, Under 21, Under 18 and Under 16 and was again over 54 holes. He did not have much time to recover after the long flight before the first round and a 'tired/ jet lagged' back nine saw him finish with a 75. Determined to not let this get the better of him he shot a 4 under par 66 in Round 2, and a final round 74 put him 3rd in the Under 16 age group and in the top 15 overall – another big achievement.

These 2 competitions are a fitting conclusion to a great golfing year that has culminated in his selection for the full England U18 Boys Squad for 2018 and a handicap of Plus 1.



County Rugby for Yr13's Sam

Mr T Coleman

We are delighted Sam Tatchell has been selected to play for Hertfordshire U18's this season and scored a brilliant try in a narrow loss to Hampshire.

Sam has been an excellent captain for our Senior 1st XV this season and epitomises the attitude we expect of our students on the field.



British Shooting UK – South East Schools Pistol Championships

Mrs N Pierrejean

Last month, Estelle Pierrejean 9B, travelled to Bookham Rifle Club in Surrey to compete in the first ever South East Schools Pistol Championships against 110 other competitors. The Hockerill student has competed in Modern Pentathlon before and still regularly participates in Pony Club Tetrathlon and Triathlon events which have been derived from the same Olympic sport and includes the element of pistol shooting.

However this was her first attempt at a pure shooting competition and she did not quite know what to expect. It was quickly apparent that she was the only competitor there using a single stroke pneumatic gun – her trusted Italian FAS 6004 with which she practices against in all weather conditions in the back garden! Her other counterparts were using PCP (Pre-charged pneumatic) or CO2 guns which are considered to be lighter and more accurate yet far more expensive.

Estelle had to shoot one-handed for 4 rounds of 5 shots from 10 metres at a target in a purpose built shooting range. It was a very different style of shooting to what she is used to as in Tetrathlon communication is forbidden and it is a very quiet and disciplined setting. Yet in this competition, after a 5 minute practice session, the spectators at the Rifle Club were allowed and encouraged to enthusiastically cheer on the shooters. The scores were also electronically shown after each round for everyone to see, including the competitors, which helped to contribute to a very vibrant and tense atmosphere. Estelle was shooting in the last detail of her age group (Intermediate for Yr. 9-10) and the scoring system had ranked all the previous shooters adding to mount up the pressure.

After her first round, Estelle was in 32nd spot but she maintained her nerve and had a good 2nd round of 35 points to pull up to 26th position. Her 3rd target saw a little dip in her score but that seemed to be evident across all of the shooters as she still surprisingly climbed the rankings to 18th spot before her last round. Estelle managed to keep her cool with another fine score of 35 in the final round to boost her final position to 10th place. The first four shooters qualified for the Nationals so Estelle has her sights firmly on this for next year.



Hockey Performance Centre

Mr R Markham

We are delighted that Hallie Copping-Jones (Yr 10) and Martha Hoult (Yr 12) have been selected to attend the England Hockey Regional Performance Centre (Northwood) for U15 and U17 girls respectively. This is a great honour and puts them in the top 100 players for their age nationally. We have fingers crossed that they will proceed to the Performance Centre for the Future's Cup Competition in the summer.

Young Enterprise

Ms McCulloch - Young Enterprise Co-ordinator.

The two Young Enterprise teams have had a very successful year so far. I am impressed that both teams have manufactured their own products and were ready for market by the beginning of December having only started the process in September.

Gentium are led by Jasmine Blackham, with support from Mr Whiteley and their Young Enterprise business advisor Gladys Fleet. They won three awards at the Ware Dickensian Fayre; best team, best Corporate Social Responsibility and the award for Innovation. They sold out of their products at the Ware Fayre and the Hockerill Christmas Fair and have made over £400 across the two events.

Aggregate&Co are led by Ella Pickering, with support from Ms Perrone and their Young Enterprise business advisor Martin Budzinski. They won two awards at the Ware Dickensian Fayre; runner up in the team competition and best trade stand. They also sold out of their products and have sold over £400 of products over the two trade fairs so far.

