Dear Parents

Our 450th year of celebrations draws to a close and, as part of the celebrations, we were privileged to be able to entertain royalty, as you will see from one of the articles in this edition of the Hinchingbrooke Herald. The community awards organised by the trustees of the Foundation in October and the joint concert with the Hunts Philharmonic in November provided two other very special occasions, not only for the school but also for the wider community. My thanks go to all the many people that have made these events so memorable and to Caroline Sheffield in particular for masterminding so many of these events – do see her article later in this edition. Our very own students who participate in HBK TV have captured the royal visit on film and you will be able to see this for yourself on our website.

Talking of our website, if you have looked recently, you will see that we have recently launched a new, more up-to-date website that is scalable for the many different tablets and devices that people use nowadays. It is also much more dynamic and contains several videos which really help to bring the school to life. If you have not yet seen it, please do log on to www.hinchingbrookeschool.net and let us know what you think. We are grateful as always, for the feedback from a parent’s forum which we held whilst it was still in the development stage. The students too made some excellent suggestions and observations.

Our new Sports Hall has been named the ‘New Energy Sports Hall’ by our Sports ambassadors and it is really beginning to take shape now with the roof in place. We expect to have it available for use from Easter 2016 and once again the whole community should benefit from this excellent facility.
Congratulations to Jabe Peake for gaining an international cap for Boccia – a first for him and the school. The PE department deserve our congratulations too for achieving the Sainsbury’s School Games Silver Mark for the second year running.

Whilst still on the sporting theme I have to report that the students beat the staff 4-1 in the recent football match, which was held in memory of Eloise Keeling as a charity event to raise money to combat asthma. Well done to the Sixth Form team and my thanks to Mr Alexander and Mr Turnbull for organising this event.

Inter-house sport continues to be an important feature of life at Hinchingbrooke, but not to be outdone, we have also had a History department ‘castles’ competition and a ‘Bake Off’ event. Student leadership has been excellent again this term and we are grateful to all the parents who have attended the parent forums to learn about, and in many cases help shape, the developments such as restorative approaches, the new grading systems and consequent changes to reports and of course the new website.

We are extremely proud of the success of two of our exceptional musicians. Zoe Perkins has been appointed lead trumpet in the National Youth Orchestra and is through to the televised round of Young Musician of the Year, and Robert Burton, whose saxophone playing is quite divine, is also through to the second round of the same competition. He is also a member of the national youth wind orchestra. Such phenomenal talent.

The kitchen too is a place to show off talent and I am pleased to report that we took both first and second place in the Rotary Club Young Chef of the Year earlier this term. Congratulations to Jack Goodway of 9V2 for his first place, narrowly beating Christopher Buckingham (11P1) who took a very commendable second place.

Our Year 11s have shown exemplary attitude this term and, following the targeted exam evening in October, they have just completed their Year 11 trial exams. With continued commitment and guidance they should all be in a strong position to achieve their potential in the forthcoming GCSE examinations.

As a school we have always worked in collaboration with other schools in the area. Recently that collaborative work has been increasingly with St Ivo School, with whom we have much in common. I am very pleased to say that the two schools have now formed a formal partnership that will allow both schools to work together to bring about school improvement and further success for young people in our area. Our initial work is likely to focus on sharing training programmes for staff, reviewing each other’s departments and work, sharing our approaches to national changes in examinations and assessment and sharing our analysis of data. This spirit of cooperation will enable both schools to plan future improvements more effectively. It should be noted however, that we are not seeking, at this stage, to form a multi academy trust and both schools will retain their own identity, governance and budget.

I must commend the staff who have worked extremely hard this term, continuing to cope with the many changes facing the school as a result of national changes to examinations. I mentioned these in my summer term letter and they are all creating significant additional workload. With the phasing in it means that staff will be having to use different systems for different year groups and it will be some years before all of these become fully embedded. I hope by now you have become acquainted with ‘Doddle’ and that your children are being set tasks using this excellent resource.

Finally, as our thoughts move towards Christmas, and hopefully some festive cheer and quality family time, we should remember those for whom this time of year presents a difficult challenge. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of wishes for the New Year.

Kind regards

Andrew Goulding
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates
Autumn Term Closes – Friday 18 December 2015
Spring Term Opens – Monday 4 January 2016
Half Term – Monday 15-Friday 19 February 2016
Spring Term Closes – Thursday 24 March 2016
(Staff Training Day – Monday 11 April 2016)
Summer Term Opens – Tuesday 12 April 2016
May Day Holiday – Monday 2 May 2016
Half Term – Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2016
(Staff Training Day – Friday 24 June 2016)
Summer Term Closes – Thursday 21 July 2016.
[Staff Training Day : Thursday 1 September 2016]
[Staff Training Day : Friday 2 September 2016]
[Staff Training Day : Monday 5 September 2016]
Autumn Term Opens – Tuesday 6 September (Years 7 & 12)
Wednesday 7 September 2016 (all year groups)

Spring Term Events
Glastonbrooke Unplugged – Friday 15 January 2016
PD Day – Festival of Ideas - Friday 22 January 2016
NSPCC Numeracy Day – Friday 5 February 2016
School Production – Monday 8th – Thursday 11th February 2016
Year 8 Options Evening – Tuesday 23 February 2016
Glastonbrooke Auditions – Thursday 25 February 2016
A Level Music Recitals Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 March 2016
Year 8 Options Deadline – Friday 3 March 2016
IndepenDance Show – Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 March 2016
Easter Concert – Wednesday 23 March 2016

Parents’ Evenings Spring Term
Year 8 Options’ Evening – 23 February 2016
Year 8 Parents’ Evening – 2 March 2016
Year 12 Parents’ Evening – 13 January 2016
Year 11 Parents’ Evening – 4 February 2016
Post 18 Options Evening – 3 March 2016

Parents’ Evenings Summer Term
Year 6 Taster Evening – 6 July 2016
Year 7 – 28 April 2015
Year 10 – 28 June 2016

Parent Forums
Thursday 11 February 2016
Wednesday 23 March 2016
Wednesday 25 May 2016
Thursday 14 July 2016
A Royal Visit

On Thursday 1 October 2015 the staff and students welcomed HRH Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO to the school as part of the celebrations for the 450th Anniversary and to celebrate the building of the new Sports Hall. The Duke arrived at 10.30am with his entourage and met local dignitaries before being shown around the House, Pepys steps and some of the grounds where he met groups of students along the way. He returned to the library in the House, where he met selected students from each year group before giving a short speech and unveiling a plaque to go in the New Sports Hall, which has been named the ‘New Energy’ Sports Hall by the Sports ambassadors.

Everyone enjoyed the day and we had several letters of thanks following the event including one from the royal household. Our students did us proud as usual, whether they were meeting the Duke, filming the occasion as part of HBK TV or demonstrating their sporting talents. It was a very special event for the school and something very fitting as part of the 450th celebrations.
HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL 450TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

In 2015 Hinchingbrooke School, previously Huntingdon Grammar School, celebrated 450 years of continuous existence in the town. A programme of events and reunions was held to celebrate the anniversary which included students, staff, parents, governors and the local community, The Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School, Old Huntingdonians Association and Friends of Hinchingbrooke House.

The anniversary of the signing of the school’s lease on 2nd May 1565, which founded the grammar school, was celebrated in Hinchingbrooke House on 2nd and 3rd May 2015 with an exhibition of items from Huntingdon Archive about the history of Hinchingbrooke School/Huntingdon Grammar School provided and manned by Alan Ackroyd and Caroline Clifford from Huntingdon Archives and Library. Helen Galer and Brampton Flower Club organised a Flower Festival “Education through the ages” which included a silent auction of the beautiful flower arrangements on display. The weekend also featured an exhibition of artwork by Hinchingbrooke School Students past and present, “Tours and Teas” with student led guided tours of the House and performances by Hinchingbrooke School student music groups, led by staff from the Music Department.

