Letter from the Principal
Andrew Goulding

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE – FULFILLING POTENTIAL

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to introduce to you our new publication the ‘HINCHINGBROOKE HERALD’.

It is our aim to produce this once a term and it has been organised by School and Directorate to reflect our new structure. Each of the 3 Schools and 4 Directorates has contributed news articles and pictures, which aim to celebrate their achievements and share with you their highlights from the term. If you are interested in a particular aspect of the school it should be easy to scroll through to find it and, if you have time to read all of it, you should get a good overview of what has happened in the whole school.

As the HINCHINGBROOKE HERALD develops we hope there will be even more contributions from students as well as staff, and you will see that the final word has been given to the students with the contribution from ‘Student Voice’.

We have plans to develop student input even further and are currently discussing how we might set up Lower School, Middle School and Upper School councils to help drive improvements that really make a difference to students at Hinchingbrooke. This idea will also offer an opportunity for students to experience first-hand how committee structures work and give them some insight into representation, delegation and democracy - a lesson in active citizenship.

The optional school uniform, requested last year by students, and now in Year 11, has really made a positive impact and the students look very smart indeed, carrying the name of Hinchingbrooke with pride. I would like to see this rolled out to Middle School as a whole and we are discussing other ways too, in which the transition from Lower School to Middle School can be seen as allowing more privileges as the students show greater maturity.

Next September we are likely to introduce a split lunch time. Although we have a high quality dining facility and offer good value and high quality food, it is simply too small to accommodate all of the students. By splitting lunch times in some way, more students will be able to access this and the service should be more efficient – all in all a much better dining experience for everyone.

I have just returned from a wonderful trip to King’s College Cambridge for their school’s Christmas carol service. This delightful occasion in such a glorious setting helped to remind me that, amongst the festive and family fun this Christmas, there is a meaning behind all of the celebrations and festivities. Have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

Photo: A Level Dance Students
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates
Autumn Term Closes - Friday 20 December
Spring Term Opens - Monday 6 January
Half Term - 17 – 21 February
Spring Term Closes - Friday 4 April
Staff Training Day 22 April
Summer Term Opens - Wednesday 23 April

Parents’ Evenings
Year 11 14 January
Year 8 5 February
Year 9 25 February

Events
450th Fundraising Car Boot Fair – 19 January
Personal Development Day – 14 January
Year 8 Preferences Evening – 29 January
Year 9 Options Evening – 4 February
Oliver Performances – 11-13 February
Year 12 Careers Day – 3 March

Car Boot Fair - Sunday, 19th January from 10am-1pm. Charges are; £8 per car, £12 per van, £1 entry for buyers. Sellers from 9am.

Messages for Parents/Carers

Important - Safe Cycling Information

During the winter months when the evenings and mornings become much darker and surfaces become more slippery we would like to ask parents and carers to remind students about the need to cycle safely to and from school.

We have also been advised by Cambridgeshire Police and members of the public about some very poor standards of cycling and risky cycling behaviour by some students. We are particularly concerned about the dangers this presents for them.

Please can you check that your child’s bike is roadworthy and that it has; lights both front and back; working brakes; a bell and reflectors. Cyclists should wear helmets to protect them and high visibility clothing or reflectors to be sure that other road users can see them in the dark.

Students should be reminded:-
• Do not wear headphones whilst cycling
• Do not ride across road junctions
• Look behind you before you pull out
• Always obey the traffic lights and signs
• Do not cycle alongside other cyclists
• Be courteous to other road users
• Don’t take unnecessary chances!!

Please have this very important conversation with your child to help ensure their safety while cycling.

Thank you for your help.

Your Views and Questions

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions about developments in school. If you have any suggestions or ideas for improvements to the way school operates we would be pleased to receive them. Whilst we cannot promise to act on all the suggestions we receive they will help inform our future development plans.

In future we plan to use this section of the newsletter each term to print some parental questions and answers from staff in school.

If you have a particular question that you would like an answer to, please send an email titled Hinchingbrooke Herald Question along with your name and contact details and we will do our best to respond to your query and those of general interest we will publish in this section next term:-
communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Lower School News - Years 7 & 8

Head of Lower School - Kate Tandy

CAT4 Tests
All year 7 students have now completed the CAT4 (Cognitive Ability tests). These measure students’ ability across a wide range of areas such as spatial, non-verbal, quantitative and verbal ability. All students will soon receive targets for each of their subjects, and for year 7, these targets will be based on the results of these tests. Both parents and students will be given a copy of these so that students can be supported both at school and at home in achieving (or even better, exceeding!) these end of year targets.

New Format First Day for Year 7
Year 7 had a new innovative first day at school in September. Students had the school site to themselves, without the usual large numbers of students, so they were able to get to know their way round. As well as all the usual first-day activities of having their photo taken and meeting their form group, students completed new interactive activities, including a school site quiz put together by year 8 students and an inter-house activity that involved creating aerial photographs to represent their school house. Students were very positive about their first day and felt it helped make a smooth start to their secondary school experience.

Star of the Week Draw
Each week form groups and tutors nominate candidates for their ‘Star of the Week’, which are based on all forms of success both inside and outside school. These students are congratulated in the weekly assembly and have their ‘star’ displayed during that week on one of the lower school noticeboards. At the end of each half term, all these stars are placed into a draw to win a free Cinema ticket. The following students won tickets last half term:

- Apoorva Singh LSC3
- Sofija Dula LSC4
- Alex Kontos LSM3
- Emma Leslie LSM4
- Adam Butterfield LSP1
- Matilda Eardley LSV1
- Leopard Bragg LSV2
- Ben Reed LSV2
- Millie Warne LSW2
- Phoebe Ward LSW4

Congratulations to these students and indeed to all of our Stars of the Week from last half term. Keep up the great work!

