Dear Parents

“They came, they saw, they conquered!” And so it was with our Year 9 debating team. Travelling to Nottingham to take part in the Midlands regional debating competition hosted by the university they squarely beat all the opposition and came home as regional champions. They also came home with 3 of the 5 prizes awarded to individual students who particularly impressed the judges, with Alexander Liney, Caitlin Everett and Louis Pearce each winning one of the coveted ‘Best Speaker’ awards. Louis also went on to win the award for ‘Best Overall Speaker’. So, here’s wishing them all the very best for the national final which will be held in Eton’s famous Jafar Hall this coming July. A fantastic achievement.

We eagerly await the handover of our new £2.4m Sports Hall, now fully equipped with solar panels on its roof to save us energy, and aptly named by the students the ‘New Energy’ Sports Hall. We are likely to be able to start using it from the end of May and we will have an official opening later in the summer term, at which there will be a chance to help us out financially by donating towards the cost of additional equipment. I am particularly keen to see some cricket nets added to the hall, as this is one of our national sports but is suffering in many schools and in decline. The nets however cost £20 000 and there are other things on the wish list less expensive. The details are yet to be worked out, but we are hoping to offer people the chance to buy a brick or a piece of paving, which can then carry the donor’s name. With lots of small donations we hope to raise a significant sum of money.
There was certainly plenty of energy on display at the recent ‘IndependAnce’ show – the seventh in the annual series – and one of the very best in my view. The range of ages and styles was truly inspirational, from those who danced for the very first time, to those in year 13 who have featured in this event many times over the years and whose dance skills are highly acclaimed. Congratulations to all who took part and special thanks to Miss Trewin and Miss Phillips for producing the very best dance I have ever seen in schools.

‘Loserville’ provided another highly spectacular and professional evening’s entertainment. Although I am a theatre goer and keen on musicals, this was not a show that I knew, but it quickly had me enthralled by the music and impressed by the quality of the production. One of the best things was that it involved over 200 students in one way or another and the cross departmental collaboration was a great example of team work at its best. Thank you to one and all (and there were many) but most especially for the leadership of Naomi Akielan (Drama) and Helen Nicholls (Music).

In these times of ever changing policies and priorities by the government, the governors are seeking to review and refresh their working practices and in particular to move towards a more skills based approach to governor recruitment. The responsibilities of governors are increasingly akin to a board of directors and, as such, it is important for us to have certain skill sets and expertise on which we can draw. For example, a governing body would be very well equipped to do the business if it had a lawyer, an accountant, an engineer, an HR specialist and possibly a PR consultant on its board. Rest assured we have some of these already, but we also have to plan for the future and consider how these skills can be replaced as they disappear and which, if any, are missing. To that end, if there are members of the parent body with such skills I would be very pleased to hear from you, even if for only an informal chat about how you might help us out, either as a governor or otherwise.

Our partnership with the Ivo School is proving beneficial, albeit early days, and we are seeking to progress the areas of mutual support and benefit by way of an action plan for next year that will see support and challenge for both schools. Staff training can be shared and our working practices in areas of both strength and weakness can benefit from wider discussion. The partnership is open to further expansion if any other schools wish to join us.

You may have seen recently the publication of the new education White Paper from the DfE in which all schools are to become academies and the direction of travel is most certainly for schools to work together in partnerships, many of which will be multi-academy trusts. We are well placed in this regard and there is much in the paper to be embraced as we move increasingly towards a school-led system, in charge of its own destiny with proper autonomy and accountability. In Cambridgeshire we are particularly looking forward to the inequities of funding to be ironed out in a new ‘fairer funding formula’ due to be implemented from 2017.

As our Year 11 and Year 13 students move towards the final push before their national exams, we wish them every success. Students in both year groups seem very focused and up for the challenge. Providing they maintain this commitment and ‘hit the tape running’ as it were, they should do themselves justice and fulfil their potential. Thank you to staff for providing the excellent additional ‘masterclasses’ and revision sessions in the lead up to the final examinations.

One rather pleasant ceremony that took place in the last week of term was the tree planting ceremony, which I hope will be featured in the local paper. The students in the Eco committee managed to secure a donation to the school of 50 saplings of traditional English tree varieties. Some of these were planted by the students and a number of invited guests and will surely serve to enhance our lovely grounds over the coming years. Thank you to Miss Toone, Mrs Eacott and the students for their endeavours in securing the trees and to all of our guests for sharing this moment with us.
If you want to witness some incredible musical talent, please turn on to BBC4 on 29th April and witness our very own Zoe Perkins competing in the brass final of the Young Musician of the Year competition, along with some other amazingly talented young players. The music department travelled down to Cardiff to support Zoe who looked stunning and played magnificently. Thank you Zoe for being truly inspirational and for being as committed and dedicated to making music in school as well for your many other outside commitments. Best of luck with your musical career.

As one, and in fact several, talented year 13 students prepare to leave us, it was particularly encouraging to see some of our talented younger musicians being given a change to star in the Easter Concert. This was a wonderful evening of diverse musical styles and talents from all year groups which gave a number of solo opportunities to our younger students. The evening opened with an extremely talented percussionist from Year 7 George Garnett as well as finishing with Josh Clarke drumming for the fusion band for the very first time as Head Boy.

Interviewing and selecting our new Head Boy and Head Girl is always a privilege and I would like to congratulate Josh Clarke and Katie Duly for winning through this year. Thank you too to our outgoing team so ably led by Will and Esme. You set the standard high and we wish you all the very best for your futures.

We are still awaiting the visit from Ofsted expected at some time this year. I very much hope it will be an opportunity to celebrate the many improvements we have secured in the last two years. Whilst we will never be complacent, I hope parents will support us in acknowledging the progress we are making. There is much to celebrate.

Finally as Easter is upon us and the summer holidays not far away, may I take this opportunity to remind you how important it is for students to have as high a rate of attendance as possible and not to succumb to taking days off unnecessarily. We are aiming for at least 97% attendance overall and we cannot condone any time taken in term time for family holidays.

On that note, may I wish you all a very peaceful and pleasant Easter Holiday. The school reopens on 11th April, which is a staff training day, and we will see our students return on Tuesday 12th for many of them, for their final run up to those important examinations in May and June.

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
Trees for the Future

Eco Committee Leader - Miss Toone

The Eco Committee have been hard at work this term on a range of important projects. The aim of this group, lead by Miss Toone is to improve the environment of our school whilst promoting key messages on healthier living and the preservation of our global environment. A key team of students from a range of year groups form the Eco Committee whilst an additional team of Eco Warriors work within all form groups. This term, an opportunity arose to plant new trees for the future of the school. A collection of dingatories, including the Mayor of Huntingdon (Cllr Bill Hensley) arrived on an overcast March afternoon to complete this important task. The below article has been produced by two of our proud Eco Committee members.

On the 21st of March around 1:30pm, most of the Eco Committee went to Hinchingbrooke House to plant saplings (baby trees). The trees were donated to us and we were so happy we were able to plant them because in years to come they will still be here, even after we have left the school!

All the students thought it would be a great idea to name the trees. William named his tree ‘Bill’ and Joseph from 7P2 named tree ‘Sophia The 1st’.

Chaldon from 7W1 says “the tree planting made me feel helpful because I felt that I was helping the world.” Olivia quotes that “the tree planting gave us an opportunity to meet the Mayor of Huntingdon and we planted new life into the world.”

This is the first of lots of big projects that Hinchingbrooke School’s Eco Committee are getting involved with.