The highlight of the weekend was the Anniversary Lecture by Dame Hilary Mantel DBE. Demand for tickets to the lecture was so great that a live video link was set up in the Library in order to increase the number of people who could enjoy this special event.

A 450th anniversary commemorative supplement was published in The Hunts Post in April 2015 and contained articles about the school’s history and details of the new history book, Hilary Mantel and the anniversary lecture, the new alumni association, the school website and the new sports hall.

HRH the Duke of Gloucester visited the School on 1st October to mark the 450th anniversary and to unveil a plaque which will be mounted on the new Sports Hall when completed.

Later in October the Hinchingbrooke Alumni Association was launched. The new association, incorporates the Old Huntingdonians Association and is open to all former pupils and staff from Huntingdon Grammar School and Hinchingbrooke School. It is free to join and will be run by a committee of current teachers and former OHA members. The aims are to maintain the social aspects of the association and develop closer working links between former pupils and the school today, so that current students can benefit from the expertise, experience and contacts of their predecessors. The association has a new alumni page on the school website which links to “Future First” an online service to help schools keep in touch with former students.

The Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School Special Recognititon Awards ceremony was held in the Performing Arts Centre on 21st October. The Trustees decided to celebrate the 450th anniversary with awards recognising the achievements of and contribution to the community by young people and of an organisation actively involved in supporting young people within
the local community. It was also an opportunity to promote the Foundation’s bursary programme to which end a wide range of guests from the Foundation’s catchment area were invited and attended including: Rotary club chairmen, county and district councillors, Mayors of Huntingdon and Godmanchester, Chairmen of Parish Councils, Headteachers and Chairmen of Governors of primary schools, St Peters, Spring Common and Huntingdonshire Regional College and the Editor of the Hunts Post. A number of individual awards were presented to young people aged from 13 to 25 who have completed at least two years in full-time education at secondary schools or colleges in the Huntingdon area and the winner of the community award was Spotlight Productions.

The final Hinchingbrooke Bosendorfer Piano Concert of the year was a gala evening in celebration of the founding of the school in 1565 given by one of Europe’s foremost pianists Katya Apekisheva with a programme which included music by Grieg, Schubert and Chopin.

A concert was held in November at which Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra and Hinchingbrooke School music students plus Natalia Williams-Wandoch, pianist, performed music by Handel, Beethoven and Britten at the PAC. The Hinchingbrooke Suite, composed by Barry Russell former music teacher at Hinchingbrooke School for the opening of the Performing Arts Centre in 1992, was performed in a revised and expanded version to mark the School’s 450th anniversary.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in or attended this year’s special events to celebrate the school’s anniversary in 2015 and in particular The Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School for the grant they gave to the working group to promote some of the anniversary events and for funding the special recognition awards.

A History book “From Huntingdon Grammar School to Hinchingbrooke School. The School’s place in History” written by Alan Akeroyd and Caroline Clifford was commissioned and published by the Old Huntingdonians Association in 2014 to celebrate the anniversary and is available to buy from the School’s main Reception desk at £15 a copy.

Caroline Sheffield
School Governor and Chairman of the 450th Anniversary Working Group
Lower School News
Year 7 - Mrs Tandy

Year 7 have had a tremendous start to their secondary career and are clearly enjoying life at Hinchingbrooke School. In their first half term, students earned a staggering 30,018 fives for going over and above expectation in both lessons and afternoon form time. 72 students were awarded their Year 7 pin for reaching 100 fives and we are currently in the process of awarding a further 149 pins. To have earned 100 fives already is a fantastic achievement and these students should be commended for making such an excellent start. Indeed, Year 7 have impressed staff with their good manners and enthusiasm. We have had a few issues with homework and organisation, but we are already seeing an improvement in these areas also.

On top of meeting new teachers and settling in to lessons, I have been delighted with the number of students putting themselves forward for leadership roles within the school. The form reps have already met several times, most recently to listen to a presentation by the Sports Council leaders regarding the new sports facilities being built. Form reps are currently working on letters to their primary school, letting them know how they and their classmates are getting on. Following feedback from the recent transition survey, we are also planning to visit primaries in the next few months (in addition to the visit in the summer term) to discuss the transition process and answer any questions that the Year 6 students may have.

On 1st October the school welcomed HRH the Duke of Gloucester to Hinchingbrooke as he was unveiling the plaque for the new Sports Hall. Four students (pictured below) were chosen to represent Year 7 and they were Samiul Hasan, Maisie Isaac, Callum Knott and Joanna Grezeskowiak. The students all shook the Duke’s hand and spoke briefly to him about how they were settling in at school. Samiul and Maisie also spoke to Year 6 parents at our open evening, telling them about life at Hinchingbrooke so have proven to be brilliant ambassadors.

In November all Year 7 students watched a Streetwise presentation about staying safe on the roads and we are having a big push on litter around Lower School at lunchtime. Students are also very much looking forward to the Christmas Disco on 11th December and are starting to plan their outfits already!

Altogether Year 7 are shaping up to be a superb year group. I wish both them and you a lovely Christmas break and all the best for the New Year.
Year 8 - Mrs Hodgson

The Delights of Learning with Year 8!

A whirlwind of a term and the year 8s continue to surprise us with their amazing successes both within and outside of school. We have celebrated the academic, dramatic and sporting prowess of the majority and were really impressed by the number of year 8s who embraced at least one aspect of the Summer programme designed to develop a passion for reading and learning. We are grateful to Huntingdon library for their support in this.

It is excellent to hear that so many are actively involved in the very wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer and the fact that over 200 have already earned their gold pin reflects their very positive work ethic both in subject lessons and tutorial time which is now proving to be a very popular session in our busy school day. We always enjoy hearing how individuals are getting on and how our local teams are progressing whatever their direction in league tables. The Autumn concert was hugely entertaining and we look forward to The Snowman and the school production next term.

Four selected students had the privilege of meeting the Duke early in the term and many enjoyed participating in a sunny day in Hunstanton and a rainy day trip to the Space museum. In our desire to keep our students’ safety as our highest priority, the year 8s were very engaged in a session run by our local police officers on internet safety and cyber bullying. We are looking forward to our stage 3 Bikeability courses and next term hope to secure some high quality first aid training. We have a trip for 50 booked to go to see one of our year 8 students perform in Aladdin at the Arts Theatre in January.

A great term overall and the energy of parents, tutors and students seems indefatigable. There is a real buzz in Lower School where students seem happy, polite, sociable and keen to learn. Long may that continue!

Middle School News

Year 9 - Mr Pape

September 2015 saw a change in Leadership for year 9 with Mr Pape and Miss Winter overseeing the year group, alongside a whole new tutor team hoping to guide students towards success as they start their three-year GCSE’s.

The year started with a bang as Form Captains worked with their form groups to organise the hugely popular Monster’s Ball. Over 200 students from Year 9 attended the first ever Monster’s Ball. Many of the students dressed up and enjoyed a fun filled evening of disco, bouncy castles, candyfloss, hotdogs, photo booth and Scare Walk, kindly provided by the team who ran the Hinchingbrooke Horror week at the House over half term. Many thanks go to the Form Captains, who helped to organise and set up the fantastically successful evening.