School House Logos
- Green - Cromwell
- Yellow - Montagu
- Blue - Pepys
- Red - Vesey
- Purple - Wylton

Meet the Tutors Evening
Many thanks to all of those parents of year 7 students who attended this event back in October. This is always a great opportunity for parents to establish contact with their child’s tutor and makes subsequent contact and communication much easier and more productive. The evening was a great success and we had very positive feedback from both parents and tutors.
Lower School Celebration Assembly

Last half term ended with our first Lower School Celebration Assembly where a selection of students were invited to attend a celebration of their achievements for that half term. The criteria for being invited to this assembly will change each half term allowing us to celebrate the full range of successes in years 7 and 8 across the year.

The theme for last half term assembly was 'making a positive start' which entailed inviting all of our Stars of the Week and those year 7 students who had received an excellent first term report. In addition, we invited all those students who had put themselves forward to be Form Reps, Sports Reps and Charity Reps in order to present them with their badges and to congratulate them for taking on a lead role within the form group.

We also presented some special awards to a few individuals; Yasmine Skinner who played the Bosendorfer grand piano for around 700 parents at the Year 6 Open Evening and to Jack Goodway and Maddi Pell who gave a superb speech at this same event.

Well done to all those students whose success we celebrated and we look forward to welcoming others at future assemblies as we continue to encourage all of lower school to be the very best they can in whatever they do.

Streetwise and ‘Love your Stuff’ Assemblies

Last half term, the Lower School students were very lucky to have been able to participate in an assembly delivered by ‘pop-up’ drama companies.

The year 7 ‘Streetwise’ assembly encouraged students to ensure that they pay attention to road safety when travelling to and from school, as well as when cycling through towns. Students were able to watch short drama presentations which illustrated the dangers of not using roads safely.

The year 8 assembly was based on ‘loving your stuff’ and students learnt about how to recycle efficiently and innovatively. They were also encouraged to take part in a national recycling day. Students’ feedback from these assemblies was very positive and we hope that these important messages remain with students so that they can be positive role models to others in the school.

Meet the Lower School Team
Middle School News
Head of Middle School - Jackie Hodgson

Year 9
By Mr Milner – Head of Year 9

The start of Year 9 has been jam packed with a huge array of fantastic curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities, in which a number of students have excelled. The year started with the introduction of a new reward system based on behaviour in lessons. The intention of this system has been to recognise all students who exceed expectations, and there are certainly a large number in Year 9. The “Student of the Week” from each form is awarded to the student who has gained the largest number of positive (5) grades on the register. A total of 43 students have actually gained at least 50 positive grades in lessons, meaning they have reached the Bronze award level, which is amazing in only 7 full weeks.

26th September marked the inaugural Personal Development Day with the theme of ‘Determination’. In Year 9 students threw themselves (literally at times) into the challenge entitled ‘The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Zombies!’ They experienced a huge range of mental and physical challenges, which required them to be determined and to demonstrate both teamwork and leadership.

The overall theme at the start of Year 9 has been ‘Pride’. As a team we are looking to instil in students a sense of pride in themselves, their families, their peers, and the school. In order to do this we are celebrating success in every assembly and at any other opportunity. Fortunately, this has been very straightforward so far this year, because the students are exceeding expectations in so many areas, ranging from the classroom to various sporting arenas.

Year 10
By Mr Dewar – Head of Year 10

It has been an interesting time for Year 10- they have started their GCSE courses with some students embarking on brand new subjects such as BTEC Engineering, BTEC Business and Astronomy GCSE, whilst others continue to study old favourites. Some students have broken new ground by splitting their lesson time between school and Huntingdon Regional College and we can’t forget that some have fought in the “Hunger Games” as part of the Personal Development Day!

The sports teams have continued to do very well with the rugby team putting in a recent 55-0 win against the Thomas Deacon Academy, setting the standard that all others have to follow!

There are also more exciting times to come. Interviews have taken place for students participating in the brand new leadership project which involves a two week visit to India. The goals of the trip are to develop students’ cultural awareness and to educate students in a new and exciting environment. With that in mind, the team will be working in the local community in Delhi. Students are also visiting Cambridge University to see what University life is like and to begin the long process of considering life after school. Students are also preparing for their biggest challenge; 2 weeks of work experience in 2014. The autumn term has been busy- the spring term promises to be even busier!
Year 11
By Mr Pape – Head of Year 11

This has been an exciting term for Year 11 in this all important year. As students work towards their GCSE success in the summer they have been presented with lots of new opportunities and lots of change.

Mr Pape and Mrs Woolhouse, Director of the Prefect Team, appointed a group of 25 students from the 94 who applied for the Prefect Team. The impact of the new prefects has already been noticed; they work regularly in lower school form groups supporting tutors and assist at parents' and open evenings. The prefects have also led the changes in uniform for Year 11, choosing to wear the new optional uniform of black jackets, white shirts and ties, and many other Year 11 students have also opted to wear this uniform on a daily basis.

Assisting Mr Pape and overseeing Year 11 is Student Support Officer Miss Winter who joins us from Witchford Village College. Miss Winter forms part of the new look support structure to help guide, assist and support students through this important year.

On Thursday 26th September, all students undertook a groundbreaking Personal Development day at Hinchingbrooke. The Year 11 theme was ‘Castaway’, with activities designed to take pupils outside their comfort zone, challenging them both physically and mentally and helping to develop the key support network of their form group. Activities included fire building, climbing, archery and building a vision of the future (out of lego!). Pupils threw themselves into the role of being “castaway” with many wearing fancy dress, helping to ensure that the day was a success.

As we move forward towards the new year, there are many Year 11 students being recognised for their sporting success. Owain Collard, Matt Pickering, Ryan Adair, Tony Duchars and Matt Allen have excelled in rugby, archery, boxing, Gymnastics and football respectively. Kelly Marshall, Megan Gaughan and Abbie Mills for Dance, Netball & Triathlon.

On the Performing Arts front we saw a number of Year 11s star in the wonderful production of Bugsy Malone, including Will Taylor as Bugsy, Jodie Snelling as Blousie Brown, Ed Mitchell as Dandy Dan and Liam McLeary as Fat Sam. We look forward to many pupils now being involved in the production of Oliver in February 2014.

