Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers

The very first edition of the HINCHINGBROOKE HERALD was being produced this time last year and I am pleased to say, from the feedback we have received, it has been a welcome addition to our communications from school. So much has happened this term, let alone over the last year, and many of the highlights are recorded in this the fourth edition of the Herald.

As for the governors, the senior team and me, we have been focusing on improving the quality of some of the basics – classroom practice, marking, feedback and the setting of regular homework. There is a much more robust set of quality assurance procedures in place now, including the regular scrutiny of work in exercise books, drop-in observations of lessons and the ‘Room with a view’ which asks a selected sample of students from all year groups to feedback on their learning experiences. All of these mechanisms provide us with a lot of data to see how things are really happening on the ground and how it is all being received by the students. I am pleased to say therefore, with confidence that things are improving.

Two other important and significant improvements have been the parent forums, which are now in their second year, and the new structure for the student councils which have been rolled out this year. You only have to look at the ‘You said, we did’ section of previous Hinchingbrooke Heralds to see the important issues for which parents have had a chance to shape our thinking. The school is very grateful for your input and extends a warm invitation to all parents to attend these sessions. As for the student councils, the first Whole School Student Council meeting took place on Thursday 27th November after school, with Adrian Vuylsteke (Head Boy) in the chair. I have included in this edition a diagram which shows just how well developed the student voice is at Hinchingbrooke now. It shows all of the councils which meet and the various groups of students, such as the ECO warriors and the ABC (Anti-bullying committee) mentors, all working to make Hinchingbrooke a better place. I am always impressed by the professionalism and insight offered by the student committees we use in the interview processes for appointing members of staff.
One of the other images included in this edition is our very own ‘waterfall cascade of poppies’ which adorned the PAC during the week of 10th – 14th November. This provided a fitting backdrop for the remembrance services we held for each year group in this centenary year. I believe it is important to pass on the traditions of remembrance to the next generation and to spend time in remembering just how much we owe our freedom to those who sacrificed their lives in earlier conflicts. We also acknowledged the sense of duty and service shown by those members of the armed forces, some of whom are in our parent body, and how much we can learn from their example.

We are, as always, in a time of change in education and none more so than now with major changes at GCSE and in post-16 education. New and more rigorous A level and GCSE content are to be taught from September 2015 and 2016 respectively. AS levels and A levels are to be ‘decoupled’ making them separate qualifications, whilst GCSEs are to be graded 1 – 9 instead of the familiar A – G. (Any one as old as me may remember ‘O’ levels being graded 1 – 9 in the 1970s, before the advent of letters and GCSEs!) These changes all come with other major changes to the way league tables are going to be constructed, with much greater emphasis on ‘EBacc’ subjects and something called ‘Progress 8’.

The ‘Progress 8’ measure is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4, and reward schools for the teaching of all their pupils. The new measure will be based on students’ progress measured across eight subjects: English; Mathematics; three other English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects (Sciences, Computer Science, Geography, History and Languages); and three further subjects, which can be from the range of EBacc subjects, or can be any other approved, high-value arts, academic, or vocational qualification. English and Maths will count as double points. At a glance it is encapsulated by the following diagram:

![Progress 8 measure diagram](image)

Needless to say, with these and other changes, we have been kept very busy in planning for their smooth introduction. We are also in the process of moving to a three year Key Stage 4 which will serve the students better and allow for greater flexibility in our curriculum offer. This all makes for a lot of planning for change and I am very grateful to all the staff who have worked, and continue to work together, on understanding the changes and creating implementation plans.

The school began this academic year in high spirits with the new uniform making students look incredibly smart. It has had a very beneficial effect on their attitude to learning and we are all very proud of how they look. Judging by the number of positive comments we have received it seems that even the sceptics have been won round. Of course we are eager to see the final implementation when ALL student will be smartly dressed in this very impressive uniform. The deadline for everyone (except Year 11) is Easter 2015, so one term to go. Thank you for your support with this and your positive feedback has been extremely encouraging.

I said in the last HINCINGBROOKE HERALD (July 2014) that our over-riding mantra will be to work towards achieving greater consistency in all that we do. We are making good progress in many areas. Another area under the microscope has been the system of rewards. Following a comprehensive review of the plethora of awards, pins, badges, certificates and the like, we have launched a new cohesive system of pins with clear criteria for their achievement. I am pleased that attendance has been included in the system of rewards. Attendance has been a real success story for the school with attendance rates improving consistently. I do thank you for your support with this. Attendance is the single biggest factor affecting a student’s success at school, so it is rather important that we continue to work together on this. As 2015 rapidly approaches this will be our anniversary year, when the school celebrates 450 years of continuous education in Huntingdon. As I am sure you are aware, there are a number of celebrations planned for next year and a commemorative book ‘1565 – 2015 From Huntingdon Grammar School to Hinchingbrooke School (the school’s place in history)” has been produced and is available to purchase for a very modest £15 through school. As I announced last time, Hilary Mantel is our patron and I urge you to support as many of the events as you can. All details are on the school’s website but for convenience here is a summary:
• Saturday and Sunday, 2nd and 3rd May 2015 – Hinchingbrooke House is open to the public with exhibitions and tours.

• Saturday, 2nd May at 7pm – Lecture by Dame Hilary Mantel, Patron of the school’s 450th anniversary celebrations.

• The Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School is marking the school’s 450th Anniversary Celebrations with a number of special bursary awards for both individuals and local community groups. Individual Recognition Awards require nomination by a third party and group Community Grants are by application. The closing date for applications is the 31st May 2015.

• Wednesday, 21st October 2015 at 7pm in the PAC – The Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School, Special Recognition Awards 2015 Presentation Evening.

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

Andrew Goulding
Principal

Student Leadership at Hinchingbrooke

In March 2014 four Student Council Leaders were selected from the sixth form. Their purpose, in conjunction with the Head Boy and Head Girl, has been to work with Mr Cooke in developing the structure of the Student Council. The Leaders created the mission statement of ‘A student-led and student-powered organisation’.