The year group have also come together and decided upon a reward structure to ensure that all students who are working hard receive the recognition that they so richly deserve; earning 5’s for great work during curriculum lessons has led over 100 students to the first dragon level (for achieving over 150 5’s) this will allow students the opportunity to join the reward trip in February 2016! Plans are being prepared for this event and details will be out in the New Year. In addition tutors have started to identify their ‘Hero of the Week’ for outstanding work across subject areas and around school and finally the launch of the ‘Tutor Group of the Week’ competition has ignited the competitiveness of all. Each week we identify the most successful Tutor Group based on multiple categories, including; 5’s, attendance, punctuality and a tutor’s assessment of their tutor group.

To date 9M1 and 9V1 have been crowned champions.
In a final note all forms have spent time, effort, creative flair and IT wizardry to complete their Christmas themed form presentations to be judged by Santa's elves in the Christmas assembly, I am sure that they will be wonderful!

Wishing all a very happy Christmas and a hardworking, productive, successful New Year.

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**Year 10 - Mr Williams**

The first term back has been a very busy one for Year 10. Striving to meet the challenges of GCSE students have been applying themselves in and out of the classroom. Year 10 students have made a positive impression on their teachers, earning a large number of 5s and securing the Golden Antlers for the first time this term (congratulations to 10C2, who are also 6 times winners of the Year 10 Form of the Week). The first assessments are through and Year 10s are succeeding across the board.

The students are now engaging with the new challenge of work experience and have begun to access the database that will allow them to choose their placements. Difficult decisions have to be made as the students prepare for their first encounter with the world of work. Soon they will have to contact their temporary employers in the hope of securing a placement. Best of luck to them.

This has been a term of sporting glory for Year 10s, with the boys football and rugby teams in particular showing considerable success. They have even spoken at an assembly to celebrate their success and for many of them this is their first time participating in an assembly in front of their year group. We have also had our first student performer at assembly in Olivia Pink, and already there are many others who wish to make their debut before Christmas, so watch this space.

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**Year 11 - Mr Milner**

The year began with the Year 11 students picking up from where they left off in Year 10. The vast majority are focussed, wanting to achieve excellence and fulfil their potential. A number of them have returned to take on new leadership roles. Helping others has been a feature of this group of students for a number of years and this year will be no different, with 30 of them beginning their year as prefects and a further 30 taking on the role of ABC mentors. There is certainly a feeling that they want to give something back to Hinchingbrooke now their time in the main school is coming to an end.

Also this term, we welcomed Positively MAD to work with the year group. The MAD in their name stands for Making A Difference and they certainly did that with a number of our students. They worked in the PAC on various ‘Exam Busting’ techniques, which revolved around the idea of memory and strengthening it. I have to say I am still recounting facts about Muhammed Ali 2 months later, following a mind map story!

As they approach their trial examinations they do so with great maturity and with their own implicit goals and targets as well as those set for them. As their Head of Year, I want to be able to legitimately empathise with the stress and anxiety some of the students are feeling. Therefore, I have decided to take the Maths trial exam with the students, a gesture I hope will illustrate my support of them. These trial exams are a great opportunity for them to test themselves and to learn from this experience as they prepare for the summer. I want them to embrace the challenge and really show what they are capable of.
House Identity - Pepys House

As John Evelyn once commented, Pepys was ‘successful due to patronage and hard work.’ As a House, Pepys embodies these loyal, hard-working qualities in order to achieve success in all of the wide-ranging activities we participate in. Pepys himself enjoyed music, theatre, mathematics and public speaking; all Interhouses and extracurricular activities that Pepys members currently excel in.

Pepys came to live in Brampton in 1644 and attended Huntingdon Grammar School. As a secretary to Edward Montagu, Pepys superior organisation and excellent work ethic bought him great success. Alongside working, he documented his life in his infamous diary. During his life, he witnessed and recorded events of national and international importance including the Great Plague of London, the Second Dutch War, and the Great Fire of London. He continued to work hard throughout his life, becoming an advisor and instituting a mathematical scholarship for young navy officers.

As a character of national importance, Pepys is a deserved figurehead of Hinchingbrooke School.

Our House motto reflects the remarkable attributes of Pepys’s character:

PRIDE, PASSION, POWER, PEPYS

In the next edition, we will focus on Montague House
Upper School News
Director of Sixth Form - Mr Fordham

This term we have been delighted to welcome our significantly expanded Year 12 cohort, with 30 more new students being enrolled than in 2014. We as always are particularly pleased to have those students join us who have come from other schools, many of whom are willing to travel as much as an hour, or even more in two cases, to come to school here. No fewer than 60 of our Year 12s have been appointed as House Ambassadors, nearly a third of the year group, and large numbers of Year 12s also volunteer though our CAS 24 programme for mentoring support in subjects such as History and Maths, buddyng, support in Lower School lessons, and numerous other areas of school life. They are a committed, warm, polite, and altogether charming year group and we are lucky to have them.

We enjoyed a highly successful Open Evening. We brought the date forward from the historic date at the beginning of December, and had the happy problem of too many visitors, so our promotional materials ran out, and we had over 150 visitors standing in the PAC at the first meeting. Feedback was extremely positive despite this, and our students again more than ably supported the teachers in giving superb guidance to potential applicants.

We have enjoyed some excellent visiting speakers. Clive Stafford Smith is director of Reprieve, a not for profit human rights organisation which campaigns against the death penalty, and on behalf of those who face it. He is frequently on the airwaves, notably Radio 4; for example, on the morning on which he came to speak he was being interviewed about a young Saudi male who was due to be crucified that day for having committed blasphemy when he was 17 years old. The man, Ali, was reprieved. The talk was quite simply electric, delivered in interactive and confrontational style to a packed Assembly Room. Not everyone agreed with what he had to say, but no one would have left without considering in a new light the need for engagement with human rights issues. We have also had Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham College Cambridge, a key and lifelong campaigner for women’s rights in the workplace, and currently a government advisor on health, come and give an inspiring message about her journey from a family in which no one had been to university, to her current position. Dame Carol was born in 1939, and was as energetic as any speaker we have had. As well as these, Lizzie Coyle from the Faraday Institute spoke about the clash or otherwise of science and religion, and Jonathan Levy from Friends of Israel came and spoke about the realities of political life in the Middle East, the reasons for the rise of ISIS, and the all too increasing relevance of this for us in Hinchingbrooke.

Our Year 13s are completing UCAS applications, going to interviews at universities and many are already getting offers. We have tried this year to provide more structured guidance and support for those students not going to university, through tutors, a bespoke handbook, and advice and guidance sessions with visiting providers. Whatever their pathway, Year 13 is passing by extremely quickly, and by the time this edition is published we will already have held the ex-Year 13 Presentation Evening, saying a final goodbye to students who, it seems like yesterday, were doing their own UCAS statements and considering their futures.
Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Mr Cooke - Vice Principal

Although the summer is staring to seem a very distant memory, there were plenty of student’s celebrating success in their GCSE, AS & A Level results in the Performance & Creativity subjects: Art, Dance, Drama, Design Technology, Food & Textiles, Music and PE. It is so pleasing that there are a large number of students who pursue these subjects as one of their exam choices, despite political pressures beyond the school’s control.

But it’s not just about exam grades; each of these departments contribute hugely to enriching the lives of Hinchingbrooke students and improve everybody’s well-being, within curriculum lessons and through extra-curricular activities. We encourage every student to take advantage of the wide array of opportunities on offer in addition to their 5 lessons a day. Whether it be one of the clubs: Art, Dance, DT, Stitch-It, Food or one of the many sporting opportunities. There’s also school choirs, orchestras and bands which performance concerts as well as the chance to be a part of the school production in February 2016.