We also run a recycling scheme where we collect in the mixed recycling every Wednesday from across the whole school. This is very important for the planet and means that we can reduce our waste that goes into the landfill site. We have recently put new recycling bins into the PAC (where we eat our lunch) and we are hoping to get more recycling done at lunchtimes to also reduce our waste that goes to the landfill as this is much better for the planet.

As well as all of this we recently ran a campaign called ‘Free Your Feet’, to encourage students to walk to school and this was a huge success across years 7 and 8 with winners receiving shopping vouchers. We have 3 projects in the pipeline which include a wildlife garden, a garden for students of the gateway school as well as a middle school quiet garden.

Watch this space for updates!

Robyn Ratcliffe and Amelia Peters 7W1
Lower School News

Year 7 - Mrs Tandy

Year 7 continue to work well and engage positively in all aspects of the school. Every student in Year 7 has now achieved their Hinchingbrooke Pin for earning one hundred 5s in lessons, with 205 Year 7s also achieving their Bronze ribbon (two hundred 5s) and 32 Year 7s achieving their Silver ribbon (three hundred 5s) which is a phenomenal achievement. As well as recognising success through awarding ‘5’s in lessons, staff can also use other numbers on the register to indicate less positive issues, such as homework not being handed in.

Looking at the figures for this term I am delighted to see that Year 7 students are receiving far fewer marks for lack of homework or equipment, which suggests students are becoming more organised and responsible.

In our Celebration Assembly this term we awarded certificates to the ‘Form Heroes’. These were the students in each form who earned the highest number of 5s this term. These were:

7C1 – Joy Boampong
7C2 – Willow Miles
7M1 – Ella Cheung
7M2 – Klaudia Luka
7P1 – Peter Davidson
7P2 – Mia Robinson
7V1 – Ben Hunter and Millie Fish
7V2 – Charlotte Hammond
7W1 – Charlotte Watson
7W2 – Alisha Wick

All of our ‘Stars of the Week’ were also entered in to this terms draw to win a pair of cinema tickets. Our winners for this term are Maciej Kwasniewski in M1, Charlotte Malone in M2, George Anderson in P1, Will Edwards in P1 and Harri Brown in P2. Well done to all of our Stars of the Week this term.

The Christmas Disco at the end of last term was a tremendous success with all attendees having a very enjoyable time. It was a great way of getting in to the festive spirit and of celebrating students’ first term at secondary school. We have a display in Lower School of all the photo booth pictures from the night as a fond reminder of a great evening.

This term some of the form reps and other Year 7 students have undertaken early visits to Primary Schools. This initiative was born out of the feedback provided by Year 7 students in the Transition Survey at the start of the year. Students accompanied me to visit Spaldwick and Brampton Primary schools whereby they led discussions with Year 6 students about life at Hinchingbrooke School. We will be carrying out our regular Summer term visits in June to speak further about the Transition process. In addition to this, the Form Reps have been focussing on ideas for improving everyday life at Hinchingbrooke, which has included influencing the whole-school ‘Theme of the Week’ posters and producing posters of their own, which are now on display around Lower School. It is fantastic to see the students demonstrating such great leadership skills and engaging whole-heartedly in Hinchingbrooke life.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to congratulate the students for continuing to impress us is so many and varied ways. I wish you a pleasant and restful Easter break.
Year 8 - Mrs Hodgson

Spring in the world of year 8

We have had another exciting term with year 8 with the vast majority making fantastic progress as evidenced by their great school reports published earlier. It is really good to see over 95% wearing their gold badges rewarded for 100 5s and about 75% with attached bronze ribbons shoeing they had achieved the 200 level! We now have over 30 students wearing a silver ribbon having amassed an amazing 300 5s. Plenty of delightful students making good decisions and we are pleased to report a definite decrease in the number of incidents that we deal with relating to social media and plenty of daily comments from teachers relating to their collective positive approach to learning. We now only very rarely have conversations these days about makeup and uniform infringements which is also good news!

We started the term with a fantastic trip for 50 students to the panto in Cambridge to see Jacob Johnson perform and have thoroughly enjoyed the various concerts, school production and dance shows that year 8 have had a high profile in! Our best assemblies are when the students perform and then take the lead and show us what they get up to in their time out of school apart from homework. There is a huge wealth of talent in year 8 and we look forward to catching up with their progress in all sorts of sports, musical events and even TV shows early next term!

We are very proud that the year 8s who took part in the public speaking inter house competition were recognised as been the best speakers out of all 5 year groups. We now have 25 students who gained their bike-ability level 3 and the 70 students who took part in a study skills day found the day enjoyable as well as informative.

The main focus for year 8 this term has obviously been related to the options process and we are really pleased that this seems to have gone very smoothly to date! Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported us in making this a reasonably enjoyable process and who came along to both the options evening and the year 8 evening. We appreciated the time taken to send the many compliments we have received over the last few week and it is always good to hear from our senior managers how well our students conducted themselves in their individual interviews. For 99% of our students to meet the deadline for completion of options forms is amazing and a reflection on the support that the students received from both home and their excellent tutors.

We are determined to enjoy the last term in KS3 and the form reps are planning an exciting event to celebrate the end of this stage!
Middle School News

Year 10 - Mr Williams

It has been a busy term for Year 10 who are currently undergoing their Year 10 exams before Easter. For many, this is their first experience of what a GCSE exam is like and students have been revising and preparing for the challenge diligently. This has not prevented Year 10 students from participating in a range of other activities, including contributing to the cast, chorus and band of this year’s show ‘Loserville’ (special mention to Harriet Mace in her speaking and singing role as ‘Samantha’). We have also had new performers during assemblies, including a piano piece by Yasmine Skinner, performed from memory. Success has also continued to happen in the sporting world, many of our Year 10 girls featured in the Hunts Post as part of the Stukeley Meadows girls under-15 football team. In the classroom, special mention to the mighty 10C2, who held the ‘Form of the Week’ trophy for a consecutive 6 weeks (a new record) before finally succumbing to 10V2. All in all, an exciting term, and there’s lots more to come!

Year 11 - Mr Milner

A Tribute

I have been fortunate to be their Head of Year since September 2013 and it was clear from the start that this was a year group with real personality. I can’t possibly condense all the funny and not so funny moments into this short tribute because there have been so many. What I can say is that there have certainly been some ups and downs in their time at Hinchingbrooke. However, what has been constant throughout is their sense of togetherness. The vast majority have grown up a huge amount during their time here and even those who haven’t are still genuinely good people! The students are fun-loving, polite, thoughtful, and even though their academic abilities vary they all respect one another and acknowledge their responsibilities as members of society. I am grateful to them for frequently making me proud and for occasionally testing me, these experiences have allowed me to develop as a professional and as a person. I am sure I have learnt as much from them as they have from me – so thank you Year 11.

As we now approach our final few weeks as a team, I am sure their emotions vary from day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute. My message to them is, as it always has been, to do themselves proud. I want them to spend the summer content that they have applied their best effort to all the challenges that await them. This will mean that when we meet again on August 25th, as they collect their results, there will be no regrets and I will simply be there to congratulate them and wish them well for the future.

Best of luck Year 11 and thank you for the memories.
House Identity - Montagu House

The History of the Montagu’s at Hinchingbrooke

Popular in the community and famous for the family’s vast gatherings the Montagu’s have even hosted visits from King Edward VII in the nineteen hundreds. Victor Montagu the 10th earl sold the house and worked in collaboration with the director of education to form our school, in the grounds of the famous Hinchingbrooke House. In terms of inspiration it was John Montagu, 4th Earl of sandwich who gave the world the sandwich.