This has been our most successful year to date after five years partnership with Young Enterprise. In the Lent Term teams will attend the Welywn Trade Fair and also the Young Enterprise Showcase at County Hall where both teams will have to prepare a presentation and a business plan to judges from the local area.

All the students involved have found this to be a rewarding experience in which they develop a range of transferable skills for the world of work. Last week they were able to reflect on their experiences during a visit by Simon Thorpe, a local entrepreneur (and ex-Hockerill parent) who talked to them about developing their businesses even further as well as how they might get the best out of their teams.



Hockerill Parents & Friends

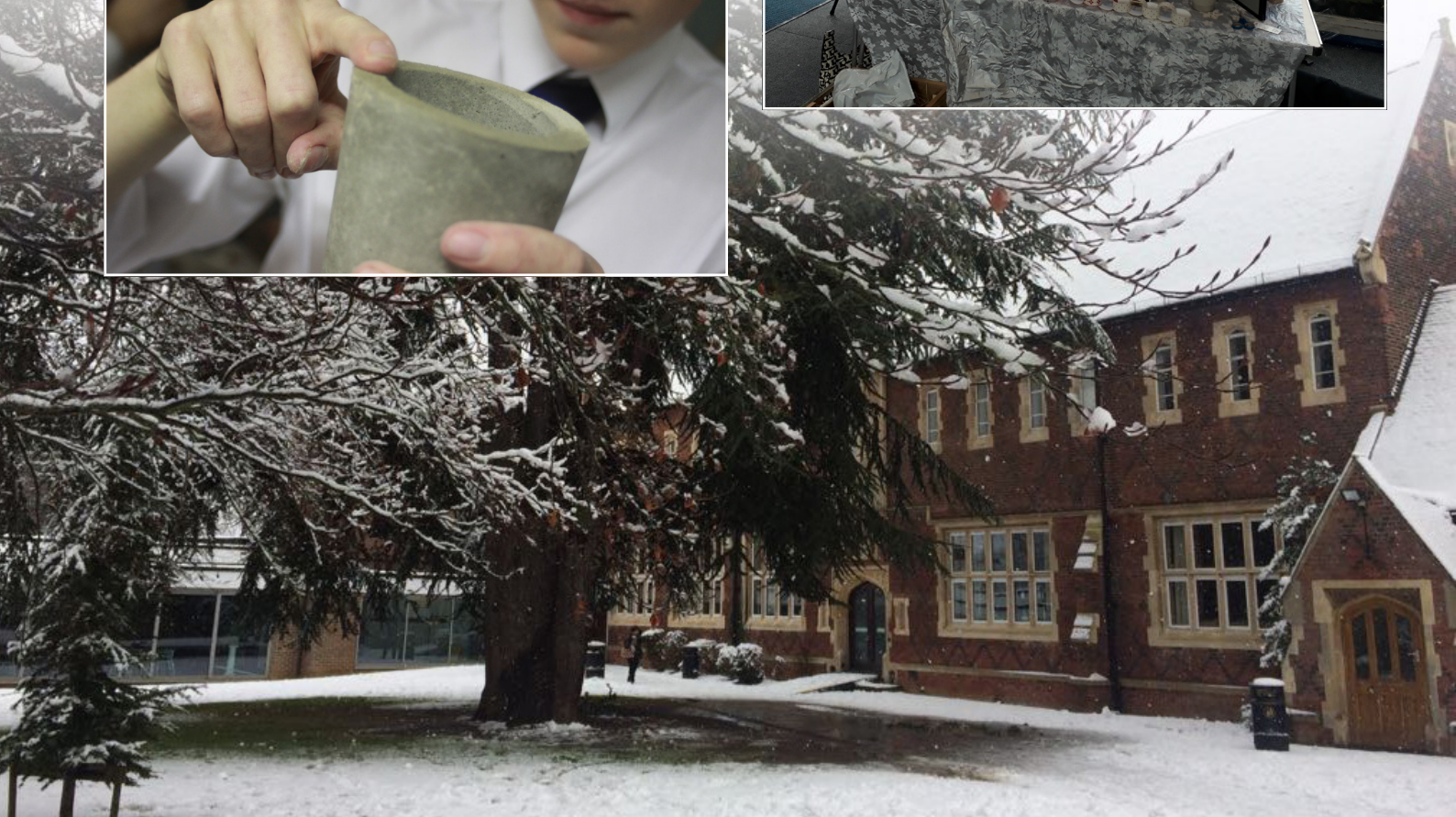
Marie Roberts, Chair HPF

For Hockerill Parents and Friends, this term will be remembered for some time as "The One Where It Snowed On Christmas Market Day". In spite of the challenges produced by the only half-expected weather, we were able to carry on and run the event, raising almost £3,000 in the process. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed. A large number of people were involved and the College community rallied round, bought raffle and tombola tickets, drank Glogg, bought Comedy Night tickets, bought from our retail and student stallholders and generally had a nice time. We are hugely grateful to you all.

But it's not just the big events. As the saying goes, "Every Little Helps" and the provision of tea and coffee at the two Open Mornings this term has raised almost £700, some of which we have put towards the iSTEM day in February, of which more next term.

Our next event is Comedy Night on 27 January, when Paddy Lennox will bring his Comedy Store friends to the College for your entertainment. Tickets are available on Wisepay! Last year's event also attracted matched funding from a company where a former Hockerill Parent works. Can your employer / company offer similar? Let us know.

Finally, there is a new HPF Committee in place, with Marie Roberts (Chair), Deborah Rushman (Secretary), Samantha Wallace (250 Club) and Richard Johnson. HPF would like to thank the outgoing Chair, Ina Gallo and Vice Chair, Lee Bowden, for their significant contributions, over many years. We will be appointing more trustees in the New Year, so email us on hpf@hockerill.com if you'd like to get involved.



Boarders' Open Weekend 2017

Mrs N Pierrejean - Director of Boarding

