

HOCKERILL NEWS

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Top Ranked
Comprehensive
School (UK)

The Sunday Times
Guide 2018

Principal's message

Richard Markham



Welcome to the February edition of the College newsletter. Once again this half-term has seen a range of student, staff, alumni and parent successes and I am delighted to be able to share these with you. We have hosted an incredibly successful HPF Comedy Night and anticipation is building for the forthcoming College production of Bugsy Malone. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as can attend these shows which I know will be another opportunity for our students to shine.

Progress on the Capital Project continues, and we have been working closely with our architects Barker Associates to fine-tune the designs of the Science Building and Sports Hall. We are also putting the final touches to a number of fund-raising events which aim to supplement the funds already raised. In this vein, I wanted to thank HPF members for their incredibly generous donation of £15,000 to pay for the IT upgrade of T2. It is gifts such as these which allow the College to continually enhance provision and deliver the facilities and infrastructure our students deserve.

Oxbridge success

Dr G Millard

This year we are delighted to have four students who have received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge Universities this September and want to extend our congratulations to them.

Cambridge has made offers to Francesca Ixer to read Geography at Murray Edwards, Emily Roberts to read Mathematics at Emmanuel College and Ranieri Omenetto Arcella to read Economics at Girton College. Esther Grunbaum is heading to Wadham College, Oxford to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Principal, Mr Markham commented "I am so pleased that once again our students have been considered for places at Oxford and Cambridge. A

huge amount of effort, over a number of years, goes into each of these applications and the reward is fully deserved."

We were thrilled to see so many talented students applying for the top UK Universities this year. A number of them were selected for interview and should be very proud of having made it so far. We are delighted with the continued enthusiasm and commitment of all our candidates throughout a very busy time of year in the IB calendar.



New Vice Principal (Curriculum)

Sarah Pearson

I am delighted to be joining Hockerill College in September as Vice Principal in charge of Curriculum. The College is a vibrant community that really lives by its mission to develop responsible global citizens and I look forward to working within my remit, and more broadly, to continue the development of the College.

I am currently Principal at the International School of London, a through school offering the IB Primary, Middle and Diploma Programmes. I have extensive knowledge of the IB programmes having held leadership posts both in the UK and abroad. My own children studied the Diploma and I firmly believe that this was the best post-16 preparation for their next steps.

Hockerill is a successful school in all senses, from excellent examination results, to its wide-ranging extra-curricular provision. To add value to this is a tall challenge, but one I relish. I believe that deep-learning at all levels helps young people develop the skills, flexibility and resilience to handle challenges that they will meet throughout their lives. I hope to develop this further across the College by focussing on personalising learning and involving students in setting their targets and taking even more responsibility for their learning.

Hockerill is a truly unique school and I am looking forward to being part of the family.



NOTICES

Monday 19th February

Term recommences
1830 Chapel - Liege Exchange
Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 21st February

Year 10 Parent Teacher
Consultation Evening

Friday 23rd February

IB Enrichment Day
1830-2000 St Albans Hall - Drugs
and Alcohol Presentation to
Parents

Thursday 1st March

1930 St Albans Hall - Bugsy
Malone Performance

Friday 2nd March

1930 St Albans Hall - Bugsy
Malone Performance

Saturday 3rd March

1430 St Albans Hall - Bugsy
Malone Performance

Monday 5th March

1900 St Albans Hall - Self Esteem
and Body Image Presentation to
Parents

Thursday 8th March

Year 9 Options Evening

Saturday 17th March

Annual Boarders' Easter Dinner

Tuesday 20th March

1900 Spring Concert

Wednesday 21st March

1900 Uganda Trip Parent
Information Evening

Friday 23rd March

End of Term (students depart at
1240)

HOW TO CONTACT US

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HPF Update

Marie Roberts, Chair

So far this term, the main focus for HPF has been the Hockerill Comedy Night, which took place on 27 January. This was a great success, with all available tickets sold out on Wisepay and the night raised over £3,100 for the College. The three guest comedians were all on top form and the presence of so many Hockerill Staff provided our compere, Hockerill parent Paddy Lennox, with plenty of material! We were also thrilled to be able to present the College with a cheque for £15,000, the bulk of which has paid for the new computers in T2.

Straight after half term, we'll be able to see more examples of what the money we raise can do. We have supported this year's iSTEM day with

the purchase of resources and will be opening a new round of bidding for staff to send proposals for other small projects.

We'll also be planning our 80s Disco, which will take place on Saturday 28th April. This promises to be a fun night – sign up to our Facebook pages for forthcoming teasers, polls and the opportunity to input to the playlist.