House Update

Montagu continues to evolve as a House, providing students with opportunities in abundance. The House assemblies have been led by the House captains this year and we will be very sorry to see the outgoing House captains leave. Roberta Dennis, Isaac Oldwood and Mathew Pickering all have offers for next year at University, and although it will certainly be a loss to the House we wish them every success with their exams results in the summer. We begin interviewing for the new House captains this week and it looks set to be another very difficult decision with so many strong candidates being nominated. Watch this space.

Goodbye to Matt Pickering, Bobbie Dennis

Montagu have had the usual haul of Interhouse ups this year, winning the cross country, boys rugby, girls hockey, boys Handball, and the year 7 girls coming second to Cromwell in the girls dance by only one point. Beyond the sports field we have also won the year 10 science InterHouse, the Public Speaking and the VIth form University Challenge.

Not only did the VIth form team win the University Challenge, it was run and organised by a young lady from Montagu House in year 10. She researched all the questions and answers herself and ran a rather ‘Paxmanesque’ table proving that Montagu has the brains as well as the Braun. It’s this type of excellent ingenuity and excellence that Montagu House tries to develop.

Beyond the individual brilliance is an underlying team ethos. Everybody is included and challenged and the House Wins “with grace and loses with honour”.

In the next edition, we will focus on Cromwell House
Upper School News

Director of Sixth Form - Mr Fordham

We had an excellent Careers Event at the beginning of March. We had speakers from Anglia Ruskin and Bedford University, and ex-students, come into the Sixth Form to talk about why go to university, student funding and finances, the student experience and taking a gap year. We also had outside providers come in and run a session on the world of work. Hopefully students are now able to begin thinking constructively about their options for their next steps. This was followed in the evening by a Parents Information session explaining the processes of application to and funding for university.

Liz Hodgkinson, an ex-student, and now a nationally recognised journalist and author of over 50 books, did a talk on a career in journalism. Liz is published in a range of newspapers and magazines, and spoke about how one can turn the daily experiences of one’s life into readable materials. She also had, unusually, some good words to say about Rupert Murdoch. We have also enjoyed visits from Professor Eilis Ferran, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, and first ever female professor of Law. Professor Ferran spoke to a group of our most able students about aspiration. Simon Woodroffe, the founder of Yo Sushi, and a Dragon from the first series of Dragon’s Den, talked about his journey from school dropout to building a business empire, and we had Steve from Drugsline, who visits us each year and gives the most passionate and informed talks on the dangers of drugs that our students are ever likely to hear.

Congratulations to Josh Clarke and Katie Duly, our new Head Boy and Head Girl. They beat off considerable and impressive competition, and will make a superb team. The Senior Students’ Handover Meal happens in May, but our outgoing Head Girl and Head Boy, Esme Walters and Will Taylor, are already passing over the mantle. Our deepest thanks go to Esme and Will for the outstanding work they have done in the sixth Form, and for their wit, commitment, and warmth.
Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Mr Cooke - Vice Principal

We arrive at the Easter holidays, after another productive, busy and successful term. The second half of term was especially busy; as is always the case when we have to fit in everything that we normally do into less than five weeks. Hinchingbrooke School strives to offer so much more beyond the normal curriculum and exam grades and hopefully those students that you know at the school took up the opportunity to participate in the wide range of activities in some way.

There is a significant amount of activity that has been going on within all the departments in the Performance & Creativity Directorate (PE, Dance, Drama, Art, Music, DT, Food & Textiles). The School Calendar for the Spring term includes the regular features for the P & C Directorate: the School Production (this year ‘Loserville’), the annual ‘IndepenDANCE Show’, the Ski trip, the Music department’s ‘Easter Concert’, ‘Glastonbrooke Unplugged’, as well as many other events. The following pages will give you a flavour of what has been going on over the last term, I hope you enjoy reading about all that has occurred.

Please put Friday 29th April in your diary (7.30pm) as a time to watch on BBC one of our Year 13 student’s, Zoe Perkins, performance in the Young Musician of the Year competition. More details about this are in the pages that follow.

I hope you have a Happy Easter and a very enjoyable and relaxing break.

The Drama Department

Head of Drama - Mrs Akielan

Loserville School Production

In February, approximately 200 students collaborated in the production of 'Loserville'. The musical, written by James Bourne of ‘Busted’ fame, is the fictitious tail of the invention of the email in the 1970s. The story features the race between popular boy Eddie Arch and kindhearted geek Michael Dork to invent computer communications. The production brought together every subject from the directorate of 'Performance and Creativity' and was in the making since July last year! Students from across every year group came together in this light hearted and energetic musical performed over four nights to parents/carers, friends, family and the wider community. This was the last year for Head Boy, Will Taylor as well as the other Year 13 students in the cast who worked very hard to bring these characters to life!

Thank you for an amazing, feel good show!
Hunts School Sport Partnership

Mrs Ager

It has been a busy term for Hunts SSP with 150 school staff trained on our courses to support schools to teach inclusive high quality Physical Education and competitions to engage all pupils. Our subscription service has been supporting primary schools from across Hunts with PE Specialist working alongside teachers and giving them the skills, knowledge and confidence to teach PE, hold intra school competitions, intervention programmes to support children who are inactive, Team Building events and leadership opportunities in primary schools. Our Sports Science events have also been well received and we are looking forwards to the summer term and a wider variety of inclusive competitions.

Westfield Junior School Girls team take the cup for the second year running with Ramsey Junior School as close runners up. Girls’ football teams from across Hunts School sports Partnership took part in a tournament hosted at Abbey College and supported by the Hunts FA. It was great to see so many girls taking part supported by young leaders from Abbey College.

Schools from across the Hunts School Sports Partnership took part in the year 3 & 4 Key Steps

Gymnastics event at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club.

Numbers are growing each year for the Key Steps Gymnastics competition and it was great to see so many teams taking part. Congratulations to all of the schools who took part, the results were very close. Wheatfield’s Primary School won the event and will now represent Hunts at the Level 3 School Games on the 17 March. All participants were awarded certificates by Paul Hall MBE who is head coach at Huntingdon gym. Paul has coached double Olympic medallist Louis Smith, Dan Keating and many others at International level and has been instrumental in supporting Hunts SSP with hosting our Key Steps event at the Huntingdon gym with Adam Scott, Gymnastics Programme Manager. We are very grateful to the gym for their support and for allowing the pupils the opportunity to compete in such a great venue.

Hunts School Sports Partnership Leadership Academy

80 students from Hinchingbrooke School, Abbey College, Sawtry Community College and St Ivo School attended the Hunts School Sports Partnership Leadership Academy Launch at Hinchingbrooke House. The students have all committed to take active leadership roles within PE and School Sport in their schools and at events across Hunts SSP. The Leadership Academy is open to year 9 & 10 pupils and provides them with the opportunity to access subsidised sport courses. We are really excited to so many join our Leadership Academy and will be working with them to access some fantastic opportunities.
Funky Moves

The team have been introducing schools to new activities using “Funky Moves” an exciting new resource.

The technology driven equipment provides a range of games and training concepts for working both the body and the mind. Funky Moves is scientifically proven to enhance key motor and cognitive skills and adds even more fun into being active.

Children have had a fantastic time working with this innovative and fun active gaming system. “It was tricky when the lights flashed quickly as I had to keep watching all of them to see which one was coming next.’

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.