Outside school, Julia Ekblom and Natasha Sice have been recognised nationally for their great work within the Guiding movement. We are really proud of all of our students' achievements and love hearing about their successes.

The new “Lesson Monitor” system introduced this year has allowed us to identify which students consistently achieve in lessons by rewarding them with a “5” on the register. Mrs Trewin’s form - 11C2- currently lead the way having accrued the highest number of 5’s as a form group during the last half term.

Some Year 11 students have also applied for places on the forthcoming trip to India in 2014. Whilst others are taking part in “Team Up”, a mentoring project run in conjunction with Cambridge University undergraduates.

The Information Advice and Guidance team, Mr Bennett, Mrs Tanton-Smith and Mrs Milner will be supporting students to make their post-16 study choices. Students will complete an online application (OLAP) form. A number of students also attended the World Skills Event held at the National Exhibition Centre (Birmingham) in November where they looked at possible careers choices.

The future is bright for Year 11 with mock exams now at an end and we look forward to them achieving great examination results next summer, fulfilling their potential and leaving Year 11 ready to be successful in the next stage of their lives.
Upper School News

Director - John Norris

After winning the award for Outstanding Team of the Year - Eastern Region, The Sixth Form Team were very excited to be invited to the national final of the Pearson Teaching Awards on Sunday 20th October. The evening was hosted by Claire Balding and each award was handed out by a different person including; Ronnie Corbett, Sir Terry Wogan, Helen Lederer, Steve Backshall, Kate Garraway, Esther Rantzen, Suzanne Shaw, and Dame Doreen Lawrence.

The night ended with an after dinner talk by Reeta Chakrabarti. The ceremony was shown on BBC2 on 27 October. We didn't win the national award, but we had a great time!

Sixth Form Enrichment Programme

We have launched our first year of enrichment for Sixth Form on Wednesday afternoons. This allows students the freedom to explore their own interests through clubs, sports or volunteering. The programme offers students a core of Lifestyle Choice events throughout the year on varied and sometimes challenging subjects. In the first term already we have had outside speakers talking to students about a wide variety of subjects including the National Citizenship Service, apprenticeships, student finance, volunteering and ‘Drive to Arrive’ - an initiative to teach young people about safer driving.

The Blood Donation service generated a high level of interest with students keen to sign up and donate! Professor Freeland from the Faraday Institute, Cambridge, came in to give a talk posing the question ‘Will life on other planets share our genetic code?’ which both students and staff found fascinating.

Clubs and societies have also been gathering momentum with students taking part in volunteering, sporting activities and clubs such as golf, music and debating.

New ideas for clubs are being suggested all the time - we may even have a Japanese club running soon for those interested in learning more about Japanese language and culture.
Parents’ Information Evening
The Parent information evening held at the beginning of term was a great opportunity for the Sixth Form Team to meet with parents and for parents to learn a little more about the Upper School, the role of sixth form tutors and expectations of students. The Open Evening at the beginning of December provided an opportunity for next year’s applicants to meet the team and find out more about the courses on offer. There is a Presentation Evening on 17th December to celebrate the achievements of our student leavers in 2013.

New “E-Tutor” System

This year the Sixth Form have introduced ‘e-Tutor’ – a new system where tutors can record, track and review progress for each individual student. Teaching staff can easily inform the tutor of any concerns they have about a student, and the tutor can quickly identify strengths or difficulties, whether these are confined to one subject or are occurring across subjects. It is already proving to be a really useful tool for tutors in supporting their students.

2014 Oxbridge Applications

This year we have 9 students applying to Oxbridge. They have had help with preparation from the school and also from admissions tutors from Oxford. The interview period is now underway and we wish them all every success!

Remembrance Day

During a very moving Remembrance Day service, Sixth Form students read out the names and details of former Hinchingbrooke students from a roll of honour which hangs in the entrance hall to Hinchingbrooke House and commemorates the school’s “old boys” who had fallen in the two world wars. This year sixth former Lucy Felce gave a reading and the “Last Post” was played by Zoe Perkins, a year 11 student, to mark the period of silence. The sound of the trumpet echoed through the halls of the House, adding a real poignancy to the ceremony which was led by the Principal.
Comenius Project Conference Report

Thursday the 24th of October saw Hinchingbrooke Academy hosting an exciting European youth conference as part of the EU’s ‘Comenius Project’. This ongoing project involves our own school as well as neighbouring Spring Common School working with schools from Belgium, Cyprus, Slovakia and Poland. The conference, the first event of the partnership, was based around the broad theme of equality within the EU with some focus on the role of mass media.

The day began with speeches from Mr. Goulding and Mrs. Taylor, the respective Heads of Hinchingbrooke and Spring Common schools. However, the day mainly centred around two workshops: one on disabilities and another on race and language. The students were divided into two groups with the schools being mixed allowing for plenty of inter-cultural dialogue. The disabilities session was run by Mrs Taylor, the Head of Spring Common and was eye-opening for all who took part. Many commented on how it helped them to see life from a different angle and all were inspired by a vision of a fairer society with less barriers and the result of this session was the formulation of numerous practical ideas and plans to create such a society. The second session was certainly more divisive and fuelled a lot of debate as students questioned racial stereotypes, the reliability of media and whether it was ‘acceptable’ and if so in what way to use words such as mixed-race, gay, Taliban etc. In the case of the latter, we learned that ‘Taliban’ is literally Arabic for ‘students’, a perfectly harmless word if used in the right way. In any case, throughout the sessions all of the students regardless of race and nationality shared the common goal of shaping a more equal society and the discussions were enjoyed by all.

After both groups had done each session and had had lunch, the Hinchingbrooke representatives took the chance to give the guests a tour of the school, which was much admired. The visitors were particularly in awe of Hinchingbrooke House and they were charmed too by the grounds; luckily it had been a bright and sunny day. Some groups even managed to stumble across some reptiles in the PAC as there happened to be a year 11 careers event where the College of Animal Welfare had set up a stall! So they came away with quite an interesting experience indeed.

The day ended with a final session bringing all of our ideas together as a group. We also discussed within our own schools how we would move forward from the conference. Each school then resolved to create an equalities charter and to raise its profile once made and seek to implement it as much as possible.