We welcome Erika Payne as our new HPF Treasurer and are also recruiting a further trustee. Please email me on hpf@hockerill.com for more details of this or anything HPF-related.



We look forward to seeing you at our regular "first Saturday back" coffee morning at the Nags Head on Saturday 24 February.

Are you interested in being a Governor?

Rachel Lawson, Joint CoGs

With the current nominations for three parent governor vacancies now underway, it feels like a timely moment to broadcast more widely why you might consider becoming a governor, even if you didn't put your name forward this time. If you thought about it, but imagined you didn't have the requisite skills, you may like to think again.

It is important that the governing body reflects the community it serves and, as this is Hockerill, it is a matter of shared pride that there is diversity a plenty. It is certainly true we need to recruit specific skills such as technical, financial, legal, medical, educational, premises but there is also a huge community and pastoral area of oversight too.

Our number one priority is to support the College in creating a happy, vibrant, enriching and high quality experience for every student. It becomes more than an act of public service. It becomes a source of great pride and the rewards of working alongside a team of highly motivated, caring fellow governors are evidenced in the respect, support and friendship that ensues amongst the team. The workload is significant but manageable. If you think you could contribute, please get in touch and we can have a chat over a coffee.

Having just attended governing board succession planning training the importance of having a pipeline of prospective talent is high on our agenda. If you know an amazing individual in the community, then please recommend them. There are Community and Partnership posts too.



Safer Internet Day 2018

Tuesday 6 February

Tuesday 6th February

Mrs Hodder

Safer Internet Day is a world-wide initiative to raise awareness around the issues related to cyberbullying, grooming and e-safety and to promote responsible use of digital technology. The 2018 theme, "Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you" is a call to action for every stakeholder to play their part in creating a better internet for everyone.

The College had a week-long focus on internet safety with various activities inside and outside of the classroom focusing on this theme. Some highlights included the Year 9 and Year 10 assemblies that talked about the dangers of grooming and then showed the hard-hitting true story of Kayleigh Haywood, a 15-year-old who was groomed online by a man she did not know. The current affairs topic explored the dangers of online grooming via the story of Breck Bednar who was ultimately murdered by a 19-year-old who befriended Breck via social media. The word of the week 'Netiquette - the correct or acceptable way of using the internet', neatly summarises the aims of Safer Internet Day and it would be really useful for parents to continue the dialogue around responsible use of the internet with their children. The College's e-safety and data security policy can be accessed via the College website and other useful resources can be found at www.saferinternetday.org.

Gerard Murphy

Greg Prowse, former Hockerill parent

Ex-Deputy Head Boy and Thames House Boarder, Gerard Murphy graduated in the summer of 2014. He then enrolled on a Geography and Arabic course at Exeter University taking a third year out to study at the University of Waterloo in Canada. During the summer of 2017 he worked in Sweden for a company that tutors students in the International Baccalaureate.

Whilst in Sweden Gerard dived into a lake and hit his head on a submerged rock, breaking his neck and leaving him paralysed from the chest down and with no use of his hands and wrists. It is impossible to imagine how devastating this life-changing injury might be. Yet Gerard has faced this with an incredibly positive approach, preferring to focus on the things that can and need to be done rather

than looking back with regrets and "what-ifs". His attitude has been inspirational to a large number of people.

Of equal pride to us has been the response of Gerard's ex-Hockerill school friends. Quickly creating a justgiving campaign to raise funds for the specialist equipment that he will need in the future, they managed to raise over £45,000 of their £100,000 target in the first three weeks. The total now stands at over £70,000. What is just as inspiring is how they have continued to support and visit Gerard even with the significant distances some need to travel. On New Year's Eve these friends commandeered a house on the grounds of Stoke Mandeville and organised a party so that Gerard could be at the celebrations.

Hockerill aims to produce enquiring, knowledgeable, responsible, global citizens and I think that this group of ex-students have epitomised that aspiration.

The College has entered wholeheartedly into the campaign and we have already included Gerard in our fundraising with a Bake Sale, Christmas Jumper Day and a Craft Stall at the Christmas Market. In addition, we will be holding a Quiz Night in the refectory on Saturday, 21st April. So "Save The Date"