On Thursday 27 November 2014 it was the first meeting of the new Whole Student Council. At the meeting different groups of students presented their reports about the work that they have been doing in their various positions of responsibility. Please see below the chart of the wide ranging student leadership positions that exist in school which the Whole Student Council oversees.

It was exciting to hear of all the different initiatives that students are involved with and their ideas of what they hope to go on to achieve in their role. At the next meeting in the spring term, I hope that all the different groups will have representatives that will attend.

My thanks to Adrian Vuylsteke, Harriet Smith, Joanna Chen, Tooba Khokhar, Richard Mason and Emma Rosen for all their time, commitment and ideas which has made such a significant platform that future leaders can easily build upon. They have ensured that the new committees and ideas have been a real success.

Mr Cooke
Vice Principal
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates
Autumn Term Closes – Friday 19 December 2014
Spring Term Opens – Monday 5 January 2015
Half Term – 16 – 20 February
Spring Term Closes – Friday 27 March
Staff Training Day – Monday 13 April
Summer Term Opens – Tuesday 14 April
May Day Holiday – Monday 4 May
Half Term – 25 – 29 May
Staff Training Day – Friday 3 July
Summer Term Closes – Wednesday 22 July

Parents’ Evenings
Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 8 January
Year 9 – Thursday 15 January
Year 12 – Wednesday 4 February
Year 8 KS4 Options Evening – Wednesday 25 February
Year 13 – Thursday 26 February
Year 8 – Tuesday 3 March
Year 10 – Tuesday 2 June
UCAS Parent Info Evening – Wednesday 1 July
Year 6/7 Taster Evening – Wednesday 8 July

Events
Year 11 Mock Results Day – Wednesday 7 January
Year 10 Men C Vaccinations – Monday 12 January
Glastonbrooke Unplugged – Friday 16 January
Collapsed Timetable Day All Students – Thursday 22 January
450th Piano Concert – Friday 30 January
Intermediate Maths Challenge – Thursday 5 February
School Production, Our House – Tuesday 10 February –
Thursday 12 February
450th Piano Concert – Friday 27 February
Year 12 Careers Day – Tuesday 3 March
IndepenDance Show – Wednesday 11 March –
Thursday 12 March
Collapsed Timetable Day All Students – Friday 13 March
Easter Concert – Wednesday 25 March
450th Piano Concert – Friday 27 March

Parent Forums
Thursday 29 January
Thursday 19 March

Please follow the link below to find out more:-
http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Parents%27+Forum&pid=522

School Production - February 2015
Rehearsals are well underway for the school production of "Our House" the tale of "Joe", a 16 year old boy who struggles with making the right decision to impress a girl. Students are rehearsing on Mondays and Wednesdays and even though we have cast the roles, we are still looking for stage assistants who can work with our prop, costume and sound team for the four performances so email Mrs Akielan if you are interested! nla@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Tickets will be going on sale in January 2015, students will be offered discounted tickets and friends and family are very welcome! Performances are taking place between 9th and 12th February. Tickets will be available for students from the cashier at break times or parents can purchase by ringing the Finance Team on 01480 420502.

New Year - New Orchestra!
Calling Years 5, 6, 7 & 8
Hinchingbrooke Community Youth Orchestra
Katie Crozier the music teacher at Brampton Primary School will be working with Hinchingbrooke School to provide an opportunity for local primary school students to play in an orchestra. The plan is to meet at Hinchingbrooke on Thursdays in room 201 from 5:30pm -7pm. It will be open to students from the surrounding areas particularly in years 5, 6, 7 and 8 who have grade 2 - 5. This will provide a great way for students to become familiar with the music department and hopefully provide a smooth musical transition into Y7.

Katie has just won the Classic FM music teacher of the year
Hinchingbrooke School’s 450TH Anniversary in 2015
1565 - 2015

In 2015 Hinchingbrooke School, previously Huntingdon Grammar School, will reach the landmark of 450 years of continuous existence in the town. A programme of events and reunions is being planned for 2015 to celebrate the anniversary that will include students, former students, staff, parents, governors and the local community, Old Huntingdonians Association and Friends of Hinchingbrooke House.

In 1970 the school moved to its current site in and around Hinchingbrooke House. The House is a distinctive and valued feature of the school with a rich history and royal connections, a full account of which can be found in T.R.Wheelely’s, “Hinchingbrooke House”, Huntingdon (2011).

Shortly after the Norman Conquest, a church was constructed at Hinchingbrooke. It is thought that this was by order of William the Conqueror. The church, which later became the centre of the nunnery, stood where the Library now stands and remnants of its structure remain, notably the exposed lancet window.

Elizabeth I visited Hinchingbrooke at least twice during her reign. On both occasions she was the guest of Sir Henry Cromwell. The first recorded occasion, on 10th August 1564, followed a visit to Cambridge University. In 2010 it was discovered that the House of Lords archive contains a writ from 1586 ordering the proroguing of parliament, ‘sealed with the Great Seal of England, bearing date at Hinchingbrooke, this the 8th Day of this instant Month of October.’ This indicates that Her Majesty must have visited Hinchingbrooke at least twice. In 1602, Sir Oliver Cromwell, an avowed royalist to his last days (and uncle to Oliver Cromwell, The Lord Protector) erected a large stone representation of Elizabeth’s Royal Arms above the Great Bow Window, where they remain to this day.

Perhaps one of the most famous royal visitors was James VII/I. He first visited in 1603 during his progress south from Edinburgh to London to claim the throne. The King was suitably impressed by Sir Oliver’s hospitality that he is said to have exclaimed, ‘marry, man, thou has treated me better than any one syr I left Edinboro’. Indeed, James returned again in 1604, 1605, 1611 and 1612, and probably most years of his reign, the hunting in the local woodland being so good. Local tradition has it that it was during one of James’ visits, that his son, the future Charles I, met with a young Oliver Cromwell. Being sent into the garden to play, legend has it that they came to blows and one of the boys was left with a bloody-nose. Quite who came off worst depends on the sympathies of the person telling the tale!