Before departing, the visiting students and teachers were very kind in giving warm thanks to the Hinchingbrooke sixth formers. The teachers particularly commended us all for taking lead roles in shaping discussions (in some cases, turning them into heated debates!) and feeding back. The Head of Spring Common, Mrs Taylor even said that we “made the day”. For our part, we all enjoyed the day despite not quite knowing what to expect and strongly hope to continue working on this project, both with the other schools and within our own.

Written by Tooba Khokar SF6

To find out more about Hinchingbrooke Sixth Form please visit the school website:-
http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=6th+Form&pid=12
This Autumn Term has proved to be a very busy one for all the departments in the Performance and Creativity Directorate (Art, Design & Technology, Drama, Food & Textiles, Music, PE and Dance). In addition to lessons there have been Art and Drama trips, sports fixtures, school production rehearsals and much more.

As a school we are very proud of many students' fantastic achievements, details of which are on the following pages. It is wonderful to read of these students 'inspiring excellence and fulfilling their potential', which is our school mission.

There are so many opportunities on offer, in addition to lessons, for students to develop their intellectual, creative, physical and emotional capabilities. There are too many to list here so please check the website to see what is available and to ensure that your child is making the most of the experiences available to Hinchingbrooke students. www.hinchingbrookeschool.net

http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Timetable&pid=252 for the extra-curricular timetable.

On the 12th of December our students were well prepared to “Ready, Steady, Bake!” when we hosted the Huntingdon heats of the ‘Young Chef of the Year’ competition. We will also be hosting the regional finals in January. Our Year 10 and 11 catering students who entered made us very proud. Jazz Butler and Josh Tibbs, both in Year 9, came 1st and 2nd respectively and Jess Wilson in Year 11 came 3rd.

With the festive season just about to begin, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and would encourage you to join us at the Christmas Concert on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Also, please put the dates of the ‘Oliver’ production on 11-13 February into your diaries. It has all the markings of being another superb quality Hinchingbrooke production.
Open Golf Championship at Muirfield

Dominic and Patrick Forshaw visited the 143rd Open Golf Championships in Muirfield, Scotland in July this year, walking alongside and learning from top golfers from around the world.

They were guests of the event’s organisers - the Royal & Ancient (R&A) and were given privileged access to the media centre, home to 100’s of journalists and broadcasters from around the world. The picture shows them in the winners broadcast interview room, a position they hope to replicate for real within the next 20 years!

Both boys have been golfers for about 3 years and hold official handicaps at Brampton Golf Club where they are regular members of the successful junior team (along with other boys from the school).

Patrick won the Brampton Junior Plate in 2012 and, in September this year, Dominic achieved the best net score over 36 holes in the Brampton Junior Championships (Patrick came 2nd). Both boys are coached by Darren Scholes who is the leading PGA professional at the John Letters Golf Academy.

They also receive regular advice and guidance from their grandparents who are Men’s and Lady’s captains at Bradford Golf Club.

Their golfing ambition is to continue to improve their golfing skills, play to a high standard and hopefully one day play in an Open Championship!

Hinchingbrooke Piranhas

Mia Leech, Jess Mansfield and William Steel

I wanted to bring to your attention the recent successes of Hinchingbrooke students, who are swimmers at Huntingdon Piranhas. This often under-reported sport takes serious dedication and I know these young people do not shout about their achievements.

Jess Mansfield, 12, who trains at both Huntingdon and City of Peterborough won her 200 metre individual medley final at City of Coventry recently by an astonishing 19 seconds for a truly extraordinary time. The time would have got her in the final of the sixteen year old boys! Jess was nationally ranked as number 1 for 50m freestyle this year for a stunning 28.81 second sprint.

Will Steel, 11, progressed to Hinchingbrooke this term and is working very hard in the pool. He is showing real promise and has won silver in his age group, a significant improvement in a twelve month period.

Other school swimmers are Emma Leslie, 12, who has won silver in backstroke, following her County Championship win in the same stroke, Poppy Leech, 13, who swam straight to the finals despite being in rehab for her broken ankle, Amy Leslie, 14 and Zoe Leech, 15,

The other swimmer in the photo is Mia Leech, 10, younger sister of Zoe and Poppy, who won her age group easily and who progresses to Hinchingbrooke next year. Like Poppy and Jess, she swims at Huntingdon and City of Peterborough and is ranked in the top ten in the UK. Huntingdon Piranhas train at One Leisure, St Peter’s Road and are always keen to trial any young swimmers who may be interested in the sport of swimming.

Richard Leech - Team Manager, Huntingdon Piranhas

Football Tournament Report

by Josh Batten, Year 7

The Year 7 tournament was held at Great Houghton on 2 October 2013. We played Goldington first. We started off strongly trying to go forward really well. The boys were battling hard and being brave and strong in the tackles. The first match ended as a 0-0 draw. In our second game against Maggy B we tried to push forward then Jamie had a couple of shots which were pushed wide by the keeper. Then suddenly Jamie lofted the ball into the air and Cameron scored with a nice header. After that Casey scored a nice goal with his left foot. The second match ended 2-1 to Hinchingbrooke.

Our third match was against Great Houghton. Suddenly Assheton scores a goal. Then straight after, they scored. Alex scored a good goal followed by Cameron playing a good through ball to Jamie which led to another. Then a few minutes afterwards Alex scored a great goal. The score so far was 4-1 but Assheton scored another and the match ended 5-1 to us. In our fourth game against Harold Priory we got an early start but no goal. Then they score. But straight after we kick off we scored to level it up at 1-1 and now for penalties. Unfortunately we missed and they scored and it was all over. Harold Priory beat us.

Our third match was against Great Houghton. Suddenly Assheton scores a goal. Then straight after, they scored. Alex scored a good goal followed by Cameron playing a good through ball to Jamie which led to another. Then a few minutes afterwards Alex scored a great goal. The score so far was 4-1 but Assheton scored another and the match ended 5-1 to us. In our fourth game against Harold Priory we got an early start but no goal. Then they score. But straight after we kick off we scored to level it up at 1-1 and now for penalties. Unfortunately we missed and they scored and it was all over. Harold Priory beat us.