For more information from Hunts SSP please go to www.huntsssp.org
Contact Sue Ager, Partnership Manager on sa@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Tel: 01480 420503

The Food Technology

Department

Head of Food Technology - Mrs Crabtree

Last term 18 students and 2 teachers from China spent 2 weeks with us at Hinchingbrooke. They wanted to experience life in a European school and get a feel for the English way of life. As part of their introduction to British tradition Anne Crabtree invited them to come to the Food and Nutrition classrooms, with their Year 9 buddies, to prepare and serve their own afternoon tea. They made sandwiches, scones, cakes and sausage rolls all served with a nice cup of tea. The table cloths and tea pots were at the ready and the event was a great success. The students also had afternoon at a cafe in St Neots but felt the one they created at Hinchingbrooke was far better. On the way back to the airport the students had to evaluate their trip and Afternoon Tea at Hinchingbrooke came a close second to shopping on Oxford Street!
The Physical Education Department

Head of PE - Mr Turnbull

HBK SPRING SPORTS REPORT

HINCHINGBROOKE HERALD SPRING TERM 2016

Head of PE – Mr Turnball
The Dance Department

Head of Dance - Mrs Trewin

IndepenDance 7

At the time of writing this article, the Dance department are days away from ‘IndepenDance 7’; the annual school dance show. This venture attracts over 120 students, who are keen to showcase their exam dance work from their lessons and their club work from our extremely popular KS3 Dance Club. We are simply inundated with students motivated for Dance.

De’ath Stevens, Izzy Reuter, Maisy napier, Danielle Cowell, Emma Berrill, Olivia Nye and Jasmine Thompson. We also have a keen boys group who have a street dance piece in the show. The group are pictured with their choreographer, Nathaniel Impraim Jones.

If your son / daughter has missed being part of this year’s show, they can join us for rehearsals for ‘Picnic at the House’ dance club, where we create dances for our summer outdoor show. We will commence this in April.

A big thank you and well done to all those involved with Dance at HBK.

A huge thank you to the leaders who help to run this club with Mrs Trewin and Ms Phillips – namely: Aimee Pink, Angel Butler, Tegan Slowe, Lucy Jack, Julia Skalska, Harriet
The Music Department

Head of Music - Mr W. Cooke

Zoe Perkins – BBC Young Musician of the Year

This month a group of students and staff went to Cardiff to support Zoe in the next stage of the competition. Zoe played in the second half and did herself and Hinchingbrooke proud. Zoe performed with real maturity and flair. Unfortunately, Zoe did not make it through to the next round but she was amazing. A huge well done Zoe!

The programme will be televised on the BBC on Friday 29 April 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Design & Technology Department

Year 9 Project Work

Well done to DT Year 9 students who are doing brilliant work. You have all made a fantastic start to your GCSE courses. Below are examples of the clock projects in Resistant Materials and Calculators 2D and 3D sketches for Graphics.

Clock Projects

Calculator Projects
Regional Fencing Youth Championships

Caleb Dyne - Year 9 Student
(photos courtesy of Nathan Orbell Photography)

Caleb Dyne, aged 13 who attends Hinchingbrooke School recently entered the boys under 14 category of The Eastern Regional Youth Championship in Grays Essex.

Caleb was in a poule 2 of 6 and came 4th overall. After achieving points in his poule against opponents and getting two victories of 5 points in each Caleb was lucky to advance to the direct eliminations stage from being 5-1 down to winning 15-10. In the second direct elimination he came up against Milo Davidson from Cambridge swords who had a bye and met Caleb in the second round of the Elimination stage.

Caleb fought well against the number 1 seed of the under 14 s. The final score was 15-10. As parents we were so excited to see him go that far into the competition and are proud of his abilities. This was the first time Caleb had got through two elimination rounds. This left Caleb just missing out on a space in the last 9 in his group to go to Sheffield for a place in the championships. After just a years’ experience he is making steady progress and is making his name known in the competitive circuit. Caleb has shown after a year fabulous possibilities that he can show great possibilities for the future. Overall in the under 14s category Caleb came 14th out of 30 boys.

On the following day, Caleb entered another competition despite tiredness at his home club where he fences every Thursday. Caleb competed in St. Neots for his club Huntingdonshire Fencing Club where he competed in the mixed senior class even though he was just 13 years old. Caleb had a difficult poule up against seniors who had been fencing for much longer and medal winning men and women. Caleb gave a great account of himself even though up against some very experienced fencers. A wonderful performance bearing in mind the high standards of the competitors in his poule but he lost the direct eliminations to Jacque Portal, his fellow senior club member, 15-8. Even though up against this accomplished fencer he still managed to fight for the 8 points he achieved showing he wasn’t going out of the competition without a fight.

Below are the overall results of the competition that took part in Grays, Essex. Caleb is looking forward to enter more competitions that are coming up throughout the year. [http://bfaeastern.org/images/Results/ERYC16/U14BF.pdf](http://bfaeastern.org/images/Results/ERYC16/U14BF.pdf)
Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry

Vice Principal - Mr Walker

This has been another tremendously busy and successful time for the Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry. There have been a range of trips and activities taking place, to venues far and wide, and you will be able to read about some of these below. I am very grateful to all the staff who give up their time to plan, co-ordinate and deliver these experiences. They are always memorable for students, and form an interesting opportunity to extend learning.

As well as trips and extra-curricular activities, the Directorate continues to prepare students for the forthcoming examinations (public and internal) and recently we have seen a second set of trial exams for all students in Maths, and selected students in Science. Alongside this, the Science team have been running ISA sessions after school, and every department is engaged in providing support at lunchtime, after school and even in the holidays to ensure we can support Year 11, 12 and 13 students right up until the time they sit their public examinations. As ever, our thanks to all of the staff who give up their time so willingly to facilitate these sessions.

We are always looking for new opportunities to enhance the curriculum in our subjects (Business Studies, Computing, Maths and Science) – so if you work in a related field and feel that our students might benefit from a talk or workshop from you or a colleague then do please get in touch.

Mathematics Department

Head of Mathematics - Mr Bennett

Monday Maths Mentoring

The Maths department is very proud to tell you about our new mentoring initiative. After the success of the mentoring scheme running for Year 11s on Wednesdays and Thursdays, we wanted to push even harder to get students the grades that they deserve. Our mentoring scheme has been set up with the aim of targeting specific areas that students are struggling with. We have assessed the Year 11 mock results to see which students are struggling with which topics and holding revision sessions headed up by members of the Maths department.

Thus far, our Monday Maths mentoring scheme seems to be a success. We would like to thank the Year 11 students that have been taking part for coming with such a positive and motivated attitude and the members of the Maths department that have given their time to mentor our Year 11s.
Maths Trips 2016

The Maths department are running three trips this summer after the success of the trip to Bletchley Park last year. All trips are an opportunity to see maths working in the real world.

We will visit Woodgreen Animal Shelter with Year 7 students who find maths hard to see how much maths is involved in a simple everyday occurrence such as looking after a pet. It will obviously be on a much bigger scale than most would have experienced but the principles will be the same and should provide a friendly environment to practice some basic numeracy skills.

Middle ability Year 8 students will be offered the chance to visit the Bank of England Museum in London. They will have an opportunity to look around this small but informative museum and will take part in a workshop called ‘pounds and pence’, a look at the importance of the banking system in maintaining a stable economy.

We will again be inviting selected high achieving Year 9 students to visit Bletchley Park, the government’s code breaking centre during WWII and home of Alan Turing, Bill Tutte and Tommy Flowers. This is an opportunity to investigate the maths behind codes and ciphers and the historical importance of cracking the codes written by the Enigma machine and the effect it had on the course of the war.