In fact, Charles I visited Hinchingbrooke on a number of occasions, firstly, shortly after Sir Sydney Montagu acquired the House in 1627. He returned in 1639 during the Bishops’ Wars when Hinchingbrooke was the rendezvous for the royal army as it marched north. His last visit was as a prisoner of the army. In 1647, having been snatched from the custody of parliament at Holdenby House, Charles spent his first night at Hinchingbrooke, en route to Newmarket. He was entertained, as sovereign, by Jemima Montagu, wife of Edward Montagu. Edward was a parliamentarian commander, however, did not support the regicide. Although initially a supporter of Cromwell, by 1660 Edward had become a leading advocate for the Restoration. He secured the navy’s support and in 1660 carried Charles II back from exile on board his ship the Naseby, hastily renamed the Royal Charles. For his service, Edward was created Earl of Sandwich. Edward was an old boy of the school.

An illustrated book about the school, and its place in history, has been commissioned by Peter Downes and the Old Huntingdonian’s Association to mark the school’s 450th anniversary. The book is available for purchase from the school Reception for £15.

Caroline Sheffield and Tom Wheelely - School Governors
Lower School Years 7 & 8
Head of Lower School - Kate Tandy

Changes to the Lower School Team
Miss Crumpler is our new Deputy Head of Lower School, following Miss Rana’s move back home to Nottingham at the end of last term. Miss Crumpler has already made a positive impact in Lower School, introducing a number of new initiatives including the upcoming trip to Banham Zoo for those students earning the highest number of 5s during the first half term.

Miss Robinson (Year 8 Student Support Officer) also left earlier this term in order to pursue her academic studies further. We are pleased to welcome her replacement, Ms Hayes, who started with us shortly after half term.

I ♥ HBK competition
At the start of this term we ran a competition for all lower school students to design their own poster explaining what they liked about Hinchingbrooke School. The standard was incredibly high and it took a long time to choose the overall winners. The best entries are currently on display in Lower School. In first place was Nicholas Watts with Holly Tuck and Charlotte Whitehead being runners up. Well done to all those who entered this competition and congratulations in particular to our three winners.
Streetwise

‘Performance in Education’ came in to speak to year 7 on 29th September about road safety. This was an engaging session using professionally trained actors to deliver a workshop raising awareness of the dangers on the roads. This was particularly relevant as we have had a number of concerns expressed about younger students cycling dangerously on their way to and from school. In assemblies we have also raised the issue of year 7 and 8 students taking more responsibility for their own actions and have asked them to consider other pedestrians and road users when travelling to and from school.

Remembrance Week

This year at Hinchingbrooke School we decided to acknowledge Remembrance Week with Mr Goulding conducting a Remembrance Assembly and short service with each year group. The event was made extra special through additional contributions; Mr Best (dressed in traditional Scottish attire) played a lament on the bagpipes as the students entered the Performing Arts Centre, Zoe Perkins (Year 12) played the Last Post and Reveille on the trumpet during the service and a cascade of poppies made by students hung from the balcony over the entrance to the auditorium.

Below is an account of the Year 7 assembly by Hannah Peacock (LSV3):

Every year on the 11th day of the 11th month we remember all of the people who risked their lives for other people and to celebrate this we have Remembrance Sunday/Remembrance Day. Everyone has to be silent for 2 minutes. To celebrate it at Hinchingbrooke School we had a special assembly and as we walked into the assembly there were bagpipes being played by Mr Best. Then we walked underneath cascading poppies that were made by my form LSV3. I feel very privileged to have been able to be a part of the special event that we were all celebrating. Then in the assembly, we looked at the soldiers or people who were a part of the war who went to the school. We all stood up in pride as we listened to the trumpet played by Zoe in the 6th form. It is unbelievable to think that that many people gave up their normal lives to make Britain a better place. Families were torn apart when a loved one went away, hoping that one day they would be back, those names that were read out in the service never came back.

“I would like to thank Mr Jago’s tutor group, LSV3, and the many staff members for helping to create the cascade of poppies: also thanks to Mr Best and Zoe Perkins for their contributions to all six assemblies throughout the week.”

Mr Cooke
Vice Principal
Year 7 Letters

I recently asked year 7 students to write a letter to reflect on their first few weeks at Hinchingbrooke. I have written to year 7 parents separately about this, sharing a large volume of quotes from these letters in order to give a flavour of the sentiments expressed. Here is just a small selection of these so that others might also see what our new cohort of students think of the school...

“Wow I like this school! It has lots of opportunities for sport and the teachers are great” - Josh

"Thank you for making the first weeks so easy" - Tom

"I love waking up every morning and walking to school with a smile on my face and with my brand new, smart uniform" - Layla

"The school is amazing with awesome lessons, awesome teachers and awesome food” - Lorenzo

“I have loads of 5s already and am so proud of myself” - Jan

“HBK is fabulous, amazing and epic! Thank you for an amazing start in my school career” - Emily-Grace

“I was really shy and didn’t really answer in class at primary school. After a couple of weeks here I felt more confident to speak out in front of the class” - Naomi

Millie Oldwood LSV4 in her crossword number day outfit

More number day participants
Middle School News

Year 9 - Mr Williams

A busy and exciting first half term for Year 9 drew to a close, with the students having taken their first steps in their journey through the Middle School. When they returned in September the Year 9s had to familiarise themselves with the new expectations and requirements of the school's older students, along with the possibility of reward for achievement. The arrival of the Dragon Badges and Form of the Week Trophy have ensured that form times and assemblies are filled with the buzz of competition between the forms, each striving to claim the prizes that await them. The first batch of Bronze Dragon Badges were issued to those who had achieved over fifty 5s on Lesson Monitor, and the benchmark for silver has been set at an elusive one hundred and fifty.