The annual Boarders' Open Weekend is one of the boarding community's highlights of the year. This was an ideal time for the parents of our full boarders, many of whom are from overseas, to meet with the staff, to sample the fantastic food that Holroyd Howe offer and to join in with the festive celebrations on site with their children.

First they had the opportunity to book academic appointments to see the teachers of their children on the Saturday morning followed by a University Presentation given by Mr Snell for the Year 12's. Mr Markham also gave a presentation to the parents in the Chapel to update them on the progress of the exciting Capital Funds projects of the Sports Hall and Science Block.

On Saturday afternoon, the parents had the chance to potentially watch their sons play rugby for the first time with the annual rugby fixture against Bancroft's, a local independent school. Matches were coordinated both at Hockerill and away with the 1st XV dedicated as a Charity match, and on this occasion, in honour of our former Deputy Head Boy and boarder Gerard Murphy. <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/we-love-gerard-murphy> Winchester, Durham, Roding and Thames then hosted receptions prior to the Christmas Buffet staged in the Refectory. This was a lovely occasion affording our visitors and boarders to circulate and socialise with other parents and staff whilst being treated to a fabulous array of festive themed food. Next followed the Christmas Show courtesy of Mr Bond - St Albans Hall was bursting at the seams with our guests being indulged with an incredible array of musical talent from our Hockerill students and staff.

The overnight snow did not deter our visitors in making the efforts to return to the Refectory to enjoy a much needed warming and hearty brunch. Mrs Lawson, Chair of Governors started off the Boarding Parents Forum with an update of the College Strategic Plan and healthy discussions then ensued with a general question and answer session with responses from the Principal, Mrs Lawson, Mr Tatchell (Premises and Finance Governor) and Mrs Pierrejean. The weekend ended with the annual Christmas Market, albeit with some exhibitors pulling out due to the weather, this did not dampen the spirits of the atmosphere of those who did brave the elements.

Some of the parent's departures were inevitably delayed due to the weather but we hope they all enjoyed the weekend and look forward to seeing them return next year.