It is hoped that these trips will mean that all students in Years 7-9 will be offered the chance to experience maths in a stimulating environment, promoting the subject’s importance and helping them to engage with their own learning.

The PMA at Hinchingbrooke School

A Student Perspective

This year, Hinchingbrooke School Maths students have been treated to a fantastic new online resource called the PiXL Maths App. The app comes to the school as just one of the vast array of resources provided by the PiXL network, which the school is closely linked with. The versatility of the PiXL Maths App allows its full use on all technology platforms and has proved a great tool to use whilst on the go, for example, to and from school. PiXL have broken the GCSE course down in to 156 skills and all can be tested and improved on using the app. After designing their own tests, students can not only gain immediate feedback on their performance, but they can watch ‘Therapy Videos’ linked to the areas they have not performed well in – immediate progress! Embedded in the app is a fantastic, dynamic, tracking chart which visually, and in full colour, highlights for students skills they have mastered and skills which need further work; students get a real sense of ‘where they are at’.
A School Perspective

So, how much has the PiXL Maths App changed the lives of students at Hinchingbrooke School? Well, not only have the students been using the bank of questions and videos built into the app: throughout the year students have been analysing their performances in written papers using the gap analysis tool. This features allows students to get question level analysis on their strengths and areas to develop for a test paper. The feedback from both students and staff has been extremely positive and helped refined the topics that are taught to students in future lessons to ensure progress.

Now, only 6 months on from the launch date, we can feed back some of the real success stories from use of the app.

Congratulations to Claudia Gyngell for being our current Maths App Master. Across the school community other students are also being challenged. Future Leaderboards are being displayed on the Maths Faculty notice board and every student is being given the chance to be the next PiXL Maths App Master!!

NSPCC National Number Day: Friday 5th February 2016

NSPCC Number Day is a national schools fundraising event for children and young people of all ages. Since it was launched in 2000, NSPCC Number Day has raised close to £2 million for our work with vulnerable children across the UK.

Hinchingbrooke School once again took part in this valuable and meaningful event for the third year running.

This year as a school we raised over £1321.

Besides raising money and awareness of the NSPCC we also wanted to engender the notion that every student can use their numeracy skills or their knowledge of numeracy to make a difference in other children’s lives and ultimately their own by using numeracy.

NSPCC Numeracy Awareness Assemblies:

Our build up to Number Day started in the week of the 25th January with a series of NSPCC Number Day Awareness assemblies to let our students know about the work of the NSPCC so that we can see how the money we raised and our knowledge of numeracy can make a difference in other children’s lives.

NSPCC Numeracy Form Activities:

In the week of Number Day on the 1st February, we had a series of form activities which were NSPCC Numeracy based which helped our children find out more information about the NSPCC and helped Numeracy becoming even more embedded and part of our curriculum and our community. The students played games like ‘Who wants to be a mathionairre’ and the ever popular ‘Blockbusters’.
Mathletics:

This year to help celebrate Number Day we had a Numeracy Inter-House Competition called ‘Mathletics.’

This involved entire year groups working together in their houses to see which house had the best Mathletes. It was a fantastic sight to see 300 children work on problems and try and beat the clock in the PAC.

The winning Houses with the best Mathletes were:
- **Year 7**: Montagu with 151 points
- **Year 8**: Wylton with 160 points
- **Year 9**: Pepys with 162 points
- **Year 10**: Cromwell with 159 points
- **Year 11**: Pepys with 267 points

Dress up for digits: Fancy dress Competition

On the 5th February we celebrated Number Day with a non-uniform day. But not just any non-uniform day.

Our students were encouraged to follow a theme which was ‘Dress up for digits’. Students came dressed up as numbers, ancient mathematicians and human calculators to name but a few.

As always the Hinchingbrooke Students did not disappoint and the following prizes were awarded:

**The two overall winners are:**
- Jess Nash in 8W1 who came as a human calculator and Mia Roberts in 7M1 who came as an Ancient Egyptian (Cleopatra).

Other outstanding efforts included:
- Eliot Stenning-White in 11P1 for his artistic Number top (The devil made me do it)
- Christopher Buckenham in 11P1 who came as Dr Who
- Grace Jeffrey in 7W for her self-styled Number Top
- Elijah Ohene in 7C2 for his ‘number jeans’
- Joe Grimbuldeston in 7C2 not sure what he was but a great outfit.
- Layona Smith and Keira Leighton in 7M2 who came in TUTUs! (Just funny)
- Isla Alice in 7C2 and Beth Kennedy in 7P2 who came as 118
- Alice Pollard in 7P2 for her number 7 top.
- Hailie Rainford in 7P2 who came as Goth Bride.

UKMT Primary Schools Team Maths Challenge – 22nd March 2016

On the morning of Tuesday 22 March 2016, Hinchingbrooke School was proud to welcome seven of our feeder primary schools to take part in the now annual Primary School Team Maths Challenge sponsored by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

This was the second year that we have hosted this challenge and judging from the success and feedback that we have received about the day, this team challenge is here to stay.

Each primary school had to select a team of their four top mathematicians. The day started with a few warm-up
questions just to warm up the muscle that they would need for the day - their brains. Once the participants were ‘warmed-up’ and fully stretched we were ready to go.

The schools competed against each other in a series of rounds which are designed to test their maths ability in ways that they would not have come across before; students are required to call upon all their numeracy skills, work together as a team and use a logical strategy to allow them to achieve as many points as possible for each round. The questions are designed to stimulate interest in a large number of pupils and they certainly didn’t disappoint.

**Group Round:**

The teams work together to answer 15 questions within 45 minutes. Here the teams were allowed to adopt their own strategy, like splitting the questions up amongst them or just working on each problem as a group one at a time.

**Crossnumber:**

Need we say more? Students had twenty minutes to complete the crossnumber using the clues open and across.

**Speed Test:**

Similar to the group round but now teams had to answer twenty questions in twenty minutes. As the name suggests, a test of speed!!!

**Logic Round:**

Each team was given one logic puzzle requiring 25 answers, and they were required to solve the question in the time allowed and write their answers on the sheet provided. The teams were expected to work as a team and how they organised themselves to answer the questions was left entirely up to them.

**Shuttle Round:**

This round is effectively a mini-relay where the teams had to split up into pairs. Each pair was given two questions with one pair getting questions 1 and 3 while the other pair received questions 2 and 4. Question 1 could be solved independently, but the other questions required the previous question’s answer to complete correctly. So in effect you needed the answer from question 1 to complete question 2. Then the correct answer from question 2 was required to answer question 3 and so on. If a pair was unable to complete a question they could go no further in the round. The shuttle round is the most ‘brutal’ with no mercy given.

**Make a number round:**

This was essentially just like count-down that you see on TV. The teams had two minutes to make a number from a given set of numbers by either adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing them. If they got the answer in under a minute bonus points were awarded.

**The Relay Round:**

This is by far the most popular round, and we had the participants charging around the library; getting their answers checked, passing new questions on to the next person in the relay.

It was a great way to end the day!

Hinchingbrooke School would like to thank each primary school for taking part and to each member of staff who accompanied each team. Without the accompanying member of staff, events like this - that our children get so much out of - would not be possible.

Congratulations to each primary school for giving 100% the entire day.

Congratulations to the following primaries who came in the top 3:

1. Brampton Primary School
2. Godmanchester Primary School
3. Spaldwick Primary School

Mr Hancock
Science Department

Head of Science - Mrs Alford

Biology Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

Year 9 Biologists had an amazing trip to Whipsnade Zoo on a cold February morning. Focusing on adaptation and survival they demonstrated a genuine interest in the subject and were enthusiastic despite the freezing temperatures. A talk on how giraffes have evolved their long necks was particularly interesting as was how zoos use genetic information to breed animals to ensure their species survive.