Contained below are some details of just a few of the exciting things that have been going on this term in the Performance & Creativity Directorate. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Hunts School Sport Partnership

Mrs Ager

1. Hunts SSP Subscription The autumn term has started on a very positive note with several successes and opportunities to launch the year. We are working with 40 Primary schools who have bought into our comprehensive subscription service, the service supports schools to meet all of the outcomes for the Sport Premium funding that they receive funding for and much more. Since September we have run 4 sport specific courses and a Partnership conference with approximately 100 attendees across the events. The Team have delivered several Team Building events in schools getting pupils to work together more collaboratively.

We are continuing to access and offer opportunities to Hinchingbrooke students as they arise.

2. Talent Inspiration Programme – Hinchingbrooke Students attend National Camp Manchester

Three y9 Hinchingbrooke students represent Cambridgeshire at a Talent Inspiration Programme (T.I.P.) in Manchester at the National School Games event. This national programme is organised by the Youth Sports Trust and it provides talented leaders with professional training and mentoring to further develop their leadership skills.

3. School Games Mark – Schools across Hunts SSP top the Eastern Region, 33 Schools achieve the School Games
Mark coming tops across the eastern region. Partnership Manager Sue Ager said ‘We are absolutely thrilled with the result, it is a reflection of all of the fantastic work that is taking place in our subscription schools. Hunts SSP’s subscription service supports schools to embed Physical Education and School Sport across the school and meet the outcomes for the Sport Premium and the School Games Awards.’

This is a national award that consists of 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Hinchingbrooke School was the only secondary school in the District to achieve Silver Mark. Partner primary schools, St Anne’s and Godmanchester achieved the Gold award followed by Brampton who achieved Silver and Buckden, Offord and Spaldwick who achieved Bronze. HSSP have supported subscription schools to achieve the award. To find out more go to www.yourschoolgames.com

4. DFE good practice case study on the impact of Hunts SSP’s subscription service go to DfE Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/notes/department-for-education/huntingdonshire-schools-and-hunts-school-sports-partnership/903225193047688

5. Tag Rugby 600 pupils from primary schools took part supported by Hinchingbrooke young leaders and the Huntingdon Rugby Club.

The event included teams from a range of abilities and a festival for children not ready to take part in competitive sport.

Hinchingbrooke Young Leaders led events and Dance leaders performed the Haka and taught it to the primary pupils resulting in a mass performance. Northampton Saints player Lewis Ludlam, supported the event and spoke to children. All of the children were given the Rugby World Cup clappers to take home, these were donated by DHL. Check out the photos on our website at www.huntsssp.org

6. Panathlon – students with additional needs from special and main stream schools represented Hunts SSP in this fantastic event. These successful athletes enjoyed making new friends as they competed alongside their team mates. In a closely contested event they were thrilled to become this year's County Panathlon Champions and loved receiving their gold medal. The Hunts team will now represent Cambridgeshire in the regional finals. Sports Leaders from St Ivo School were highly commended for their skills on the day by Teachers and National Sponsors; Irwin Mitchell Solicitors.

Facebook and Twitter

We have a great collection of photos and news about our events on our Facebook page and on Twitter, follow us and receive up to date about our events.

Find us on Facebook and follow our page at Hunts-SSP

Find us on Twitter and follow our page at HuntsSSP
7. Hunts SSP Team Teaching Impact Our team of High Quality P.E. Specialists and Sports Coaches are continuing to work with numerous Primary Schools to upskill primary teachers and school staff in the delivery of P.E. and School Sport. The Hunts SSP Team Teaching model enables class teachers to work alongside a P.E. Specialist in a range of activities in their own school environment, working with their pupils.

Here are some examples of the work we have been recently completed with Hunts SSP Subscription Schools.

**Gymnastics**

**Teacher Quote “Thank you so much for the lessons – we have gained a great deal and the children have progressed enormously. I will definitely be amending my practice of delivery in the future”**

“I am really impressed with the children’s understanding of technical vocabulary and their ability to put together a controlled sequence of movements. They have come such a long way in a short space of time”.

**Team Building**

All Year 6 pupils spent a morning developing their team building skills. Pupils identified their strengths in team work skills and identified their own target areas for improvement. By the end of the morning children had worked with everyone in their class to collectively solve practical problems.

**Teacher Quote “The workshop has been really helpful to me and the class – getting to know each other, working together showing respect for one another. It has also been helpful to observe behaviour management strategies”**

**Pupil Quote: “It helped me to understand what we need to know to help me be a good team member”**

For more information from Hunts SSP please go to [www.huntsssp.org](http://www.huntsssp.org)

Contact Sue Ager, Partnership Manager on [sa@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:sa@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk)

Tel: 01480 420503

**Recruiting Now – Sports Coaches and PE Specialists**

The Hunts School Sports Partnership are looking to extend our team of Sports Coaches and Specialist PE teachers, if you are a Level 2 or above Sports Coach or a qualified PE teacher and are interested in working with primary aged children and young people across the Huntingdonshire area, contact Sue Ager at Huntsssp@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Tel: 01480 420540
Paralympic Sports – Boccia

Jabe Peake - Year 11 Student

Boccia is a Paralympic sport similar to the commonly played sport, Bowls. The only difference is that instead of taking turns to throw, the person who is furthest away from the Jack (the target ball) throws the next ball. When all balls have been played, the winner, the player with the nearest ball, counts how many balls they have nearer than their opponent’s closest ball.

It’s an honour to be able to represent my country in Poland this week. Four of us from England have been invited to compete for the title of Polish International Champion on the 27th and 28th November. The international is in conjunction with their National Championships; they have invited BC1 and BC4 players from other European countries.

Over the past 3 seasons, I have been training in order to be selected for the England Squad. Previously, I was in the Boccia England talent squad which has helped me prepare, in conjunction with my coach Sandra King, for the international stage. I had no idea my international debut would come round this fast; I can’t wait to get there and compete.

"I felt so proud to be selected for England & excited for my first international championships. I thought I was going to be nervous but I have been training hard & in the call room I didn’t feel nervous, I felt prepared!

It was incredible to win on my international debut but I know there is still room for improvement!"
The Music Department

Head of Music - Mr W. Cooke

The Music department has had another successful term with lots of performances both in school and the wider community. The Autumn Concert, which was held in Hinchingbrooke House, was a huge success and saw performances from all year groups as well as the Hinchingbrooke Community Choir.

The first Glastonbrooke Unplugged evening was held in November which was a truly magical evening of live acoustic songs. The choirs performed at Buckden Church at the end of November and then again in Huntingdon Town Hall in December. We look forward to The Snowman, our final concert of the term and the most challenging prospect our school orchestra has ever faced!

Students have been working hard on their individual instruments with their teachers, and many have recently sat ABRSM examinations. Lucy Trendell-Carr, in Year 13, passed her Grade 8 flute with merit, and Alexandra Fox, also in Year 13, passed her Grade 8 singing, with merit.

Both Zoe Perkins (Year 13) and Robert Burton (Year 12) have been successful auditioning for the highly prestigious BBC Young Musician of the Year award, getting through to the second round (the last 25 from 400 original auditionees).

Zoe Perkins has also been awarded Principal Trumpet in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and has been granted scholarships to the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music to study with them next year. Congratulations, Zoe!

Polly Smith, Year 13, has been on a five day interview at Oxford University to study Music next year.

Mr Cooke took a selection of students to King’s College, Cambridge, to see the famous Carol service rehearsal which was an inspiring time for all our budding young choristers.