Our fifth game was against Quintin House. We had a couple of good chances but no goal. Then Lawrence scored a brilliant goal and there was a good through ball by Jamie. And then an own goal to us. It was all over. A 2-0 win gave us third place in the tournament.
Staggering Our Way to Victory  
by Ella Pengelly - Year 13

On the 18th September the first U19 District Netball Tournament was held at The Ivo. Hinchingbrooke put forward two strong squads of sixth form students. In total there were 9 teams.

It was a round robin competition. Included in the tournament were many different standards and experience among the players, ranging from the novice contenders to Cromwell who have many local league players, letting their experience show.

Although Hinchingbrooke had only a couple of league players we stood out from the rest, displaying fantastic team spirit all the way through. The squads came together even when things weren't going as planned, supporting each other throughout each game, whether we won or lost. The games were played with great teamwork and enjoyed by all.

Even though we haven't played together for almost a year, some never having played together, the results were unexpected but well deserved. The A team were runners up to Cromwell Community College from Chatteris and the B team came 5th out of 9 teams.

Some of the top results from the day were Hinchingbrooke "A" team winning with a 13-0 score over the Abbey. There was also a large win for the Hinchingbrooke B team against Longsands. Goals came from Sophie Ryder, Shelby Pell, Gemma Steel and Katie Smith (a guest player from year 11).

In the team were some of the first ever Netball Academy players from Hinchingbrooke, now in our final year of sixth form. Even though some took a break from the squad for other commitments they are back training and playing and still enjoying every moment.

However, at the end of the day the look of enjoyment may not have shown on some faces; more the look of pain and tiredness. We are back as a team and have the chance to be better than ever when our fitness levels have overcome the shock of 8 consecutive games with only one break. Yes, that came as a shock to us, too evident in the slow moving sixth formers the next day!

Training sessions are period 5 every Wednesday. These sessions are open to all sixth form girls. Even if you are not that interested in the competitive side, it's a great way to keep fit and meet new people in the process. However, if you are competitive we have a number of games and tournaments lined up on a variety of different levels. So come along and get involved.

Hunts School Sports Partnership

The Hunts School Sports Partnership has continued to thrive with 75% of Huntingdonshire schools buying into a very comprehensive service. This despite the withdrawal of Government funding for PE Specialists to work in primary schools was possible with the introduction of the new Sport Premium where primary schools are given a lump sum of approximately £9000 in each of the next two years to develop sport in their school.

The Partnership, based at Hinchingbrooke School, is working with primary schools across Huntingdonshire to raise the standards of Physical Education to ensure that children have a positive experience in PE and are inspired to take part in Sport and physical activity. Training courses in Tag Rugby, High 5s Netball, Quicksticks Hockey and Swimming have already taken place and our team of PE Specialists and Sports Coaches have been working in schools undertaking one to one support with teachers to give them the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver high quality PE. For more information go to www.huntsssp.org

Tag Rugby Competition and Festival

300 children from schools across the Hunts School Sports Partnership took part in a Tag Rugby competition and festival at the Stags Rugby Ground in Huntingdon, supported by community coaches from the Stags and St Ives Rugby clubs. 90 children who were not ready for match play took part in a skills area. They developed their skills and had fun whilst learning more about Tag Rugby and were part of a much larger event. Under 18s professional players from Northamptonshire Saints came along and supported the day too, which thrilled and inspired the year 5/6s.
Key Stage 1 Multiskills Festival at Hinchingbrooke School

200 year 1 and 2 pupils took part in a multiskills festival which incorporated a range of fun activities that develop childrens’ fundamental movement skills of agility, balance and coordination. 50 students - Hinchingbrooke School Sports Leaders supported the event by running the activities. Children were awarded stickers to recognise how they had demonstrated teamwork, respect and determination which are all part of the Sainsbury's School Games values.

A teacher commented “The children had a lot of fun. The stickers were great. Really reinforced to the children what skills they had as well as sport skills. They loved the different activities and working in teams”.

One of the participants said “I loved everything!” “I liked jumping over the steps” “Teamwork is fun”.

HSSP - Message

Please contact us if you would be interested in working with the Partnership in a coaching role or if you have a company that could sponsor an event or activity. We would love to hear from you and work together to provide more opportunities for young people to be active across Huntingdonshire.

www.huntsssp.org

Christmas Music

Our annual Christmas Concert is entitled “How Like an Angel” and takes place on Wednesday 18 December in the Performing Arts Centre.

This will be a feast of Christmas music with one or two special surprises for you to savour and enjoy in the run up to Christmas. There will be a performance from all the school vocal and instrumental ensembles, including the Community Christmas Choir, which includes parents, staff and friends of the school.

Tickets will be available during December from school.

School Production of Oliver

Rehearsals every Monday and Wednesday for Oliver are going well, the cast and crew are working hard and we look forward to seeing you at the show. The dates are Tuesday 11th February – Thursday 13th February at 7.00pm. Tickets available in the new year.

The Creative Team.

Boccia Championships at Hinchingbrooke School

Hinchingbrooke School hosted the Lord’s Taverners Under 19 Cambridgeshire County Boccia Championships. The event was organised by Huntingdonshire District Council and members of Boccia England and was officiated by Year 11 Hinchingbrooke Boccia qualified Leaders. The competition was well attended with 13 teams from across the County taking part.

After a number of league games the play offs were between Hinchingbrooke, Granta, Phoenix and Impington Village College with Hinchingbrooke and Phoenix progressing to the final where Hinchingbrooke won 4-0. In the play off for 3rd and 4th Granta finished 3rd beating Impington 5-2.

Hinchingbrooke and Phoenix will now represent Cambridgeshire in the regional finals being held in Hatfield in January 2014.