Steps have been taken to increase the participation of the students in the wider life of the school. Twenty Form Reps were selected and elected by their peers to lead the charge in representing student interests. The Form Rep Parliament is now constituted and will sit in session fortnightly to discuss the pressing issues of the day relevant to Year 9 students. Five members of the Parliament will feedback to the Middle School Council, an Upper Chamber, although selection for this is still very much in the early stages.

Finally, the Year 9s have been participating in a range of exciting extracurricular opportunities during the term. Most notably was the exciting assembly performed by the R'n'B artist J-Sol, who serenaded the students about the dangers of cyber bullying. Also Year 9s participated enthusiastically in the first BLP (building Learning Power) day, by engaging in military based tests of courage, culinary based tests of skill and academically based tests of problem solving. Some students even built giraffes out of papier-mache!
Year 10 - Mr Milner

The Year 10 students have now entered Key Stage 4 and we are delighted that so many of them have chosen to put themselves forward for a range of leadership opportunities. These include working as Subject Ambassador; supporting the subject areas with a variety of initiatives, helping to put the learning into context for all students.

In addition we also have seventeen new Year 10 Student Mentors, bringing the total to forty. These students are working with Lower School forms to help students with the transition from Primary to Secondary school. They will also support any students who feel they would benefit from having an older student to talk to.

Year 11 News - Mr Pape

What a start to the year!!

We started the term with new uniform and many of our students have embraced it, with the remainder looking smart. Our Prefect Team are showing off the new Prefect ties too.

We learned about resilience and reciprocity to name but two themes and investigated work based skills on our Personal Development Day.

Parents’ Evening saw a huge turnout of parents and students to get feedback on how the year had started, following Year 11s receiving their reports.

A selected group of students and parents were invited along to the first wave of intervention strategies to be rolled out, followed by the Team Up group who are supported by students from Cambridge University. Details of further interventions & catch up sessions will be shared in due course.

The mocks have been and gone. Many students completed a fantastic array of artwork created from many different media. All students sat through hours of exams in the Sports Hall, Gym and other locations around the school. Results will be shared with students in a results day-type setting in the New Year, with each student being handed their envelope of results just as they will on the real results day in the summer.

The Year 11s have been earning 5s on lesson Monitor at a phenomenal rate. 5s are awarded for working above and beyond the teacher’s expectation. This year students are awarded a star for every five 5s they earn. These add up to recognised levels acknowledged with official badges being earned. In order to go to Year 11 Prom, students will need to have reached level 4. Quite a number of students have already complete level 2, so we are well on our way.

Our highest 5 achievers spent a fantastic day at Bluewater, Kent as a reward for their efforts. We had lots of fun shopping, playing crazy golf and at the cinema.

The Year 11 Team wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and successful New Year!
It has been a privilege taking over as Head of Sixth Form this year. I have been amazed by the commitment, maturity, talent, and charm of our wonderful sixth form students at Hinchingbrooke, and by the equally evident commitment and passion of the staff.

It has been an excellent start to the year. The results at both A2 and AS improved significantly. The core aim at A2 had been to improve the A*-B grades which rose by four percentage points, and at AS the results were equal to the best that the sixth form has achieved.

It has also been a time of change. As well as me being new to my role, we have had to respond to the fast-shifting landscape of post-16 education, both in terms of the national reform of A Level qualifications, and in terms of significant cuts to sixth form funding. These factors have led to a review of what we will offer in future, in terms of the type and structure of courses, this is in light of what has been termed the ‘decoupling’ of the AS Level from the full A Level. The decision we have come to is that we will enter all of our students for two year courses, in most cases in three core subjects, but in some cases four subjects, if they and we feel that this is appropriate. This means that whichever courses they choose, our expectation is that they will be carrying them all on into Year 13.

We have chosen this path primarily because of what we believe will be the detrimental effects of what exam boards call ‘co-teaching’ the AS within the A2. This is a technical issue, and not one on which all parties agree, but we have based our thinking on the principle that we must find the approach that will lead to the best possible teaching and learning for the students. We believe it will make the summer term in Year 12 less focused on exam assessments, and create more potential for deep learning both at that point and also throughout the two years. It will also allow more flexibility in the curriculum for enrichment and independent learning.

As well as three or four core subjects, which students take over a two year period, we will ask every student to take a further course to enhance the breadth in their learning. In many cases this will be the Extended Project, which is an AS Level research project which prepares them well for higher education and for employment, as it is designed to foster independence, resilience and maturity as a learner, and is taught in a university style through seminars and supervisions. They can pursue any topic of their choosing, with the outcome a dissertation, research project, performance or artefact.

Another area where we have sought to introduce significant change for students in the past year has been to do with the range and quantity of student leadership opportunities. We are very committed to hearing, representing and responding to students’ needs, and so have developed our Student Voice processes considerably to enable greater sixth form contribution to the busy working life of the school.

Sixth form students now run the ‘Whole School Council’ which oversees the wide variety of student led activities which take place in the school. In addition there are Lower, Middle and Upper School committees to address issues and concerns at those specific age levels, which are also run by sixth form Student Council Leaders.

The school has a very strong House system and again, there are a large number of leadership positions in Year 12 and Year 13 to promote the many House activities which go on with all the year groups throughout the year. We had eighty applications from Year 12 students for House Ambassador roles and appointed forty ambassadors as a result.

Furthermore, we highly value student input on the recruitment process of staff to the school. Student Panels are now an established part of the recruitment process and are chaired by Year 13 students. Interviewees consistently comment on the professional way in which students conduct this process and how insightful their questioning is.

As the examples show above, sixth formers’ contribute widely to the life of the school, the energy and enthusiasm of the students is what defines life in the sixth form at Hinchingbrooke. This is what has made engaging with my new role such a privilege.
Remembrance Day

On the 11th of the 11th the whole of Year 12 and Year 13 gathered for an assembly in the PAC to unite in an Act of Remembrance for those who have died in conflict in the service of this country.