Towards the end of term the Year 7 students were involved in the annual Christmas Song Competition, which really shows that Hinchingbrooke School is a Singing School! We believe that singing truly benefits young people in remarkable ways and they all had a great time. Congratulations to the winners!
The Food Technology Department

Head of Food Technology - Mrs Crabtree

Samuel Pepys referred to small cakes in his diary

Take one pound of very fine flower, and put to it half a pound of sugar. Add one pound of currants well washed. When your flower is well mixed with the sugar and currants, you must put in it a half a pound of melted butter, three spoonfuls of milk, with the yolks of three new-laid eggs beat with it, some nutmeg; and if you please, three spoonfuls of Sack.

When you have mixed your paste well, you must put it in a dish by the fire, till it be warm.

Then make them up in little cakes, and prick them full of holes. Bake them in a quick oven unclosed. Afterwards sprinkle them with sugar.

The Cakes should be about the bigness of a hand-breadth and thin; of the cise of the Sugar Cakes sold at Barnet.

Word List: flower = flour, cise = size, bigness = size, sack = dry Spanish wine (can be left out or dry sherry used instead)

Ingredients

1 pound self-raising flour.
Half pound caster sugar
1 pound currants
half pound butter
3 tablespoons milk
3 egg yolks
pinch of nutmeg
3 tablespoons Sack
icing sugar (to sprinkle on top)

Notes

1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds
Place in oven for 15 minutes at 200C - with the door shut
Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry

Vice Principal - Mr Walker

This has been another terrific term in Enterprise and Enquiry. We were delighted with results in our subjects this Summer, especially at Key Stage 4, where we saw significant gains thanks to the excellent work of students, staff and parents. This term has begun at a pace, with an exciting range of trips, visits and opportunities for students in Maths, Science, Business and ICT. You can read about some of them in the following pages. Our staff continue to set the pace both locally and nationally, bringing their wisdom and experience to colleagues in many other schools and ensuring that we too learn from the very best of what is on offer in other institutions. We are also looking to the future, and the huge range of opportunities the development at Alconbury Weald will bring for our students in many of the areas covered in the Directorate. This development provides a great platform for students at Hinchingbrooke to become the developers, technicians, engineers and leaders of the future.

We never stand still, and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the things that have been going on so far this term in Enterprise and Enquiry.

Mathematics Department

Head of Mathematics - Mr Bennett

Maths Mentoring Expands

Following the success of the Maths Mentoring that we introduced last year, we are thrilled to report that the scheme has more than doubled in size. Last year saw that those involved in Mentoring achieved on average 0.6 levels higher in their GCSE Maths exams than their peers.

In addition to taking over the LRC on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon tutor times, we have claimed the use of two classrooms. With the amazing assistance of approximately 60 Sixth Form and 15 Year 11 mathematicians we are able to provide 125 Year 11 students with support with their Maths studies.

At the moment we are providing the students with focused work in preparation for their Trial Exams in December. The intention is that they will then take information from these exams and attend the sessions gaining help in the areas they have identified they need to improve in. They have access to resources on all the topic areas at a variety of levels to be able to secure their knowledge and make progress towards achieving or exceeding their target grades.

Mr Bennett

Senior Team Mathematics Challenge - Thrilling contest between top Mathematics students

At the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, last week, 25 teams of the best Mathematics students from local schools and colleges tackled a series of demanding mathematical challenges for over three hours. It was the regional final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge, a competition organised jointly by the Further Mathematics Support Programme and the UK Mathematics Trust and sponsored by Rolls-Royce plc. The aim of the competition is to provide a stimulating and enjoyable
challenge for 16 to 19-year-old Mathematics students by focusing on problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills.

At the end of the three rounds of group problem-solving, team cross-number puzzle and mathematical relay race, the overall winners were the team from Hills Road Sixth Form College who will go on to the national final in London on 2nd February. The STMC is now in its 10th year and attracts over 1000 teams from schools and colleges from around the UK.

The team that Hinchingbrooke School entered consisted of Robert Fielding, Edward Wilson, Yinzi Zhang and Jess Ng. After a slow start in the first round we picked up rather nicely in the cross-number and Relay Rounds and moved up the rankings to achieve a very credible top ten finish. We were the first of the state schools and as such we were very proud of our team of further mathematicians. The Year 12s of the team who will still be allowed to compete next year have set themselves a goal of finishing in the top five.

Mr Hancock

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Success

The Senior Maths Challenge is run by the United Kingdom Maths Trust (UKMT) and is aimed at the top achieving Year 12 and Year 13 Maths students across the United Kingdom and is sat in schools.

This Year over 74,000 students took part in the challenge on the 5th November 2015 with Hinchingbrooke School entering 37 of our top Mathematics students for this challenge.

We were incredibly proud of the fact that our students achieved 3 gold certificates, 4 silver certificates and 17 bronze certificates.

The awarding of certificates is worked out by the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% a silver certificate and the next 30% a bronze.

This means that 3 of our students are now ranked in the top 10% in the whole of the United Kingdom; a fantastic achievement.

To qualify for the second round of this challenge your results needed to be in the top 4000 of all the students that took part.

In Year 13 Robert Fielding qualified with a points total of 87 with Katie Buttriss narrowly missing out with her score of 84.

In Year 12 Yinzi Zhang qualified for the second round with the top score in our school of 117 points beating her closest competitor by 30 points.

The results summary is as follows:

Gold Certificates:
Yinzi Zhang, Robert Fielding and Katie Buttriss

Silver Certificates:
Polly Smith, Samuel Heaton, James Armstrong and Calum Wotherspoon

Bronze Certificates:
Luke Fennell, Hannah Talbot, Nadine El-Refee, Ashley Fitzugh, Esme Walters, Lizzie Keates, Genn Hector, Katie Smith, Jared Sharpe, Jarrad Johnson, Joshua Clarke, Christopher Addis, Emma Bownes, Joshua Young, Mindy Johnson, Jess Ng and Lucille Corby.

Mr Hancock

Congratulations to all!
Science Department

Head of Science - Mrs Alford

Year 7 Trip to the Natural History Museum

This year the Science department has organised a number of trips for all year groups. The first was for Year 7 and was to the Natural History Museum in London.

Year 7s were so excited that the 48 places were snapped up in a matter of hours. Luckily we were able to double the places so, on a sunny October morning, 96 Year 7 students met at the buses, eagerly anticipating their day out.

The journey went well, and all arrived safe and sound. We divided up into groups and spent the rest of the day discovering the human body, dinosaurs and planet earth.

Particular favourites were the Earthquake Room, the giant sequoia tree and the giant womb!

The Year 7s were excellent and it was a pleasure to see such enthusiasm and great behaviour.

Mrs Olsen

Business Department

Head of Business - Mrs Beadles

PRESS RELEASE: Hinchingbrooke Business students to enter the Dragon's Den

Immediate release:

GCSE Business started in September with an opportunity for students to bid for a loan with the Tycoon in Schools project. The entrepreneurial pupils in class are now gearing up to take part in a UK-wide enterprise competition launched by star of Dragons’ Den Peter Jones CBE.

Two teams (made up of Phoebe Ward, Annabel Woods, Charley Patmore, Natalia Pluta, Kayleigh McKinney and Katherine Green) have signed up to Tycoon in Schools 2015 and had business plans approved by the successful entrepreneur himself. They will be specialising in baked treats and candles which can be purchased from them directly or through Mrs Beadles in Business Studies.

Using a loan of up to £1,000 to help get their ventures going, the students are now in the trading phase that runs from November 2nd until December 18th.