Welwyn Garden City Young Enterprise Trade Fair

Ms McCulloch

On Saturday 3rd February I took the college's two Young Enterprise Teams to a trade fair at the Howard Centre, Welwyn Garden City. The teams both showed that they had learnt from previous trading opportunities and had remodelled their trade stands and refined their products. Trading went well and the teams enjoyed the challenge of selling to the public. In the meantime, judges, including the deputy Mayor and representatives from companies such as John Lewis, quizzed the

teams about their products and journey through the Young Enterprise process. I am pleased to report that Aggregate & Co were awarded 'Best Overall Company' and 'Best Trade Stand' prizes. On the day these were presented to Ella Pickering, Charlie Hofer, Howard Poles, Rachel Bintley and Juliette Chapman. Gentium were awarded three prizes including Runner Up, Innovation and Creativity and Best Customer Service. These were presented to Jasmine Blackham, Tara Baumann,

Elyssia Benson-Gaunt, Felix Ritter, Chiara Terrone and Michela Marongiu. This is our best ever performance at a trade fair and puts us in a strong position for the Young Enterprise Showcase event on 20th March, where both teams will compete for entry into the next stage of the Young Enterprise process. The teams are supported by business advisors Martin Budzinski and Gladys Street as well as Mr Whiteley and Miss Perrone.



Hockerill Speaks

Caitlin McCrudden, Year 12

A few weeks ago, my peers and I embarked on a mission to engage as many students as possible in a whole-school debate competition. We decided on topics for each of the four rounds, including animal testing and celebrity involvement in politics; then set out to mentor a group of students to victory. Improvement in the students' debating skills soon became evident as they articulated their arguments clearly and impressed the sixth form judges. Through careful deliberation and strategic planning, we successfully completed the first round. The participants received well-deserved certificates and we could all sigh in relief that everything had run smoothly. Students were provided with the opportunity to learn how to formally debate; develop their argumentative skills (sorry parents) and learn how to work collaboratively; all of which are beneficial life skills.

We are currently preparing for round 2 of the competition and will soon begin to organise the semi-final and final. These two final events will be held in the evening in St Albans Hall, with both parents and governors invited. With the opportunity to witness an impressive student-led debate, we hope to see you there!



Holocaust Memorial Day

Ms Ashlee-Macrae

Year 9 went to Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue on 30th January to take part in Holocaust Memorial Day events. Hockerill has taken part in this event for many years now and it is always a very moving experience to listen to a Holocaust survivor speak about their experiences. This year we had the privilege of listening to Nelly Ben Or, a Polish born Jewish lady who, through an intriguing set of circumstances



and events, survived the Holocaust in Poland and shared with us her experiences of trying to stay safe and survive with her mother and sister.

Nelly was 6 when the war broke out and family life quickly turned upside down. She was sent to a ghetto in Poland and was given a false identity as a Christian and smuggled out of the ghetto with her mother. Her father did not make it and was killed in Janowski prison. Nelly and her mother lived in constant fear until they were liberated by the Red Army in May 1945.

After the war Nelly became an International concert pianist and a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Nelly's story is one of courage and strength and had year 9 gripped. They listened attentively and asked a few questions at the end before it was time to depart. Please, if you have not done so already, ask your child about their experience of hearing first hand from a Holocaust survivor.

Boarding News – Celebrating our catering

Mrs Pierrejean, Director of Boarding



Hockerill as a College really values the importance of excellent catering and we are very fortunate to have the expertise and passion from Holroyd Howe. Clearly our boarders have all three of their daily meals provided for in the refectory and it is highly important to them that we cater for all of their needs. Our day students therefore also benefit from the high quality of food that is served. The catering team is headed up by Dana and Head Chef, Wayne and they and their team are dedicated in ensuring the students and staff are happy.

They regularly come up with innovative ideas and listen to the viewpoints raised in the boarding 'Student Voice' and

Whole College 'Student Council'. Recent demo days for all students to enjoy have included several lunchtime taster tables including a variety of sausage rolls, avocado dishes, pesto and humus treats, let alone the 'Mash-up lunch' which helps to create a buzz whilst the students line up for their lunches. Whereas in the evenings and weekends there have been demonstrations on



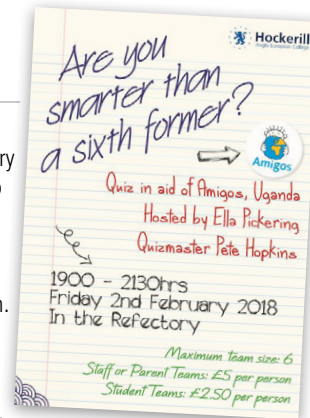
how to make sausages, a captivating take on the TV show 'Saturday Morning Kitchen' styled 'Omelette Challenge' and for the recent Burn's Night, a haggis tasting session. Other themed evenings have included Dia de los Reyes Magos for our Spanish boarders to feel more at home in the New Year.