A piper was playing as students entered, and then Mr Goulding spoke about the context of remembrance of the war dead. We then had over twenty senior students read, in pairs; war grave reports for those named on the role of honour which hangs in Hinchingbrooke House. This gave a powerful sense of the reality of students of this school who went to war and fought and died as young men.

Mr Wheeley read a letter which had been discovered three years ago in Huntingdon, from the officer reporting the death of a soldier to the boy’s mother; it conveyed desperate grief, and yet in its pride at the soldier’s heroism it was also stirringly upbeat.

We had a musical arrangement, again performed by students, of the ‘Last Post’ and ‘Abide with Me’, leading into the two minutes silence, followed by Mr Goulding closing out a beautiful service with prayers.

This remembrance event was itself memorable, and showcased the very best of our committed students, both those present, and indeed, those from the distant past.

Speakers for Schools - Andrew Lansley MP

We were delighted to welcome Mr Andrew Lansley MP to talk to our sixth formers on Friday October 10th. Mr Lansley spoke to a packed Assembly Room on the topic of ‘The Future of Health’, and then students asked him searching questions about privatisation, policies that could improve public health, NHS budgets, care for the elderly, and yes, UKIP. Mr Lansley is credited with being the primary driver behind the government’s Health and Social Care bill, and whilst not everyone in the room seemed to be in perfect agreement with the ex-Minister for Health’s viewpoints, the atmosphere of the meeting was nonetheless positive and good-humoured. For students of the Social Sciences, in particular, it was an excellent chance to get an insight into the mindset and processes of decision-making at a high national level.

Chloe Hornby, Faye Brooks and Annabel Hipwell with Andrew Lansley MP.
Talk for Budding Engineers

On Wednesday, 12th November, four graduate engineers from Bechtel, an international company which manages a significant number of large engineering projects worldwide, came in to talk to budding engineers from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. The talks covered mechanical, civil and electrical engineering disciplines and the speakers described what their jobs entailed, how they got to where they are now. They were also able to give advice on which types of engineering courses to apply for at university.

One of the speakers also gave information on ways into engineering through the apprenticeship route and after the event said “everybody was so happy to take part in the event and truly enjoyed speaking to your students”. The students were able to see how engineers in one discipline contributed to the whole project and how an engineer for a large company, you have the opportunity to travel worldwide which the students found very exciting. Students asked a number of questions and left the talk feeling motivated to follow a career in engineering.

Volunteering - CAS24 for Sixth Formers

Volunteering: Ann Bunting, and Hannah Brown who is currently back in the UK after working as a volunteer Health Specialist with ‘Revelation Life,’ came to talk about volunteering. Ann is the Manager from the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre and she explained what volunteering involves, giving numerous inspiring examples about how volunteering occurs in both local and far wider contexts. One lovely slide showed a very old lady of over 100 years old with a younger person, where it was the lady who was the volunteer. Hannah spoke eloquently and emotively about work she has done in Africa to support communities in terms of healthcare, education and support for basic needs. Hannah a qualified and practising nurse, is now returning to Africa to continue her work there. Nathalie from the National Blood Transfusion Service, also spoke, explaining how we can get involved in donating blood, which generated a pleasingly long queue at the end of the session.
Lunchtime Music Recital
The first music recital took place on Friday, 26th September. For half an hour a small audience of staff and students were entertained by four sixth form music students. It was a delightful way to spend a lunchtime.

Science and Religion - The Faraday Institute
Lizzi Coyle, from the Faraday Institute, came and spoke to our Science and RE students on Thursday, October 16th. The Faraday Institute based at St Edmund’s College, Cambridge, specialises in interdisciplinary research and education in the not always seen as linked subjects of Science and Religion. Lizzi is herself a graduate of Cambridge University in Natural Sciences, specialising in Evolutionary and Behavioural Biology, and was able to speak with considerable clarity and eloquence on the scientific side of the questions she was raising. Her talk was about the perceived incompatibility of science and religion, arguing that the two ask fundamentally different questions.

Speakers for Schools -
Male Fashion in the Renaissance
Professor Ulinka Rublack visited the sixth form as part of the Speakers for Schools programme. She gave a very interesting talk to sixth form history students, entitled, ‘Male fashion in the renaissance and reformation’. The students really enjoyed hearing about her research.
Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Simon Cooke - Vice Principal

Congratulations to the many students who achieved some excellent results at GCSE, AS Level and A Level in the various Performance & Creativity subjects; Art, Design & Technology, Dance, Drama, Food & Textiles, Music, PE & Sport.

Since then the Autumn Term has progressed at a rate of knots with so much happening in lessons and beyond. It is so hard to keep track that several departments are producing their own regular newsletter, some extracts are in the following few pages.

We have enjoyed music concerts such as ‘Glastonbrooke Unplugged’ in the House and the ‘Autumn Term Concert’ in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) (this was organised and hosted by the 6th Form Music Leaders). The Art Department has been on various trips to museums and galleries in London.

Some of our Springboard students have won the county Boccia competition and therefore, progress through to the Regional finals in the spring term. Good luck to them!

Before the end of this term some of our Year 10 students will compete in the Young Chef of the Year Competition. Rehearsals are occurring several times a week in preparation for this year’s school production ‘Our House’. The productions are always of an excellent standard and give greater opportunities to such a large number of students; so please put the dates in your diary; Monday 9 February to Thursday 12 February 2015.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hopefully students, parents and staff will get a chance to recharge their batteries too!

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Lord’s Taverners U19 County Boccia Competition

Hinchinbrooke’s Boccia team were crowned Cambridgeshire County Boccia champions at the recent Lord’s Taverners U19 event held at One Leisure in St Neots.

The team lost a closely fought first game 1:2 against Granta School and needed to win their next game to progress further in the competition. They fared better in their second game defeating Jack Hunt School from Peterborough 3:2 to progress to the semi-finals.