A highlight of the day was when the elephants were taken for a walk around the zoo and we were able to get up close and personal. The way they all held tails was so sweet!

The students were fantastic as were Miss Pamplin and Miss Patrick - thanks for all their help.

Mrs Olsen

Business Department

Head of Business - Mrs Beadles

ICAEW BASE Regional Business and Accounting Competition

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

On Thursday 17th March 5 students studying Business A level in Year 13 took part in the prestigious ICAEW BASE regional Business and Accounting competition at the Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge.

This involved competing against many other sixth forms and public schools from as far afield as Leicester in a public speaking event, after having analysed and interpreted information based on a fictional business. These five students included Matthew Pickering, Stephen Lutman, Teigan Harbour, Ross Puckey and Edward Sly. They were excellent in presentation and demonstrated good business acumen, and should be very proud of their achievements.

“Firstly, it was a fantastic effort from Team Business. We started the day off very brightly with a well thought out SWOT analysis, working well as a team whilst we did this. We felt as if we actually had a chance when the day started, being the only group not to need any input from their ‘mentor’ and completely blowing the other teams out of the water with the amount of points on the first task.

Furthermore, the next two tasks consisted of a new business proposition and to come up with a business strategy to increase revenue without sacrificing the values of the business. For this we split into two teams to tackle the brief.
Now I come to the presentation; what can I say but that we were robbed of second place! Even so it was a valiant effort from Team Business and we were miles better than 3 of the 4 teams in the final.

The day itself was good and certain team members thought it was a better use of ‘networking’ time to grab as many ‘freebies’ as possible and talk to various company representatives about possible work opportunities. Team Business showed great team work and a brilliant team dynamic.

Hinchingbrooke should be proud of Team Business and the effort we put in. It was an enjoyable day which we all took something from, even if that something was 18 pens, 5 pencils, a highlighter and multiple packets of biscuits.”

Matthew Pickering
Computing Department

Head of Computing - Mr Kilby

We have achieved and done so much in the Hinchingbrooke Computing department over the past term, with mock exams, coursework completion, GCSE exams and trips. Our Year 7 and 8 students have been working on developing their coding skills and creating their own computer games in both Kodu and Scratch programming environments. Years 9, 10 and 11 ICT students have been making great progress through their ECDL exams. Our GCSE computing students have been building up their programming skills in preparation for their coursework assignments as well as undertaking revision activities in preparation for their exams. Our sixth form students have been working hard to complete their coursework assignments in multimedia, databases and ICT in the workplace, as well as completing mock exams.

Disneyland Paris

In the February half term, we took 40 students to Disneyland Paris for a look at the use of ICT within the complex as well as the use of IT in the running of the Disney Corporation. The trip is a great opportunity for students to see the real world applications of IT and how it is used in so many different jobs and situations.

We made our way to the park by coach and ferry and arrived on the afternoon of the 17th February. Students quickly booked into hotel rooms and we made our way down to the Disney village to have a look around. Students met up for an hour lecture on the use of IT in the running of the Disney park and picked up lots of information that enabled them to complete their student work book tasks.

As we were staying on site in the Hotel Cheyenne complex, we were able to get into the park early. We got up early and made our way down to breakfast and then headed to the park for the day. The weather was a bit varied (Sun, Rain and Snow!), but students were able to get onto the rides and see the sights before meeting in the afternoon for a workshop on the use of IT in the running of the Disney corporation and other businesses. We were able to see the fireworks in the evening and then head for food back at Hotel Cheyenne.

Students were fantastic on this trip and we had no issues. The department would like to thank all of the students that attended the trip for their fantastic behaviour over the whole trip. A big thanks goes to the staff that gave up their time to run the trip (Ms Garner, Mr Grey and Mr Kilby)

Awards and prizes were handed out on the journey home to students who had worked particularly well over the trip and had produced some fantastic work. Prizes were given out for the most comprehensive homework, the most creative homework, the highest scoring homework. For the work completed on the trip, prizes were given out for the highest marked workbook, best notetaker and a prize for any students undertaking the additional team challenge task.
Raspberry Pi Birthday Bash
We took a minibus full of students from the Raspberry Pi club to the Raspberry Pi Birthday Bash at Cambridge Computer Labs on the 15th March. This was a great anniversary event to celebrate the launch of the small Raspberry Pi computer 4 years ago and to highlight the features of the newest incarnations of the Raspberry Pi computer (Raspberry Pi zero and Raspberry Pi 3).

There were a range of stalls selling and giving away products and students were able to attend a wide range of talks and workshops to develop their skills. There were also a range of displays showing what people had used the Raspberry Pi to do and the gadgets that they had produced.

All of the students enjoyed themselves and came away with lots of freebies and purchasing’s.

Gadget Show Live
We ran another successful trip to the Gadget Show Live event again this year in the Easter holidays. With a coach full of 45 students, we made our way over to the NEC Birmingham on the 31st March to have a look around the exhibits and stands showing the latest gadgets and technology. Students were also able to have a go on lots of stands to try out and learn about new devices.

We had tickets into the live super theatre show, where we were treated to an hour long live show from the Gadget Show presenters. The show incorporated tests, reviews and live performances from musicians and other celebs like Jamie Raven (BGT). Some students were also able to get a quick selfie at the end of the show with some of the presenters and celebs.

All of the students were well behaved and were a credit to the school. A big thank you to the staff that enabled the trip to take place (Mrs Ewing, Mr Larkin, Ms Garner, Miss Fisher and Mr Kilby).

Raspberry Pi club
The Raspberry Pi club has continued this year with students now developing a series of small robots that they will be able to construct and build to enter into our own Hinchingbrooke robot competition at the end of the summer term.

We also have a group building an arcade machine that will be based in the Computing department for students to use. It is it will be powered by a Raspberry Pi computer and contain a range of retro computer games for students to play at a small cost. The machine will be used to help raise money for charity.
Directorate of Global Citizenship

Vice Principal - Miss Nightingale

What a term! So much going on a usual with the various trips out from the different departments in the Global Citizenship Directorate. Geography as always have lead the way, although History have run some great trips, and there has been the Brain Day, run by the Social Sciences Department. Learning outside of the classroom is vitally important for our students, as applying their theory is what the real world is all about, aside from the key benefit of brining any subject to life.

I am particularly proud of all the literacy intervention we have put in place this year under the fantastic leadership of Miss Spikesley. There are huge numbers of Literacy Ambassadors from a range of year groups, who freely give up their time to support their peers. I had the pleasure of going along to a Friday Literacy session; the library was heaving. There were Year 10 and 11 students reading with Year 7s, all of whom had worked out what best motivates their partner. One pairing had realized they have a love of chess in common. This was used to great effect; the student had to read a page of text and explain its meaning before he was allowed to move his chess piece. The students’ response to this fantastic initiative is heart-warming – long may it last. In addition there were Sixth Form students working with the gifted and talented Year 11s, and the Year 9 debating team also found a small space to call their own, so they could receive coaching from Year 11 students. Aside from this students with the greatest need receive extra support in their English lessons by being taken out once a week to the special literacy area, and the re-teaching of phonics takes place with some students who then use the Fresh Start Programme. It is truly inspirational stuff which will make a huge difference, not just to literacy skills, but also confidence and for those coaching, the development of the leadership skills.