Our catering team always step up an extra notch for fine dining too and have produced a fantastic three course meal for the recent Yr 12 Boarders' Formal – even more impressive after having provided supper for over two hundred boarders moments before hand. Our Sixth Form boarders also had the opportunity to experience culinary advice from visiting nutritionist, Sally Crewe. She gave our youngsters top tips on how to survive on a small budget at University.

Are you Smarter than a 6th former? Charity quiz in aid of Amigos

Ms McCulloch

On Friday 2nd February 20 teams gathered in the Hockerill Refectory to answer the question. The quiz was hosted by Ella Pickering, who had been tasked with raising £200 ahead of her visit to Uganda in July this year. Mr Hopkins provided the questions, including a round all about Uganda. The winning adult team was Hockers Muzungos, of whom 3 members of the team have visited Kira Farm. The winning student team were The Wooden Spoons who came 12th overall, which was very impressive. They were awarded with 6 cinema tickets, kindly donated by Empire Cinemas and a box of Celebrations. Ella was overwhelmed by the response to her request for raffle prizes from Hockerill parents and local businesses. Donations were received from Elegant Stems, Empire Cinemas, South Street Pantry, Coffee Corner, King of Fitness, VIRE and Bill's Restaurant. Overall, Ella managed to raise £921.96 for this charity and has learnt a lot through the process, including how to pronounce Godot.



1918 Representation of the People Act

Jen Winship, Year 12



February 6th 1918 was a momentous date in British history as it was the date that the right to vote was extended to over eight million women and five million more men, in the Representation of the People Act. It was a huge step towards equality between men and women. In celebration of the centenary, the Sixth Form held a movie night and watched the 2015 film, Suffragette. The film is set in 1913 and depicts the struggle that front-line Suffragettes faced. We all owe the society in which we live in today to these women who fought for equality 100 years ago, and those who still fight today. The money raised is being donated to the Fawcett Society who work to redress inequalities in Britain. On such a centenary, we should all be reminded the weight that our vote holds; that people fought and died for it and therefore it is our duty to exercise democracy and vote, so that they're fight was not futile.

Huw Johnson Party

Mrs Lee

On Friday 2nd February HAEC & Herts & Essex Interact Clubs supported the Huw Johnson party for severely disabled young people by running a disco. It was a very rewarding event and our students were outstanding. The students were brilliant; all helping to serve food, run the disco and most importantly dance and get the HJ members on the dance floor and having a great time. Many of the members live very isolated lives so this was a highlight for them.

I know all the students benefitted from the experience and very much appreciated the opportunity to take part in this rewarding evening but it was still lovely to receive the following comments from the organiser, "A huge HUGE thank you for tonight....you were all brilliant - the music was perfect and the students were so good at engaging with our members. Everyone had such a good time - I escorted the bus home with all the members back to Saffron Walden and they were all buzzing!! They'd had so much fun! Please pass on my thanks to all the students and especially to you all for giving up your Friday night."



Peace Crane Project

Mrs Rittman

The Human Rights Club took part in the Peace Crane Project where schools all over the world make origami cranes, write messages of peace on them and exchange them with a partner school. Hockerill was invited to exchange with Desert Springs Middle School from Desert Hot Springs in California. The students who made cranes for us were the equivalent of Y7. We sent our cranes in October together with post cards, maps and tourist information about Bishop's Stortford. The students in Desert Hot Springs were very excited to receive our information and cranes; many of them have never left California and know very little about the UK. When we returned from the Christmas holidays a box of peace cranes and information about the desert and region was waiting for us. It was very exciting to connect with students thousands of miles away and take part in an international project which aims to promote peace and tolerance.