Captain, Jabe Peake and team mates Tom Mayers and Harry Parker began to dominate as the competition went on with some pin-point throwing on to the jack.

In the semi-final the Hinchinbrooke team met Castle School who they defeated 4:1 to set up a final and re-match of the only game that they had lost in the competition against local rivals Granta School.

Following the team’s skilful and accurate play the final score after 3 ends was 6:1 and saw Hinchinbrooke retain their title as County champions for a third year. They will now go on to represent Cambridgeshire along with Granta School at the Regional finals being held in Essex in January 2015.

Tom Mayers (yr 8), Harry Parker (yr 7) & Jabe Peake (yr 10) with their trophy (Left to right)
Music Department News - Mr W Cooke

It has been a busy few weeks for the Music Department with many exciting lessons, events, concerts and opportunities for our young people.

News!
We would like to congratulate Zoe Perkins Year 12 and Rob Burton Year 11. Zoe on gaining a place in the highly prestigious National Youth Orchestra and Rob on gaining a place in the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. Well done!

Music Leaders
Our Music Leaders have made a great start to the academic year, by setting up a flute choir and organising the Autumn Concert. We have welcomed two new instrumental teachers to our team this year. Tim Slater is an excellent, professional electric guitarist, and the inspirational Joe McGlohan has started teaching clarinet and saxophone to some of our young people.

Recruiting Now!
We always welcome new members to all our choirs and ensembles and are particularly keen to promote the following to you:

Hinchingbrooke Community Choir
Rehearsals every Friday, 3.45-5.00pm in the Music Department. Everyone welcome – students, staff, parents, friends etc.

Pop Choir
Rehearsals every Wednesday lunch time in the Music Department. All Key Stage 3 students welcome.

Orchestra
Rehearsals every Monday 3.40-4.45pm. Everyone welcome, staff and parents included.

Key Stage 3 (KS3) Lessons
Our ‘new-look’ KS3 lessons began this year, with each student having their own learning booklet which contains their schemes of work. Exciting skills such as guitar playing, keyboard playing, singing, music technology and Reggae await our budding young musicians.

Recording Studio
Huge thanks go to our Site Team, particularly the amazing Phil Souter, who gave up endless hours to create our new recording studio. Phil’s expertise and dedication has meant we now have a fully-functional, top-end studio which will enhance our students’ education, particularly those studying Music Technology at A Level.

Piano Masterclass
Naomi Longhurst (Y13), Robert Burton (Y11) and Joanna Chen (Y13) all performed brilliantly for Masayuki Tayama, who critiqued their playing. Masayuki then played an engaging and thoroughly entertaining concert in the evening.

Royal Philharmonic
Mrs Cooke and Mrs Nichols took thirteen A Level Music and Music Technology students to hear the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform in October. What a fantastic evening and an unforgettable performance! Thanks to parents Mr Owers and Mrs Langley for accompanying us.

Albert Lee Performance
The legendary guitarist Albert Lee performed and spoke about his musical experiences at the packed-out PAC in October. Thanks to Paul Ingrey for organising the event.

Autumn Concert
The Orchestra, Swing Band, Fusion Band, Guitar Orchestra, Flute Choir, Pop Choir, A Level students and the Hinchingbrooke Community Choir all came together to celebrate the end of the first half-term with a wonderful concert. Thanks to the Music Leaders who organised the concert.

Christmas Concert
As the Herald goes to print the school is preparing for the Christmas Concert on 17th December, we are looking forward to a wonderful evening of Christmas music.
6th Form Dance Workshop & Competition Success

Our 6th form exam dance students had the opportunity to work with nationally renowned choreographer, Mr Joss Arnott.

Joss trained at London Studio Centre and Laban – two highly regarded institutions for dance in the UK. He was so successful in his graduate year that he was able to set up the ‘Joss Arnott Dance Company’, which regularly tours and performs across the UK.

Dance teacher, Michelle Trewin, was lucky enough to book his services for two fast-paced, challenging workshops. The culmination of his visits was a beautiful 4 minute dance choreography, which will be performed at our school Dance show in March 2015. In the meantime, our 6th formers performed at the ‘Hunts Fest’ competition and scored 85/100 for the piece!

Mrs Trewin

Staff: Michelle Trewin. Dancers: Abbie Watson, Evie Belgrove, Amy Hunt, Sabrina Hunt, Kristine Flores, Megan Hill, Rebecca Harrington, Lucy Gaskin, Isabelle Hunt, Sabrina Thomas, Hannah Button, Tayla Dignan, Jordan Picking, Rachel Foster

Please follow this link below to read the Sports News Report created by students. These are regularly posted on the school website.

http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Sports+Reports&pid=563
Hunts School Sports Partnership

The Hunts School Sports Partnership (Hunts SSP) has had another great start to this academic year with 72% of primary schools subscribing to us for support to deliver their Sport Premium. The Partnership is self-funded and receives no government funding.

We work with primary schools and provide a range of services to support them to embed high quality physical education in their schools through our team of highly skilled physical education specialists and sports coaches. Here is some of the news from us for this term.

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournaments

Elite Rugby Player Tom Orton (Bedford Athletic) attended the recent Hunts School Sports Partnership, (Hunts SSP) Primary School Tag Rugby Tournaments; he was very impressed by the high level of play and enthusiasm shown by all young players. Around 300 primary children competed in match play in these exciting and well supported events. A number of primary schools have been working with HSSP staff during curriculum time and in after school clubs to prepare their pupils for competition. With the introduction of the new Small Schools tournament this year there was an increase in the number of schools participating in the event this year – twenty in total.

The success of these tournaments is dependent on the excellent leadership skills of Hinchingbrooke Sports Leaders trained by the Hinchingbrooke School P.E. department and also the support of Community Rugby Coaches. Year 9, 10 and 11 Sports Leaders took a range of active roles such as Team Manager, Warm Up coach, Skills Activity Manager and Referee. Huntingdon Rugby Club was a key partner in organising these events and in supporting the leaders to develop their skills.