Tom Mayers, James Orrin and Jabe Peake proudly displaying their trophy.
Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry
Lee Walker - Vice Principal Enterprise & Enquiry

The Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry covers the subject areas of Maths, Science, Business Studies, ICT, and Work-related Learning. We are a busy and vibrant team, with a large number of both teaching and support staff contributing to the learning that takes place each day. Our purpose is to encourage students to immerse themselves in these fascinating subjects, to feel passionate about them and to open their minds to everything the subjects themselves and related disciplines tell us about our world.

We aim for students to develop an enquiring mind, the courage to keep going in the face of a challenge, and a deeper understanding of our natural and technological world. Furthermore, our connections with the business world, further education and enterprising people beyond our gates are well known locally and nationally, and I am very proud of the enormous effort and hard work that goes in to making this Directorate a success. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the events and achievements which showcase the dedication and determination of our students and staff during the Autumn term.

Fruit flies and naked scientists
Students across the school (as well as parents) have had the chance to learn more about scientific topics at two recent talks. On Monday 18th November Dr Hannah Critchlow who is Neuroscience Editor of The Naked Scientist, (and who is also known by that name!) gave a hugely entertaining and hands-on presentation called 'open your mind' which looked at how the nervous system works and has close links with GCSE Biology. She spoke to the entire Year 11 and Year 10 cohorts, as well as to Year 8 students who were studying the brain in science lessons.

On Thursday 10th October. Dr O’Kane, from Downing College Cambridge, presented another hugely enlightening talk entitled ‘seeing ourselves in the fruit fly drosophila’. This was the inaugural talk of the Hinchingbrooke Science Society, and was open to all parents and students. There will be a second Science Society talk early in the spring term, entitled ‘Inside the cell: trafficking, traffic jams and hijackers.’ Please look out for further information on the school website and ParentMail.

Maths Department wins Prince’s Teaching Trust (PTI) recognition

After a great deal of preparatory work, research and nervous nail biting, we were delighted to learn that the Mathematics Department have been awarded the Prince’s Teaching Institute Award and join the English, History and Geography departments who already have the Mark in recognition of their continuing commitment to inspirational teaching.

We are delighted to have a fourth department join this group of inspiring teachers and we commend all the Maths staff for the work they have done to earn the PTI mark for the department.

The Prince’s Teaching Institute (PTI) is an independent educational charity created by the Prince of Wales. It believes that all children, irrespective of background or ability, deserve a rich subject-based experience at school - both within and beyond the examination curriculum.

The PTI believe that young people’s opportunities in life are maximised by having inspiring teachers, who are knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects. They bring passionate teachers together, encourage school departments to make rigorous curriculum choices, promote teaching beyond the test, and enable schools to forge links with other like-minded schools and academic institutions.
Senior Maths Challenge

Despite being placed fifteenth in this year’s national Senior Maths Challenge, we were nevertheless still the top state school in our heat. Mr Hancock said “The competition was of an exceptionally high quality and the standard set this year by both Hinchingbrooke School and the rest of the competitors was of the highest that I had seen. Well done to “Team Maths” who did themselves, their teachers and the school proud!”

The Team consisted of: Sadie Hodgson (captain), Sally Barker, Joanna Chen and Ryan Perry.

Inspiring the Future, Inspiring Women

We were delighted that 8 of our Sixth Form students were invited to attend the “Inspiring the Future: Inspiring Women” career speed networking event. This was hosted by Miriam González Durántez with just 100 girls from 11 state secondary schools talking jobs and careers with 10 high profile successful women.

The women taking part in the launch included: Miriam González Durántez, Partner at Dechert LLP and the wife of Nick Clegg the Deputy Prime Minister; Fiona Bruce, BBC journalist and presenter; Athene Donald DBE, Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Cambridge; Thea Green, CEO Nails Inc’s; Bettany Hughes, historian and broadcaster; Livia Firth, Creative Director Eco Age Ltd; Carrie Longton, Mumsnet co-founder; Carolyn McCall, CEO easyJet; Heather McGregor, entrepreneur and Financial Times columnist and Barbara Stocking DBE, former CEO Oxfam and current President of Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge.

On-line Application Process (OLAP) Information Evening and Progression morning

Year 11 students and their parents attended another successful evening organised by our Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team, focusing on the application process for post-16 learning. Our guest speaker guided everyone through the maze of post-16 opportunities and how to navigate through the OLAP software. This was followed by a progression event to which we welcomed a number of different universities and careers providers, again with the audience being Year 11 students.

Year 9 Science Information evening

More IAG was available at the Year 9 information evening for Science pathways. The department organised a very well-attended after school talk designed to introduce parents and pupils to the myriad of opportunities, qualifications and pathways in Science at Key Stage 4, and also aimed to dispel some of the myths around what students can and can’t do in terms of their progression following qualifications in double or triple award Science.
Year 11 Science and Maths students ‘Team Up’ and boost their learning

37 students in Year 11 are participating in ‘Team Up’, an initiative which links undergraduates from universities around the country (in our case from Cambridge) with students in Key Stage 4 who have the potential to achieve A and A* grades but are currently not quite achieving this level. Around 60 students who fit these criteria were invited to apply in the Summer Term.

The undergraduates come to Hinchingbrooke once a week to provide tuition to support teaching in English, Maths and Science. They also provide enrichment sessions, designed to explore topics of interest to the students in more detail. 34 of the students are being tutored in either Maths, Physics or Chemistry, and have derived huge benefit from the sessions so far. The tutoring continues until May.

Number Day Assemblies

The following photographs were taken at some recent assemblies. Look out for the full report in the next newsletter.
Directorate of Global Communications
Anna Nightingale - Vice Principal Global Communications

Following the departure of Ms Beddow I am overseeing both Global directorates. This has given me the opportunity to work with more departments and see the wonderful work going on. So far it has been a packed term for the Global Society and Global Communication Directorates. Competitions wins, trips and visits, master classes and more have kept both the staff and students busy and fully involved in the life of the school. Lessons have had a new focus, with the introduction of Building Learning Power (more to come on this next term) and I have enjoyed visiting classes to meet the students and look at what they have been learning. Equally I have had the opportunity to interview some of the students and learn about how they view Hinchingbrooke and what they feel are the school’s strengths and areas for development. I also look forward to launching the Year 7 Parents’ Forum on Monday 2nd December to get the parental take on the Year 6 to 7 transition process.