During this time, they will work to earn as much profit as possible, which can then be reinvested in their business, donated to charity or put towards other school projects. Please look out for their marketing and order yourselves some wonderful Christmas gifts or indulge in some tasty treats.

Mr Jones, whose charity the Peter Jones Foundation runs the competition, said: “We are very excited about this year’s challenge. The quality of the business plans we’ve received is higher than ever before and I can’t wait to see the companies in action.

“The character attributes that Tycoon in Schools promotes are essential to closing the skills gap and improving the productivity of the workforce. I believe that the earlier we
get our young people involved in this kind of entrepreneurial activity the better.”

Following the trading phase, Mr Jones will pick the most impressive teams to attend a final ceremony, which has been held at Buckingham Palace each year since the competition launched in 2012.

Last year’s entrants were so good that the £1,000 prize money was tripled and split between three teams.

Peter Jones Foundation CEO Alice Barnard said: “We have been extremely impressed with this year’s business plans and I have no doubt that the teams will reach the same high standards as those of previous years.

“Tycoon in Schools promotes vital skills such as good communication, the ability to work as part of a team and, of course, excellent financial management. We have twice as many students participating than last year and twice as many teams, which is fantastic – we’re delighted to be reaching so many young people across the UK.”

The companies that shared last year’s top spot were Mount, from Whitley Bay High School in North Tyneside, Ethical Print, from Westborough High School in Yorkshire, and Retro Cycle, from Queen Anne’s School in Berkshire.

They produced hand-made cruiser skateboards, a community newsletter and a range of household goods made from recycled materials, respectively.

Funnelling 4 Fuel, from Avonbourne College in Bournemouth, won the competition in 2013 with a funnel that turns waste cooking oils into bio-fuel. Earlier this year, the team was nominated for the Observer’s Young Green Champions award.

Mrs Barnard continued: “We are always delighted to hear about the success of former Tycoon in Schools participants. We are all about giving young people the chance to gain real-life experience of running a business and so many of them grasp that opportunity with both hands.”

As well as Tycoon in Schools, the Peter Jones Foundation runs the Peter Jones Enterprise Academy, which delivers specialist courses in enterprise and entrepreneurship at colleges across the country.
Computing Department

Head of Computing - Mr Kilby

Retro Gamer 2015

The computing department’s first interhouse competition was a great event that was run by some of the Computing Tech Team students. A massive thank you has to go to the members of the Tech Team for their help with running the event. Particular thanks to Marcus Beatt, Patrick Brayne, Oliver Baxter, Charlie Baxter, Josh Orbell, Owen Bright, Callum Drew-McKay and George Miller for their help in setting up and organising the event.

Both students and staff competed at three different retro computer games (Asteroids, Mario kart and Sonic). After 3 attempts at each game, the best scores were recorded.

Results will be available on the Retrogamer website at hbkcomputing.uk/retrogamer.

(Liked the idea of Retrogamer? Look out for Hackathon 2016 for another chance to show off your computing skills. More information early next year).

Raspberry Pi Club

Our Raspberry Pi club keeps going from strength to strength. With a large amount of students dropping in on a Wednesday after school to either develop their Raspberry Pi skills by completing a number of different projects, or by learning about the different capabilities of the Raspberry Pi by completing a number of Digital badges. We have a small group of students building an arcade machine from the Raspberry Pi, which we hope to have out in the department for students to use.

Many of the students have completed their basic training and next term the group will move onto developing their programming skills and working with sensors and real world objects.

(Raspberry Pi club is open to all year groups and runs on Wednesdays after school, 3:45 to 4:45, in room 190)

Tech Team

Our Tech team has been busy this term with helping at the Retrogamer event, but also working on a range of resources to help students in the school with their technology. They have been working on tutorial videos and help sheets, which will be available on a new website in the New Year.

Stay tuned for a new computer gaming club being set up by some of the members of the Tech Team, due to take place on Thursdays after school.

(Our Tech team is a group of students from all year groups that wish to develop their skills further in IT and to help out with activities and events around the school.)

Website Design Club

Our Website design club has been working hard this term on learning some basic HTML skills in order to develop their own websites on the internet. They have developed their first website which they have learnt how to upload onto the internet. Next term they will be developing their skills further in designing an online store.

(Website design club meets on Mondays after school in room 198)

Our year 9 and year 11 ICT students have been making great progress with their ICT course so far, with a fantastic pass rate in their first exam. Students will complete 4 exams over the year, all of which form their final grade.

We have a number of events coming up next term, including a trip to Disneyland Paris for year 9, 10 and 11 Computing students, to learn about how IT is used in the running of Disneyland Paris and Disney Corporation.
Directorate of Global Citizenship

Vice Principal - Miss Nightingale

Wow…a very busy first term of the academic year has flown by with so many things to celebrate in the Global Citizenship Directorate. I am extremely proud of the results the different departments of the Directorate achieved this summer, both in KS4 and KS5. English Language (44.3% A*A and 99% A*C), English Literature (36.6% A*A and 96.9% A*C) Geography (26.2% A*A and 82.3% A*C), Latin (37.5% A*C and 87.5% A*C), German (28.8% A*A and 82.2% A*C), RE Full Course (25.4% A*C and 81.7% A*C) and Global Perspectives (59.9% A*A and 97.6% A*C) were especially successful at GCSE. It was also great to see students being entered for Chinese, Polish and Turkish GCSEs. At A2 Spanish and PreU Global Perspectives were leading the way with 100% A*B and 87.6% A*B respectively. Other successful subjects included Film Studies (73.3% A*B), French (66.7% A*B), History (55.6% A*B), English Literature (54.4% A*B) and Geography (51.6% A*B). A huge thank you goes to both the students and staff for all their hard work leading up to the public exam season. Thanks must also go to the parents of these students for keeping them on track and providing support and food!

And the exams don’t stop there. The English Department have been working doubly hard, with 200 students in the current Year 11 cohort being entered early for their iGCSE in November. The students were incredibly positive about having an early opportunity to get their grade, which has the added bonus of relieving some of the pressure in the summer. There were all kinds of workshops going on and a weekend given up to help all those entered to achieve their potential.

I am always amazed and proud of the hours given up by staff to ensure that students can leave the school premises to continue their learning outside the classroom. The Geography Department are always out and about and give up countless hours at weekends for various fieldtrips which are essential for the students to fulfil their potential. They also give up their holidays to take the students to the far flung corners of the world, and of course Huntingdon! Geography are not the only ones as there have been Social Science visits to various conferences, many of which are outlined in the following pages.

There have been competitions galore too. The History Department’s Castles Competition tests both the students understanding of the various castles of the Medieval period along with their creative abilities. No doubt a few parents had a hand in the amazing creations which came pouring into school in the first half term. My favourite was the jelly version – both accurate and delicious, although I’m not sure it would withstand a siege! Talking of food, Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood have stirred up a storm, or should that be icing sugar cloud? The History Department have had a History Bake Off and the MFL Department have continued to run an International Cooking Club. It’s fantastic to see students and staff alike putting their skills outside the classroom to the test! Our older students are not left out, as the Film Studies students have been entering their work in national competition – and hopefully there will be a few prizes later in the year as a result. We have also been successful in the first round of the Rotary Debating Competition – so well done to that group too.

Literacy has been a real focus since the end of last academic year, under the leadership of the fabulous Miss Spikesley (Literacy Coordinator). All students have been tested (reading) and as a result there are lots of interventions taking place. A significant number of Year 7 students had a whole week of catch up workshops which they say were brilliant. Selected Year 10 and 11 students have been attending two hour workshops every week to improve their basic literacy skills, and we have students on a variety of different reading programmes, including those who are gifted and talented in this area. There are a large number of students who have become Literacy Ambassadors to
work alongside their peers, and they will have training before Christmas. We have no doubt that all these different interventions will enable students to gain more confidence and impact upon their studies in all subjects.