Rotary Youth DT Tournament

Mr A Russell, Head of DT

On Tuesday, 7th November three teams competed in the annual Rotary Youth DT Tournament at Birchwood High School. The teams from Year 8, 10 and 12 consisted of two boys and two girls and were up against similar teams from other local secondary schools. They were given a problem to solve in two hours and relied on communication, teamwork, practical and designing skills. All three teams performed admirably and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. A special mention must go to the Year 12 team, Michele Maggi, James Mills, Ella Pickering and Stella Seymour, who won their category (and iTunes vouchers) with a simple but effective solution. Well done!



Year 8 – Designing for others

Mr A Russell, Head of DT

On 22nd November, we welcomed five Hockerill grandparents (Mrs Thomson, Mrs Woods, Mr Capy, Mr Cooper and Mr Turner) into the department to work with our Year 8's. The students diplomatically quizzed them about what it's like to get old and the daily struggles that come with it. The information they gained then helped them to design a product that will help overcome one of the issues the grandparents described.

When the grandparents returned the students presented sketches, drawings and models of their solutions to the everyday problems they had informed them of on their first visit. The visitors then provided critical evaluations of the work. They also got to test some of the grabbers the students had been working on as part of the new Mechanisms project.

The project was hugely successful in bringing two generations together to learn and understand more about each other. We would like to thank our guests for the candour and enthusiasm with which they engaged their audience.



Equipe Carol Singing Competition

Mr A Whiteley, Head of Lower College

I launched the Biennial Equipe Carol singing competition just after the November exeat weekend with the promise that if form tutors were having difficulty rallying support then I would come and sing for their students. Duly I was welcomed into 13B2 and 12P2 for their first rehearsals! Some of 11G reminded me of how we learnt the carol before when they were in Year 7 during their Wellbeing lessons.

The point of having the competition is three fold, firstly to promote Equipe spirit and vertical participation, secondly it is a fun way to get into the Christmas spirit that does not involve expense or interfere with lessons and thirdly we are fully prepared to sing our carol in All Saint's church at our end of term assemblies. It is really very special when the church is full of a carol well sung with confidence, effort and feeling.

Mr Bond chose the lovely 19th Century American carol "O little town of Bethlehem"

Monday 4th December saw the first competition for the upper College, Brunel are commended for their excellent Equipe spirit in turning out twice as many singers as anyone else. Pascal came 4th with a good performance overall including some striking individuals but a timing error marred an otherwise high quality performance, Da Vinci were awarded 3rd place with some nice harmonies and good quality of sound overall. Goethe just pipped Brunel to first place, Brunel had the disadvantage of singing first but their performance was well rounded and tuneful. The Upper College winners were Goethe who Mr Bond commended, saying their performance was well blended with good harmony in the texture of the presentation.

On Tuesday there was the highly anticipated Lower College Competition with a lot of students gathering early at St Alban's hall. Despite running the risk

of serious indigestion after wolfing down their lunch so as not to be late. Numbers, as expected, were up on the previous day with again Brunel only having standing room left. We couldn't decide between Goethe and Brunel who ultimately shared 3rd place. Goethe was described as "sweet and tidy" whilst Brunel introduced some nice harmonies. Second place were Pascal with a nice descant line and audible and tuneful lower voices of a number of brave boys. Winners today were Da Vinci, who sang both clearly and tunefully. The results were Da Vinci 300 points, Goethe 275, Brunel 225 and Pascal 200 points.

Thanks go to Mr Bond our Director of Music for his accompaniment on piano, at the end of each competition there was the opportunity for each choir to sing together and we look forward to the final assemblies of term in All Saint's Church where all the students will sing the carol to the accompaniment of the College orchestra and pipe organ.



Christmas Music Shows

Year on year Mr Bond and the music department kick off the festive season with a Christmas Music show of superb quality and this year did not disappoint; with singers and musicians from across the entire College and a wide range of styles, including Ms McConnell's new Folk group and singers, even the most determined of "scrooges" must have left St Albans Hall feeling a little bit of Christmas magic.