“Mother Tongue, Other Tongue”

The Masterclasses for primary school students run by English and MFL were very successful, with some positive student feedback. As you will see from the photos all students embraced the activities and made the most of the opportunity to develop their global communication skills. In addition to performing drama sketches in German, no mean feat after only 3 hours of learning the language, all of the resources were saved onto memory sticks and passed to the primary schools.

Hinchingbrooke students enjoyed success in “Mother Tongue, Other Tongue”. A number of our students entered poems last summer term for this competition and a large number were finalists:

- Hannah Ryder and Eliza Gill for their poem “Zu Hause”
- Ashleigh Drakard and Lauren Thacker for “Anglais-Français Fusion”
- Eva Simpson, Holly Hoy and Emilie Cummerson for “Keine Ahnung”
- Libby Skyrme and Bethany Morgan for “Brot, ot, ot!”
- Jessica Wilson for “Mon Amour”
- Tom Carter for “Die unglückliche Reise des kleinen Schweins”

Their poems have all been published in an anthology which was sold to benefit the Save the Children charity. Six students from Years 8 and 10 also went along to the finals held at Anglia Ruskin University where they read their poems in front of an audience.
Writing Success!

The Creative Writing Club recently celebrated the success of one of its members, Beca Hamilton. Her short story won a prize in the National H.G Wells Short Story Competition, 2013. The prize includes Rebecca's work having been published in the Competition winners' anthology, published by St. Ursin Press; copies of this are available in the Resources Centre for those who would like to read it.

No doubt this win will spur our other club members on to get writing their short story for 'A Twist in the Tale', another National Writing competition with the focus being to tell a story in only 100 words. No easy feat!

All budding writers are encouraged to try entering this latest competition. Details are available in the English Department, and we await the results with hope.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) News:

Do you find the books that interest you too difficult and books you can read easily too babyish? Well come into the LRC and borrow one of our new books aimed specifically at older, reluctant readers.

Texts include 'Dark Hunter: The Red Thirst', a chilling tale of vampire hunters who need to be strong and clever to survive and 'Joker on the High Seas'; when the Joker hijacks a ship in Gotham Harbour, no one is safe. Will the Dynamic Duo Batman and Robin swab the deck with this sea-faring super-villain or will they walk the Prince’s plank?

Many books are also perfect for Dyslexic readers:

- the story is of interest to the reader and relevant to his/her age;
- short sentences and paragraphs, which help to maintain interest and encourage a feeling of progress;
- wide margins and plenty of white space, to encourage good reading flow and pace;
- right margins unjustified, making it easier to distinguish between those lines read and those yet to be read;
- books that have pictures or headings and other sign-postings where appropriate as this helps navigation and breaks up text into manageable chunks;
- books that are printed in a clear font so that the letters are easily distinguishable, and in a print size of at least 11pt;
- books that are well-structured and easy to follow.

So, there is even more to tempt you into the LRC!
HBK TV tackle their first challenge admirably

A team of seven students from the HBK crew have had success with their first Media Leaders opportunity. They were responsible for coverage of the Key Stage Two Tag Rugby Tournament which is organised by the Hunts School Sports Partnership (HSSP).

The team prepped their questions and organised the division of the coverage needed. In the midst of very busy day a highlight for the crew was being able to interview some of the Northampton Saints Academy players who were there to support the day. Alfie Toseland led the interview, and the players commented on the quality of his questioning.

The team showed great solidarity and resourcefulness, working with resilience especially faced with the chilly conditions and the unexpected disintegration of one of their tripods!! A really positive and supportive atmosphere prevailed throughout the day.

If there are any parents or students who would like information about becoming involved in the development of HBK TV at Hinchingbrooke, please contact Ms Newland. (prn@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk)

Anglia Ruskin University and Modern Foreign Languages in Partnership

During a busy term in MFL there have been numerous projects and activities in which students have participated in and enjoyed some notable successes.

A group of Year 11 students were fortunate enough to spend the day at Anglia Ruskin University on an Intervention Day to improve their subject knowledge. They joined three other schools to work with native speakers and gain valuable skills to help them gain the grades they deserve in their GCSEs. They were very mature ambassadors for our school and it was a pleasure to accompany them.

The Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee is well under way with all Year 7s. After Holly Hoys’ success last year in reaching the National Final, we are hopeful that by offering a lunch time club, subscription to Vocab Express and lots of practice in class, we will be able to enjoy similar stories this year. Watch this space for the Christmas Carol competition that will see teachers’ and students’ competitive streaks come out, as they aim for the top prize of being crowned best Year 7 Language class!

Comenius International Project

In October Hinchingbrooke School hosted an exciting European Youth Conference as part of the EU’s ‘Comenius Project’. This on-going project involves our own school as well as near neighbour, Spring Common School, working with schools from Belgium, Cyprus, Slovakia and Poland. The conference, the first event of the partnership, was based around the broad theme of equality within the EU with some focus on the role of mass media. The disabilities session was run by Mrs Taylor, the Head of Spring Common and was eye-opening for all who took part.

Many commented on how it helped them to see life from a different angle and all were inspired by a vision of a fairer society with less barriers. The result of this session was the formulation of numerous practical ideas and plans to create such a society.

Please see the Upper School news for a more in depth report of the project by a sixth form student.

The Sixth Form Film Studies classes attended a Study Day at the Cambridge Arts Picture House in November during which they watched a screening of “The Lavender Hill Mob” film.
Directorate of Global Society
Anna Nightingale - Vice Principal Global Society

Hinchingbrooke Students Visit Beijing
Over the October half term 31 Geography, Politics and Global Perspectives students visited Beijing in China. The focus of the trip was to learn about China’s economic and political development and the disparities which exist within the country. In addition the group, escorted by their guides Jin and Cecilia, visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Olympic Park, and a beer factory and climbed 3,600 steps to get to the top of the Great Wall. Students rode in rickshaws and visited a traditional family house in Central Beijing. The students also toured a village outside of Beijing, meeting the villagers and children and heard about their history and how they manage to be self-sufficient.