I look forward to the many other events and successes we have yet to experience in the Global Citizenship Directorate. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fabulous 2016.

English Department

Head of English - Mrs Fullard

A Royal Visit for a ‘Royal’ School

His Royal Highness, Prince Richard Duke of Gloucester, arrived on the 1st October at 10:30 at Hinchingbrooke House. Everyone was jumping with excitement! Firstly, he visited the new Sports Hall and Sports Field. After that he talked to the Sixth Form students and teachers. Then, he went with Mr Fordham, Head of Sixth Form, to visit the House Library, meeting students from all year groups. Then at 11:25, he unveiled the plaque in the Hall for the New Sports Hall! When he was born Prince Richard was 5th in line for the throne, but now due to recent births, he has become 24th in line. HBK TV were lucky enough to cover this exciting event. We were filming his grand speech in Hinchingbrooke House; and we are sure that everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

HBK TV Team

Geography Department

Head of Geography - Mr Evans

Out and about with Geography…. #HBKGeogontour

The start of the year has been a busy one for the Geographers, with students visiting a range of different environments to enhance their understanding of their world. September saw Year 13 Geographers surveying sand dunes on the North Norfolk coast, Year 8 students visit Hunstanton and Year 9 GCSE Geographers study ecosystems in the Country Park. In October Year 12 students spent a weekend in North Wales studying at glaciated landscapes. During the October half term break a group of A’ level Geography students took part in the department’s inaugural trip to Morocco where, amongst other things they rode camels into the Sahara and spent a night under the stars.
History Department

Head of History - Mr Leigh

Last half term the History department hosted its inter-house competition for Year 7. The brief was to design and build a historically accurate castle in any medium. The response was fantastic, and competition fierce, as castles made from modelling materials and even jelly or cake jostled for top spot. As you can see from the pictures the efforts were both creative and accurate! Well done to the first place winners of Poppy and Bethany in 7P1 for their awesome junk modelled Motte and Bailey castle.

Film Studies Department

Head of Film Studies - Phil Lloyd

The 2015 Diabetes in School Short Film Competition is run by the charity Diabetes UK and aims to raise awareness of the medical condition. A thoughtfully structured film made by Year 13s Beatrice Sutcliffe, Byron Yates and Hannah Pollard is the Hinchingbrooke entry. The students really show off their familiarity with cinematic technique (and the cameo from Mr Hancock is surely worth a look...) Judges will be taking into account how many 'Likes' the film receives, so please give it a thumbs up.

You can access this film, along with our other student films, on the department website:

http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/FilmStudies/Student_Films.html
or: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbrOGH1BqG0

Mr Lloyd
What is our essential human nature?

This question has plagued philosophers throughout history. It is a question which remains unsolved and, yet, it is fundamental to our existence; it shapes our lives, the way we feel and the way we interact with other humans. There are many beliefs which can drive this question but our primary focus in the RPE department, for this year, has been the notion that we are, at heart, meaning-makers. All humans long to make-meaning of the confusing existence we call life; some find this in the comfort of religion, some in the realms of science, and some in a half-way house between the two. Historically our way of making meaning has been through stories and narratives which allow us to not only construct meanings but allow us to link concepts, explain away our fears of death, promote our status or even secure us a future in the afterlife.

Yet problems arise when we come to make sense of the entirety of human existence, from explaining the awe and wonder at the beauty of the world in contrast to consideration of the horrors within humanity found in the death camps of Auschwitz. How does one start to even consider a topic like Auschwitz, something seemingly so far removed from Hinchingbrooke? Is there a way of creating a connection between our students and these darker aspects of human history? This notion, beautifully explored in Alan Bennett’s ‘History Boys’, was the focus for students from years 9-12, working alongside students from Cambridge University on an RPE and History enrichment day in June. The debate considered how the first post-Auschwitz commentaries were not a historical analysis of the events but an emotional, deeply personal and arresting telling of the stories of the camps by individuals such as Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel. Yet what happens when we try to talk about more than the stories, analysing the cause or significance of the Gestapo’s actions? In the History Boys, Posner posits that to explain what happened at Auschwitz is a step towards explaining away the Holocaust, something which those with any connection to could never accept. And yet there are those who would argue, such as Kinloch, that there must be some degree of separation, or to quote Irwin, ‘but this is history boy. Distance yourselves... there is no period so remote as the recent past.’

The students’ impressive consideration of the role of these arguments, alongside their Cambridge compadres, led both parties to a consideration of the role of the individual within a wider historical discourse, leading both parties to the notion of whether it is empathy which sits at the very core of human existence: do we make meaning to better understand our fellow human beings? Do we make meaning to improve our own situation? What happens when we start to create stories and meanings which discriminate others? What causes us to make different meanings? Are we in control of our stories or are they already written for us?

As ever with enrichment activities, a day did not seem long enough to fully explore all details. Our year 9 students had only just begun to explore Freudian interpretations of the actions of the Sonderkommander when we found ourselves out of time. But the day highlighted one key thing about Hinchingbrooke students – when faced with an academic challenge they never fail to rise to the challenge, engaging with a wealth of knowledge in an impressive, rigorous and sensitive way. Our hope is that next year we can arrange it so that Hinchingbrooke students might be offered the opportunity to curate an exhibit at the Imperial War Museum. I hope that this time next year I am able to write of these fantastic achievements, displayed for many to see.

Mr Winter
Social Sciences Department

Head of Social Sciences - Mrs Howells

On November 6th, 40 year 12 and 13 psychology students travelled to the University of London's Logan Hall to hear lectures on 'Is it normal to be mad?' given by Dany Nobus of Brunel University and 'The Adolescent Brain' by Sarah-Jane Blakemore of UCL as well as finding out about the plasticity of the brain discovered by research with London Taxi Drivers undertaken by Hugo Spiers and a mesmerising lecture given by Stephen Reicher of St Andrews University giving a new and slant to both Milgram's and Zimbardo's classically acclaimed studies into 'When People don't Obey' and the impetus on all of us to use our moral consciences at all times rather than use the excuse of 'obeying orders' or following 'the party line'. This was a thoroughly thought provoking and deeply rewarding conference. Our students were excellent as an audience, as we would expect, and virtually everyone thanked the teaching staff and the coach driver as they left the coach on our return.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this trip such a good one, including accounts staff, support staff and the 'trips' office staff.

MFL Department

Head of MFL - Mrs Large

International Cooking Club

¡Qué aproveche!

Bon appétit!!

Guten apetit!!

It was an absolute pleasure to invite all the stars of the week in Languages for an evening of international cooking on the 22 October.

Twenty language students attended from year 7 to year 13. They produced some delicious Spanish tapas with some very traditional ingredients like “chorizo”, “jamón”, olives, and some were brave enough to try some anchovies.

Students also grilled German sausages and each cooked a French omelette. We also sampled some no-alcoholic Sangria. At the end of the cooking session we all sat down and ate our delicacies together. Valentin Dalix our French assistant delighted us with some very tasty French toast for dessert. Marten Peters our German assistant was making sure that the non-alcoholic Sangria flowed, many thanks to both of them for their help and advice.

We all had a fantastic time cooking, eating and drinking.

Our next International Cooking Club will be on the 17 December, when we will celebrate and award the achievements and hard work of our language pupils just before Christmas.