It’s been a difficult term in Modern Foreign Languages what with having to cover 2 long term absences. Fortunately at least one of these will come to an end when we welcome Mrs Nunez back on a phased return after Easter. Mrs Large, former Head of Department, has now left the school and so we have a languages supply teacher to fill in whilst we start the recruitment process for a talented new leader.

With the exam season almost upon us, all department in the directorate are busy preparing the students. There are lots of extra sessions for those with identified needs, in addition to the quality first teaching in the classroom. The English Department has set the bar high with 201 students completing their iGCSE English Language in November. Over 50% achieved an A* or A with a 95% pass rate – which is truly impressive. All other department have their sights set equally high, so we are looking forward to a brilliant set of results this summer.

We have much to look forward to in the final term of this academic year. In the meantime have a great Easter.
English Department

Head of English - Mrs Fullard

BBC School News Report Day 2016

Thursday 10th March saw another instalment of the BBC School News Report day. 12 students from Year 8-10 participated in the event, putting together a 15 minute broadcast of both national and local news ready for the 2pm tutorial session.

The day began with us trawling through several newspapers, scouring the latest top stories that we thought our HBK TV audience would enjoy. We then quickly split into different teams, writing scripts, interviewing staff and students and recording clips.

Over the course of the day we covered 3 main local stories: The EU debate, Sunday trading Laws and a heart-warming story about Binbim the Penguin. Our local news stories covered the Junior Doctors’ Strike in Cambridgeshire and flooding; as well as providing a weather report for the day.

We would like to thank all the students / staff who were happy to be interviewed. If you would like to get involved, HBK TV meets every Wednesday lunch time in Room 7 or catch up on the latest bulletin here:

http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/Default.asp?pid=266

We look forward to participating again next year.

Miss Neasham and the HBK TV Team.

Geography Department

Head of Geography - Mr Evans

Out and about with Geography…. #HBKGeogontour

Our Year 13 Geographers braved the cold to conduct the final investigation of their A’ level course. The day was spent collecting data along the River Kym which is required for their final exam in the summer. The day ended with Doug accepting his dare to go swimming at the final site…£20 well earned.
History Department

Head of History - Mr Leigh

The History Department’s Russia Trip, 2016

Having studied a century of Russian History, February half-term saw thirty-seven intrepid students and four staff set out on the History Department’s annual Russia Trip. Luckily we escaped the arctic conditions with temperatures averaging around minus 5 and dropping to minus 10 at night. Setting off at 4.30am the tour took us first to St. Petersburg to explore the wonders of the Tsarist capital city built by Peter the Great. We arrived to snow, but as the week passed the skies cleared and we enjoyed the resplendent architecture in bright sunshine. Activities included a night tour, a visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress, and an extensive tour of the Hermitage. Students saw the tombs of the Tsars, including Nicholas II and his murdered family, as well as the cells in which the revolutionaries were held; they explored the site of the assassination of Alexander II, now marked

by the Church of the Spilled Blood, and perused the many souvenirs on sale in the street markets. This year we even got to see the original blood-stained tunic of Alexander II, the very jacket he was wearing at his assassination.

An overnight train took us through the snow laden countryside to Moscow where we saw Lenin’s mausoleum in Red Square. Lenin was looking particularly waxy this year. Staying in the Hotel Cosmos opposite the space race monument gave us a real flavour of the bygone Soviet era as did the remarkable underground stations built as palaces of the proletariat. A particularly scary right-wing tour guide provided the students with much discussion, not least his view that Putin could deal with Europe in 10 minutes if he wished! The trip ended with a tour of the Kremlin and its wonderful Orthodox Churches. Putin was not in.
Hinchingbrooke History Association

Year 12 students Jasmin Hart, Katie Duly and Nathan Ball competed in the prestigious Historical Association public speaking competition to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt.

The students travelled to King’s College London to compete against students from schools across the country, arguing why certain battles such as Agincourt (1415), Waterloo (1815) and the Somme (1916) still resonate with us today. The students explored the impacts of these battles – considering factors such as lives lost and land gain to the influence on contemporary life with ABBA songs and Wellington boots – to consider what it means to be historically significant.

All students immensely enjoyed, and have now been inspired to continue with historical debates and public speaking in school.

Miss Fender

Film Studies Department

Head of Film Studies - Phil Lloyd

A flurry of creativity in Film Studies this term: February saw the return visit from Cambridge Filmmaker Ryd Cook who drilled into year 12 the importance of organisation and discipline on a shoot. Over the following weeks, the sound of snapping clapperboards and cries of ‘ACTION!’ could be heard all round the House as practical projects got under way. On one particular Thursday afternoon, it was possible to stumble across a murder in the library, a kidnap in the cellar and some slapstick in the Inner Hall.

After last year’s screening of student films in the Huntingdon Cineworld and success in the Cambridgeshire Young People’s Film Festival (first and third place!) the pressure is on for this year group to continue the high standard set by the current year 13s. Now in post-production, the completed films will soon be available at:

- http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/FilmStudies/Student_Films.html
Literacy

Head of Literacy - Miss Spikesley

Hinchingbrooke’s Big Literacy Launch

We are delighted that we have made great progress with our Literacy mission this term. By using our afternoon form times to support, stretch and challenge students across the school, we have begun to reach our goal to establish permanent in-house Literacy support and Literacy Stretch and Challenge groups for each year group. In a bid to personalise students’ experience of Literacy and to make it fun and engaging, we partnered all invited students with their own personal student mentor.

Since Christmas, the LRC has been buzzing with literary enthusiasm from our Literacy mentors who have worked hard to ensure that the launches have succeeded. Over 100 students volunteered to be a student mentor and meet with their partners regularly in order to develop their partners’ Literacy working on writing and reading skills.

After launching support groups for years 7-11 successfully last term, each year group filling the LRC on a different day of the week, we turned our attention to launching our Stretch and Challenge groups. We have been overwhelmed by the number of A Level Literature and Language students leading advanced book groups to indulge in their love of literature beyond the classroom.

In addition to these exciting new ventures, our Debating Society has also experienced success this term. Our veteran Year 11 debaters have done a fantastic job of training our newest Year 9 Debating team in preparation for a regional PIXL competition held at Nottingham University.

After a gruelling day’s debating, the team’s hard work paid off and they won the title of Regional Debating Champions. The team’s next event will be the National final at Eton this summer.

We are all extremely proud of our students in all of their different Literacy endeavours; we look forward to the LRC being as busy as ever this term.
Social Sciences Department

Head of Social Sciences - Mrs Howells

BRAIN DAY March 2nd 2016

Guy Sutton delivered, yet again, another fascinating and inspiring ‘Brain Day’ in Hinchingbrooke house. Below you can see students examining the brain of a sheep.

The day started with all psychology students attending the Introductory lecture on Forensic Psychology and Criminal Profiling and then the rest of the day students who had applied to attend the event from psychology and biology were treated to presentations including ‘Perspectives on Criminality’; what causes criminal behaviour. This included social and psychological theories as well as trait and biological models and epigenetics.

Then we looked at the dissected brain followed by ‘Issues in Mental Health’ and how we define abnormality.

During the afternoon we looked at the History and Classification of Mental Illness and then, lastly we studied ‘The Shattered Mind’ and depression and OCD in particular.

Guy was, as always, a mesmerising speaker and in feedback sheets students wrote ‘Fantastic day, why can’t we have more?’ and ‘I could listen to him for days, where does he get all his knowledge from’.

Some students would not let him go at the end of the day and he stayed behind to talk to them.