Year 13 student Ryan Morgan said, “Beijing was a fantastic experience from start to finish. We will miss Jin and Cecilia, our guides who made our short time in Beijing unforgettable...an awesome experience!”

Year 11 Trip to The Imperial War Museum

Year 11 Duxford Trip - Modern World historians recently visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford in order explore the development of warfare in the 20th Century. Not only did this help students prepare for their coursework but also provided the opportunity to revise the Vietnam War, ready for their recent mock examinations. All students were lucky enough to be given VIP access to an RAF aircraft used in the Berlin Airlift in 1948-9. This had been lovingly restored by Mr Charles Erskine and fellow enthusiasts.

Global Society Masterclass

Miss Hart, Miss Young and Mrs Derbyshire held a masterclass for 15 Year 6 students from our feeder primary schools to ask the question, “Can 100 years change the world into an alien planet?”. The classes were divided into 3 sessions in September and October looking at how people’s lives had changed over the past 100 years. There were discussions about the change and affects in technology, gender equality, landscape, religion, education and healthcare. The students were enthusiastic throughout and were happy to see their work displayed at the Year 6 Open Evening. A very successful venture.
6th Form A2 SOCIOLOGY ‘Life behind Bars’ Conference
November 2013
Students who attended this conference found their discussions powerful and enriching, challenging their thoughts and stereotypes. During the morning session students discussed their ideal prison setting and how prisoners should be treated, i.e. would they provide offending behaviour courses, education, television sets in their cells, recreational facilities and visits with their family.

Students then heard from released prisoners that have served sentences ranging from four to twenty-four years behind bars. During the afternoon session students were then divided into groups allowing them the opportunity to discuss issues with speakers in a more informal way. Alex Feraday commented. “An insightful look into the life of a criminal!” These topics were strongly related to their A2 course.

Global Perspectives
I cannot believe that the Global GCSE has been running for over a year now. The group of Year 11 students, pictured, have been a joy to work with and together we have learnt a lot, laughed a lot, made huge progress and they have produced some exceptional work. I asked them how they felt the first year had gone and this is one response I got: ‘Hinchingbrooke as a school are always offering students new opportunities......... It allows you to have an opinion and build confidence in being able to justify why that opinion is OK to have. In lessons we study topics such as Conflict and Peace. We read articles about how others feel about certain issues, before reflecting on our own thoughts. I feel very privileged to run such an exciting course and I hope that students continue to study it at Hinchingbrooke, alongside the Pre U course as well, for years to come.

Houses of Parliament Trip for 6th Form Students
On Monday 18th November 35 Year 12 and 13 students were lucky enough to tour the beautiful Palace of Westminster and have a debate with Huntingdon’s very own MP, Jonathan Djanogly. The Politics, Law and Global Perspectives students got to stand in the House of Lords and the House of Commons – as we weren’t allowed to sit on the red and green leather seats! Many commented that it “looked much smaller than on the telly!” They were treated to the history of the building and then had a 40 minute session to lock horns with the local MP. Some great questions were asked, and Jonathan was able to give us his opinions on the new management structure at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, the new plans to regenerate Huntingdon Town Centre and his views on proportional representation. We were located in the beautiful select committee rooms right at the top of the palace…which proved to be a long climb for some of these sixth form students! Many thanks to Mrs Howells who joined the trip at the eleventh hour!

Year 7 Homework Project Castles!
In History students had the option to construct a model of one of the castles they studied in November. Many chose to make edible castles!
Student Voice
2013 at Hinchingbrooke; a student’s perspective

Another year in Hinchingbrooke's history is coming to an end, after many successful events this year, it began with the handover to the new senior student team. I know the team felt very proud of all the events and activities the school has held with the continued support of both teachers and students. I would like to thank each of you as the student team is tremendously grateful.

The main events of the year include Personal Development Day, "Children in Need" and "Movember". I believe that PD day was a thriving success; running the day along with many exciting new activities; helped bring students and teaching staff together. The core team who helped co-ordinate the day could see the spirits of everyone in Hinchingbrooke bound together in many laughs, smiles and wet sponges. Never before had the school encountered a day which involved such a variety of activities, from the zombie apocalypse to laser pigeon shooting. We are all especially grateful to 2 members of staff, Mr Winter, and Miss Parker, who planned the day and made it an inspiring event.

Movember has struck again and with great effort from all the male teaching staff, as well as many of the sixth form students in the facial hair department, some interesting moustaches have been sighted including the 'pencil' moustache and 'handlebar' moustache modelled by Mr Jago. This event has helped raise money and awareness for men's health issues such as prostate cancer. Thanks to all the Mo Bros and Mo Sistas. Children In Need this year saw some impressive dressing up from the sixth form students including the classic "onesies" which is always a popular option, as well as the more extravagant Sci-Fi characters.

Many changes have been adopted at School with initial negativity as many people do not like change. Now six months on with the changes settling down we can see the positive benefits. An example is the school uniform worn by Year 11 Prefects; each student looks very smart, which represents our school to a high standard.

Hinchingbrooke is a very large family and the sixth form becomes a more intimate family; on behalf of each of my fellow year 12 and 13 students we are so very proud to have taken part in the 2013 events that help teach key life skills such as leadership, teamwork, determination and having fun!

Have a wonderful festive Christmas period ready to come back and continue to build what makes Hinchingbrooke a special place.
Harriette Tillott, Student Voice Representative

Contacting Us:-
To Report Absence – 01480 375700 and follow the year group instructions

Lower School administrator - lowerschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Year 7 Student Support Officer
Year 8 Student Support Officer
Tel: 01480 420506 (All)

Middle School Administrator - middleschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Tel: 01480 420522
Year 9 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5826
Year 10 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5204
Year 11 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext. 5205

Upper School Administrator - upperschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Tel: 01480 420539

For full school contact details please follow the link below:-
http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/contactus/?pid=2