Mrs Melchor-Bailey
Extra-Curricular Activities

Educational visits and extracurricular activities this year has got off to an amazing start during the autumn term. So far we have seen more than 30 educational visits take place, with a couple more still to squeeze in before we break up for the Christmas holidays. Below, to name but a few, are some of the fabulous opportunities that have been available to students this term.

On 29 September, seven of our year 9 Drama students, along with 5 students for St Peter’s school, were given the opportunity by the HGTA to take part in a Drama youth festival. Students travelled to Wertheim, Germany where they took part in drama workshops with students from different countries, ending the stay with a group performance.

October saw Mr Evans take a group of year 12 Geography students to Snowdonia, North Wales, where they based themselves at the Swallow falls youth hostel. After settling in students set off to take part in valuable fieldwork and investigation over three days, which they need for one of their A2 exams.

During October half term the Geography department took a mixture of year 12 and 13 students to Morocco. This field trip took the place of the usual biannual visit to Iceland. During their 5 day stay, students and staff took part in a variety of activities ranging from riding a camel in the Sahara desert to specialist educational visits, including river and water management, desert landscapes of the Sahara Desert and urban growth in Marrakech.

Well done to those students who went for really making the most of their time there.

Aside from all of our fabulous overseas visits we have had a number of trips to various places around the UK. The Art department have visited many of the Art galleries in London with our Art students, to give them an opportunity to gather contextual resources for their work in the classroom. This year sees the Science department organising many trips across all school years to help inspire passion for the Sciences. So far they have taken Year 7 students to the Natural History Museum and year 13s to Whipsnade Zoo. Later in the year we will see our young scientists visiting the London science museum and the botanical gardens in Cambridge.
Germany Twining Youth Festival

Seven Hinchingbrooke girls joined five St Peter’s girls to take part in a Twinning Drama Youth Festival in Germany. The aim of the festival was to bring together four nations and to devise a performance based on uniting European countries. Our students were given the opportunity to work with students from Italy, Hungary and Germany to prepare a Drama production that would be performed in front of a live audience. Initially our students felt intimidated by the age gap of the other participants. The Hinchingbrooke girls were 13, the St Peter’s girls were 14 and 15 and the students from other countries ranged from 14 to 19 years old. However, once the students were in mixed aged groups they managed to settle into the task.

They created the performance in four groups and each group was taught by a German actor. After 2 days of preparation they performed to all the twinning representatives, the mayor of the town and members of the public. The students were also taken on a tour around Wertheim, which was beautiful and full of interesting historic facts, especially about the floods that occur in the town. On the last day we were all involved in a town parade, which was part of the opening of Oktoberfest. This was full of laughter and smiles and it was lovely to see the whole community come together to celebrate four countries being united together. The students’ feedback on the trip was extremely positive and they all feel their experience was beneficial and enjoyable. They made some lovely connections with students from different countries and were able build relationships with students from their own school and St Peter’s. Overall the students thoroughly enjoyed their experience in Wertheim and feel it is one they will treasure forever.

Here are some comments from our students:

‘The town was beautiful’

‘A highlight of the trip was being part of the parade on the last day’

‘We all enjoyed it so much’

‘I liked the performance and after party’

‘I have never taken so many photos’

‘Thank you for an amazing trip and experience’

‘Everyone was really nice and I met some good friends’

‘The tour around the town was beautiful and our tour guide told us lots of interesting facts’
At the beginning of term, we held our annual ‘Bell’s Gone: What’s On?’ event in the extra-curricular area, found in the Pepys building. This event is a great opportunity for all students in any year group to come along, find out more information and sign up to the clubs they would like to try out. The event was very well attended, and saw over 200 of our new year 7 students cross the threshold to find out what opportunities were available to them at HBK.

There are always new opportunities arising for students to take part in throughout the school year. This term has seen some new additions to the club timetable, such as table tennis club for year 7 students, held on Fridays after school. This club was started by students in year 7 and is supported by Mrs Roberts from the languages department. If a student feels that a certain club is missing from the club timetable, they are very welcome to come and see me, Mrs Pittock, in the Pepys building to put their idea forward and we will always do our best to support their idea and get a new club off the ground. Miss Waters from the English department has started an amnesty international club, available to all years which you can read more about in our club spotlight article.

The extra-curricular club timetable for the spring term will be published to all parents and students in the first week of term in January. It will also be displayed in form rooms and available on the school website at the following link www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/Timetable

Spotlight on Clubs

Hinchinbrooke Amnesty International Youth Group
Meets Tuesday lunchtime 1.15 – 1.55pm

Amnesty International group is a new club that started at the beginning of the year and is now well underway. With an eager bunch of young ladies attending on Tuesday Lunchtime in room 1, we have started to discuss campaigns we would like to support, as well as ways of promoting the group within school.

Gender Equality and Sexuality have been top on our hit list of issues we would like to promote, as well as making students aware of other places in the world where Education is not considered a right for all. With the Death Penalty and Torture campaigns to look into, we will have a lot to keep us occupied over the coming months. We have an assembly to plan to help raise awareness and hopefully garner the interest of a few more young activists to join our group.

If Human Rights Education is an issue close to your child’s heart and something they would like to be involved in, please come and join us in room 1 on Tuesday lunchtime. Also look out for assemblies in the New Year!
Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Vocational Education Coordinator - Mrs Tanton-Smith

Careers event
Friday 6th November 2015

On Friday 6th November over 20 employers and colleges came to Hinchingbrooke school to offer support and guidance to Year 11, 12 and 13 students with their future progression routes.

I am extremely grateful to the companies who came along to support the event. Tophex engineering came in to interview the students and feed back on their skills. Stage Works, RWE Generation UK PLC, Little Barford Power Station, Grant Thornton Accountants, the NHS, St Ives Football Academy, Future First–Inspiring Apprentices, 3AAA and Northbrook riding school all gave up their time to support and advise our students. The Armed Forces, the RAF and the Royal Marines were also represented.

Local colleges, namely Huntingdonshire Regional College, Cambridge Regional College, Peterborough Regional College, Peterborough UTC, Bedford and Shuttleworth College, and the College of West Anglia, also came and supported this event.

Students were greatly inspired and comments from them included:

“This has been really helpful”
“This was better than I thought it was going to be”
“I have a plan A, plan B and Plan C now thank you”

All students responded positively to the event and believed it was helpful to them in some way.

Praise was also forthcoming from the college and employee representatives:

“We were impressed and had a high level of interest in our courses.”

“I would be grateful if you could also pass on our thanks to the staff and students who attended.” “Everyone is incredibly welcoming and friendly at Hinchingbrooke and your student population are a credit to you. They are smart, respectful, polite and extremely helpful.”

The purpose of the event was to open the students’ eyes to different pathways in particular careers and to support their choices in the next steps they are to take; I feel this was effectively achieved.

Mrs Tanton-Smith
Hinchingbrooke School Alumni

Are you a past Hinchingbrooke Student? Then why not sign up on our growing Alumni network? This enables past students to just keep in touch and/or offer their time, experience, expertise and involvement, for the benefit of current students. You could offer extremely relevant and up to date careers and progression insights, as well as provide other opportunities to benefit the school; for example acting as sponsors or student mentors. We would love to hear from you!

Anyone wanting to learn more about ‘Future First’ should go to the following home page link: http://futurefirst.org.uk/ Better still, if you are, or know of, a past Hinchingbrooke student who would like to give something back to their old school (and more importantly, its students), please ‘sign up’ via the following link: https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former‐student‐search . Alternatively, go to the Hinchingbrooke School’s web site, and use the link to do so at the top of the home page.