Teacher Quotes:

‘The refs were very professional and the leaders motivated the children very well. They all had a wonderful afternoon’

‘Really well organised, enjoyable afternoon with a good level of competition, thank you.’

Pupil Quotes:

‘We all put in 100% effort and carried on no matter what. The leaders were friendly too’

‘It was very enjoyable and fun and everyone wants to play more!’

Results:

Large Schools: Winners:
1st Westfield Junior School, 2nd St. Anne’s C of E Primary School.

Small Schools:
Winners 1st Winhills Primary School, 2nd Holme C of E School.

We look forward to the lead up to the Rugby World Cup and to organising a Hunts SSP Tag Rugby Festival in the spring term for primary pupils not who have previously represented their school.
Hunts School Sport Partnership - Team Teaching in Primary Schools

Our experienced team of Specialist P.E. teachers continue with their placements in primary schools. The HSSP model where a Physical Education specialist team teaches with a class teacher is proving to have a significant impact on pupil progression and achievement in our partner schools. Raised awareness of Key Stage specific activities such as Quick Sticks Hockey, Quad Kids Athletics, Tag Rugby and Key Steps Gymnastics has helped to increase pupil participation in after school clubs and competition.

Quotes: "I feel the design of the team teaching training is very good because it involves the children I work with, sessions over a number of weeks (and not just a one off course), opportunities to discuss ideas and see an expert in action. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and has helped me to rethink my approach to Physical Education"

"I have been very impressed with the progress the children have made and their enthusiasm for tennis. It has been a great teaching and learning experience".

Hinchingbrooke School Achieves Sainsbury’s School Games Silver Mark Award 2013-14

Hinchingbrooke School has achieved a “Silver” Kite Mark award; this prestigious award is a well-deserved recognition of the breadth, depth and high quality provision of physical education and sport at Hinchingbrooke School. An impressive range of extra-curricular opportunities offered provide a robust extension to the curriculum and students are appropriately signposted to pathways to access community sport.

The Hunts School Sports Partnership supports and mentors primary and secondary schools across the district to apply for the Sainsbury’s School Games award and with great success. This Government led awards scheme rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Schools are able to apply for bronze, silver and gold levels of the Mark.

Twenty schools across the Huntingdonshire area achieved an outstanding level of success and were the highest in the County:

Four primary schools have achieved Gold Mark, three schools Silver and thirteen schools achieved Bronze Mark.

Through increased competition schools also access opportunities to develop children’s skills in a wide range of opportunities such as embedding a School Sport Organising Crew (SSOC). SSOC’s are groups of primary pupils who lead the planning and delivery of school sport clubs and Level 1 (intra) school competition programmes in their school. Crew members take on a range of active roles such as media, coach and activity leader, equipment manager, official and photographer.

These roles support the development of successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and fulfilled, happy and healthy individuals.
Hunts School Sports Partnership Team Building Events

A Team Building programme has been developed and introduced to primary schools across the Hunts SSP Partnership. The programme guides children and their class teachers through a range of problem solving activities enabling children to value the individual contribution of all class members, respecting others and working collaboratively to resolve problems.

The response from schools has been overwhelming with schools requesting whole school participation in the programme.

Teacher Quotes:
‘The children were engaged and concentrated throughout, as they learned how to work together to achieve the same objective and use their problem solving skills to tackle tasks which required more than one attempt to achieve success.’

‘The morning was rich in learning opportunities, not only for the children, but also for staff who can now access these activities for further work on team building and resilience.’

Mrs Ager
I am very pleased to introduce the Enterprise and Enquiry section in our latest Hinchingbrooke Herald.

As another extremely busy and highly productive term draws to a close, it is pertinent to focus on some key events that have seen the Directorate take further strides forward this term. There have been a wealth of activities for students to get involved in, including opportunities to:

- Get 'up close and personal' with some very small creatures in Dr Mike Leahy’s ‘Zoo Bus’
- Undertake the Maths challenge for the chance to pit your wits against top mathematicians across the globe
- Learn about systems and structures as part of the ICT ‘Tech Team’
- Join the Pony Club run by two of our own Directorate TAs
- Become a Sixth Form Maths mentor and help Middle School students master trickier mathematical concepts in tutor time
- Begin work which will lead to a CREST award in Science club
- Be enterprising enough to undertake the Formula 100 challenge

In January, Mrs Lucy Beadles will join the Directorate as Head of Business Studies. We are tremendously pleased that Lucy is joining the team, not least as this will give us the opportunity to offer A Level Economics once again. We are also fortunate to have secured the services of Mr James Daugherty as a teacher of Maths. James will add further capacity and expertise to the department in all key stages.

As ever, I would like to pay tribute to all of our staff (teaching and support) and pass on my sincere thanks to them for their excellent work this term.

I hope you enjoy the following articles, which provide much more of a flavour of the events that have helped shape the term in Enterprise and Enquiry.

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**Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry**

Lee Walker - Vice Principal

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**Year 11 ‘Post 16 Progression’ Event, and Apprenticeship Assemblies for Year 10 & 11 by Huntingdonshire Regional College (HRC)**

The whole of Year 11 were treated to our annual ‘Post 16 Progression Routes’ event on the morning of Friday, 7th November. This takes place in the performing Arts Centre and students are given the opportunity to visit a number of stands from local and further afield education, employment and apprenticeship providers. They are able to discuss and ask questions about all the alternative routes for Post 16, including year 11; including FE colleges, apprenticeships and also the 6th form at Hinchingbrooke School.

We had a good range of representatives including from Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, Bedford and Peterborough regional colleges, as well as the Army, Moulton College and the College of West Anglia.

On the theme of wider progression routes and as a follow up to this event, we had Steve Favell, Business Director at Huntingdonshire Regional College, give the whole of years 10 and 11, assemblies on Apprenticeships. These were excellent and very informative and Steve talked about what apprenticeships are, where you can find out about them, and how to get one. He also answered a range of questions, both general and specific about them following the assemblies.