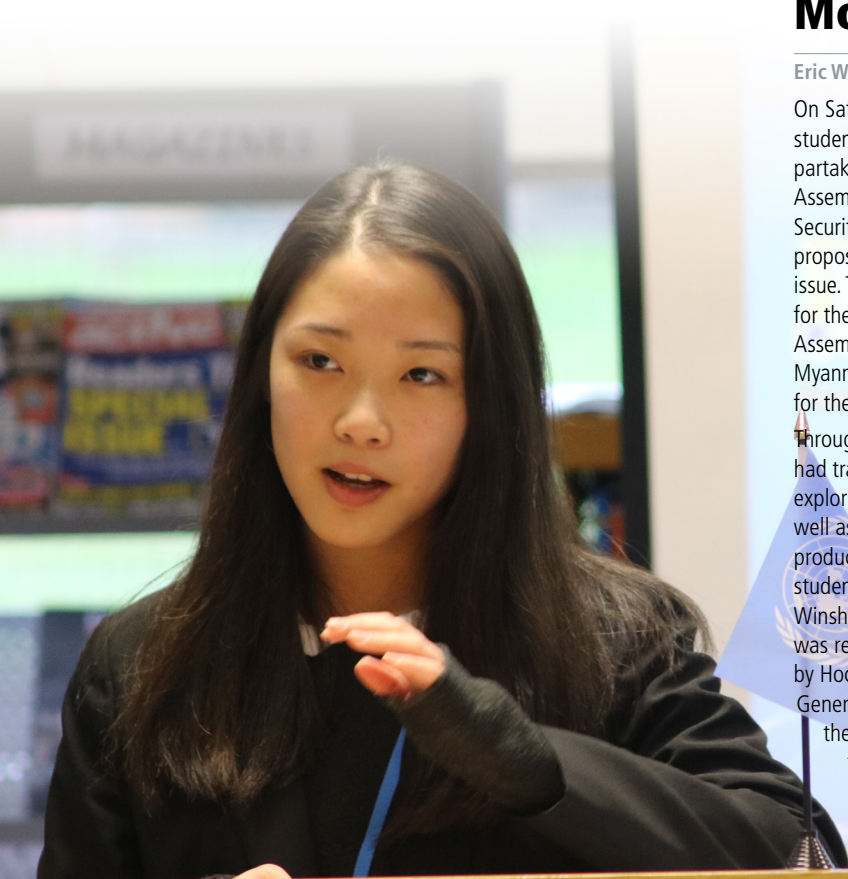


Model United Nations

Eric Wallace, Year 12

On Saturday the 3rd of February Mr. Jackson and Ms. Davids took a group of students to the StortMUN conference at the Bishop's Stortford High School to partake in a conference that was comprised of four committees: the General Assembly, the ECOSOC committee, the Human Rights Committee and the Security Council. Students from each school debated in each committee, proposing, debating and amending solutions to each committee's allocated issue. The issues in question were the missile crisis on the Korean peninsula for the Security Council, the 'missing girl' problem in China for the General Assembly, the human rights violation against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar for the Human Rights Committee and the issue of plastic pollution for the ECOSOC committee.

Throughout the day, the students from all participating schools, one of which had travelled from Mallorca, engaged with the real-life issues at hand and, explored the differing cultures and perspectives of their given nations. As well as greatly enjoying themselves, the students from Hockerill had a very productive day, with all three submitted resolutions being from Hockerill students and the Security Council's resolution being presented by Jennifer Winship, all four of which got passed. The efforts of Hockerill's students was recognised, with all except two of the awards for the day being won by Hockerill students or delegations. The award for the best delegate in the General Assembly went to Esther Grunbaum, the award for best delegate on the Human Rights Committee to Eva Radukic, the best on Security Council to Eric Wallace and the best resolution to Julia Dürr. The award for the best delegation also went to the South Korean delegation, which was Eric Wallace, Esther Grunbaum and Marc Strieder. Looking forward to the Bath MUN conference in March, Hockerill hopes to build on this excellent start to the year.



PE Update



Fencing success for Year 7 student.

Recently Tom Wagstaff in Year 7 competed in a Regional fencing competition to try to qualify for the British Youth Championships (Nationals) in May. It was always going to be hard to come in the top 6 as he was the youngest in his age category (U14) but he fenced brilliantly winning every match until he was knocked out in the semi-finals securing a bronze medal and also qualifying for the championships. This is his first medal outside of his club so he is absolutely thrilled and we would like to congratulate him!



County Rugby Success

Hockerill 1st XV Captain, Sam Tatchell was one of four Bishop's Stortford players representing Hertfordshire U20s in their recent match against Middlesex. Sam scored a superb solo try helping the team to an emphatic 61-3 victory. Congratulations to Sam and the rest of the team and we hope that his efforts have done enough to see him called to county action again in this month's match against Kent.



Poetry by Heart

Ms Frontain

Poetry by Heart is a country wide competition where hundreds of schools submit poetry performed by students from each Key Stage. The English Department took part in this year's competition focusing on World War 1 poets. Leila Trusty was Highly Commended for Key Stage 3 and Toyin Odusan won Star Reciter for Key Stage 4 highlighting their poetry skills above hundreds of other applications across the UK. Congratulations to both of them. Click [here](#) to see Leila's recital



Origami Club

Mrs Padgett

Sophie Brixton and Dewi Chappell from the Origami Club secured a stall at the Christmas Fayre and sold some of the produce made at the Origami club. They had Christmas trees, boxes and Christmas bows for sale and made over £30

which they have donated to "Safe Haven for Donkeys". The club meets every Thursday lunchtime and is always happy to welcome new members.



Forthcoming attractions