This day does not only give students information for their exams but also gives the wider picture of just one area where they can use their biological and psychological learning.
MFL Department

Head of MFL - Mrs Large

Middle School German Exchange

From 10th-17th December 2015 we took 18 Hinchingbrooke Students to our partner school Andrea Gymnasium in Herrenberg, in the South of Germany for the 28th time. Once again an enjoyable week was had by all. A late arrival on the Thursday evening, saw lots of sleepy faces disappear with welcoming German hosts who picked us up from the station, to have a well-deserved rest, ready for an action packed programme. Friday, after being shown our partner school and attending a whole day in lessons, the English students headed home with their exchange students for an individual weekend programme full of fun. Some destinations included the Black Forest, the Europapark, Switzerland and Lake Constance as well as the Ritter Sport Museum. Back to school on Monday, we met the mayor of Herrenberg in the afternoon and had a stroll around the beautiful town before we had a fantastic BBQ with ‘Stockbrot’ and other delicacies on the school grounds. On Tuesday we enjoyed a great day in Stuttgart where we discovered the traditional German Christmas Market and the impressive Porsche Museum as well as the city’s modern library. On Wednesday, we spent a relaxing day at the Fildorado Aqua Park and yet it was already time to say goodbye the next day.

It was lovely to see old friendships becoming even stronger and new friendships being made and so much fun being had.

Now the preparation begins for our German friends to visit us in Huntingdon in June this year. Many thanks to pupils, Mrs Moyes and our FLA Marten as well as parents for their support in making the exchange visit the success it was.

Miss Blume

Don Quijote visited HBK

More than 120 Students form Year 7 and 8 currently studying Spanish enjoyed a lively performance of “Don Quijote” by “Freshwater Theatre Company” on the 29th of January in the PAC.

Pupils learnt about the adventures of Don Quijote and his Squire Sancho Panza through the fields of Castilla La Mancha (Spain). Some students were brave enough to join in the play. It was a performance full of laughter and fun with plenty of opportunities to practise Spanish in a literary context.

Students enjoyed this interactive language experience where they developed their listening and speaking skills. The pupils came out enthused about the language and proud of themselves for having understood so much Spanish spoken language, and with a deeper understanding of the Spanish classic literature and culture.
Spotlight on Clubs

Hinchingbrooke 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!
**Personal Development (PD) Days**

**Miss Parker & Mr Winter**

So far this academic year, Hinchingbrooke has held three Personal Development days. The collapsed timetable days have allowed us to focus on three important and relevant issues in the wider world: a chance to link subjects and develop skills of resilience, empathy and reciprocity. What we love about these days is seeing the students working in a completely different way than usual, considering worldwide issues in a mature and impressive fashion. From Year 7 through to Year 13, our students have been engaging with and trying to solve problems that challenge and fox many world leaders!

**Equality Day**

In October, our students spent the day exploring issues of inequality in our society as a result of racism and sexism. Students discussed problems such as race riots and the gender pay gap. However, rather than end up moaning for the day we wanted our students to think about how to challenge these kinds of attitudes and prejudices. #ActNow was the slogan for the day as groups considered how social media could be used as a positive forum for creating change as opposed to a negative space to incite hatred. There were some very exciting ideas and stimulating discussions which both staff and students alike enjoyed.

**The EU Referendum: Hinchingbrooke Votes!**

In December, Hinchingbrooke students picked up a theme from last year’s PD Days when we looked at Politics (ahead of the General Election). This time our students paved the way, discussing and exploring the role of the European Union and its relevance to Britain. Students began by imagining a European Union led reaction to a viral disease: they looked at proposals for action and potential draft laws for European Union countries. These two afternoons culminated in a whole school vote on whether Britain should remain in or exit the EU. Please find the school results below!

| To remain in the EU: | 1214 |
| To leave the EU:     | 245  |
| Spoilt papers:       | 91   |

**An overwhelming majority!**

**Charity Day**

In January, the school explored ideas of charity – both the reasons why we value it but also how a charity can be successful. This incorporated examining viral marketing campaigns as inspiration for the students. With guidance from staff on marketing, viral campaigns, types of charity and budgeting, students spent the day in groups creating their own charities, marketing campaigns, products to sell and planning an annual fundraising event. Students thought big! We were really impressed by the considered, empathetic and often individual ideas that the students created. The end of the day gave students the opportunity to market their ideas to fellow peers and to show them what they had been up to.
Foundation Learning

Vocational Education Coordinator - Mrs Tanton-Smith

Foundation Learning is an intervention-based course aimed at raising progress within the vocational skills sector. This enables students to display their practical ability and gain an insight into the skills required for their Post 16 options and future employment.

The students currently in Year 10 are enjoying their courses and are being really successful. The Hair and Beauty students are completing modules on nail art, manicures, and facials. The Construction students are building tables, bird tables, as well as tiling and building walls.

The Art of Wearing Hats

By Helena Sheffield

Helena Sheffield, a former pupil at Hinchingbrooke School, has had her first book published at the age of 23.

Helena attended Brampton Primary School and then Hinchingbrooke School until she completed her A levels in English, History and Art at in 2010. She graduated from the University of Southampton with a degree in English Literature in 2013 and joined Harper Collins where she is now Digital Marketing Manager for the publisher’s Avon division. Her reputation for being a dedicated hat-wearer led to her being commissioned to write The Art of Wearing Hats, which has been illustrated by her aunt, Sian Tezel, a portrait painter and illustrator.

The Art of Wearing Hats was published by HarperCollins Publishers in February 2016 and is a pocket-sized gift book on how to wear hats every day; it offers friendly advice on hat-wearing to hat aficionados and novices alike.

The Art of Wearing Hats is available to buy at Waterstones bookshops or online, Amazon, Waitrose, WH Smith and The National Portrait Gallery.
One to One Private Tuition

LAMDA Prep

LAMDA exams are much like musical or dance grades but for acting, speaking and musical theatre. The added bonus is that because they are speech and drama based they are recognized by Schools, Colleges, Universities and employers. (With higher grades counting towards UCAS points). LAMDA training can help build confidence, improve acting and communication skills and is an obvious choice for any child/teen gifted in drama. Both the Acting and Verse & Prose exams require the students to learn and perform two pieces from memory and answer questions on those pieces.

One to one tuition includes:

- Voice and Speech techniques
- Script work using duologues, monologues, poems and LAMDA piece
- Acting Techniques

All students will have the option to be enters for a LAMDA exam appropriate to their age/ability in either Spring/Summer and or Winter when ready to do so.

Tuition Price:

Private tuition costs £30 per hour. £15 for half an hour or £10 for 20 minutes.

Small group tuition costs £10 for half an hour or £6.50 for 20 minutes.

Payment is due in advance at start of each half term.

LAMDA Exam Costs

LAMDA exams like all graded exams do have entrance fees, which are payable by the student. For full details visit www.lamda.org.uk/exams/index.htm

Points towards UCAS: www.lamda.org.uk/exams/ucas.htm

What is LAMDA?

LAMDA examinations are run by a London Drama School (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) throughout the country and are designed to equip candidates with a range of skills that will serve them throughout life. They are the equivalent of musical grades or ballet grades but for speech and drama but have more weight as the higher levels count towards UCAS.

LAMDA Exam Areas

- Acting
- Speaking Verse and Prose
- Public Speaking
- Reading for Performance

Who is LAMDA for?

We recommend LAMDA for students who:

- Struggle with confidence
- Need to work on their English
- Have a gift for drama
- Are keen actors who want to polish their performance skills
- Are less likely to gain high grades in mainstream subjects and want to gain UCAS points
- Improve presentation skills and gain confidence at speaking in public
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.