In the way of 'outstanding' Information Advice and Guidance (AIG) practice, Steve was extremely 'non stereotypical, 'non gender biased' and 'impartial' in his advice. In particular he cited the National Apprenticeship Service as an excellent starting point for anyone considering an Apprenticeship as the future progression route and pathway for them.

Please see their increasingly excellent website for further information:


Mr Bennett Head of CEIAG and the IAG team
The National ‘Your Life’ STEM campaign, and ‘Formula 100’ competition

‘Your Life’ is a three-year campaign to ensure young adults in the UK have the maths and science skills needed to succeed in the current competitive global economy. It looks to inspire young people, especially girls, to study maths and physics, particularly at A level, as a gateway into wide-ranging careers, whilst also triggering employers to recruit and retain this talent.

As teachers and parents, we have the unique ability to inspire confidence and self-belief in children; helping them to make choices that will steer them towards amazing opportunities and fulfilling careers.

Led by some of the UK’s leading companies and entrepreneurs and supported by Government, the campaign will show young people the full extent of what maths and physics will allow them to achieve. According to ‘Your Life’ the top ten highest paid jobs for graduates all involved maths and science skills, as well as providing exciting opportunities to shape our world.

In the coming weeks and months we will continue to promote STEM careers (i.e. Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering). Specifically through taking part in a National competition run by the ‘Your Life’ campaign - called ‘Formula 100’. The aim is to discover some of the UK’s most creative young minds. The organiser states that the prizes may include the opportunity to make the invention a reality, a place at the One Young World Summit, a day with the Premier League, a day with the UK Space Agency and a day with the software development team at Sky.

To enter, students must submit up to 30 seconds of video, answering the question “What would you invent to make your dream job better?

The link for the ‘Formula 100’ competition is: http://yourlife.org.uk/formula100/

For some amazing and inspirational STEM related videos, and for further information follow the link: http://yourlife.org.uk/

Mr Bennett

Head of CEIAG

Hinchingbrooke Herald - Maths Mentoring

You may have noticed the library is getting busy during Thursday and Friday form times. A new Maths Mentoring Programme has started, bringing together Sixth Formers with those Year 11s needing additional help to secure C grades.

Currently, almost fifty year 11s are being paired with mentors in one-on-one sessions. The Year 11s seem genuinely grateful for the extra help, and it’s really good to see the Sixth Form helping out in this way.

Of course, any Sixth Former taking part can put the time spent mentoring towards their CAS24 hours (volunteering time). We do have more Year 11s looking for mentors, so if there are any more aspiring Sixth Form mentors out there, it’s not too late to get involved. If you would be interested, please drop an email to Mr Hallam or Mr Hancock.

Mr Bennett
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust
Senior and Team Maths Challenges

This half term has been a rather busy one for our more able and further mathematicians in Year 12 and 13 with four of our students representing the school in the UKMT and over sixty students taking part in the individual competition.

The Team Challenge took place on the 10th November 2014. The team consisted of Joanna Chen, Robert Fielding, Ryan Perry and Edward Wilson. The challenge took place at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge and involved schools in and around Cambridge with just over thirty taking part. The challenge was of an extremely high standard and tested our students' mathematical, communication and teamwork skills. It required them to use their knowledge and skills in ways that they would not have come across before and our students, and all the other teams taking part, had to adapt differently to each round. The competition is so tight that one bad round can literally mean the end of your chances to progress to the next round. The competition consisted of a group round, where all students could work together to solve the problems, a cross-number round where the group had to split up in teams of two and had to rely on limited information as well as clues from the other team in their group. The final relay round was by far the hardest and any weaknesses in individuals was cruelly exposed as a team is only as strong as its weakest link. The team from Hinchingbrooke finished a very credible 9th and we send our thanks and congratulations to all four of them.

The Individual Challenge took place on the 6th November and involved over sixty of our top mathematicians in Year 12 and 13. This was not just a maths challenge but also a game of strategy; if a student answered a question incorrectly marks were actually deducted but if the question was left blank then no marks were deducted. Our students had to really make sure that they were prepared to take a 'gamble' with their answers to avoid the dreaded negative marking. The challenge tested all of their maths skills in ways that most of them would not have come across before.

The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of pupils. The papers contain twenty-five multiple choice questions. Of these, the first fifteen are more accessible whilst the final ten will provide more food for thought. Gold, silver and bronze certificates are awarded to 40% of participants nationally in the Junior and Intermediate Challenges, and 60% of participants nationally in the Senior Challenge. The most successful participants at each level are invited to enter follow-on rounds; Kangaroos (multiple choice questions) or Olympiads requiring full written answers.

We send our congratulations to the following students:

Gold    Ryan Perry, Sam Crane, Mekhola Roychowdhury, Edward Wilson and Robert Fielding
Silver   Joel Mahon, April Carter, Joanna Chen, Katie Buttriss and Sam Heaton

Special congratulations go to Ryan Perry, Edward Wilson and Robert Fielding who all qualified for the next round.

Mr Hancock
New Developments in the Hinchingbrooke School Computing Department

The ICT department has gone through lots of changes this term as it now becomes the Computing Department.

New Computing Department Website (hbkcomputing.uk)

A new department website has been launched and computing students from all years have their own accounts. All student work is now managed via a department website with students completing and submitting homework online. Students can view resources from their lessons, see all of their grades and feedback, as well as recording lesson notes within their online blog on Hbkcomputing.uk.

Digital Badges

The beginnings of a new department digital reward system has begun, with our new recognition badge being awarded. Every week 5 students are identified as students of the week, a postcard is sent home and a digital badge is awarded in recognition of effort and achievement. Other badges will launch next term to recognise skills learnt and qualifications achieved. Digital badges are automatically shown on the department website when students log in and can be downloaded into an online digital CV.

This term the following students have been awarded a Recognition digital badge and postcard home.

Kwame Asare Asiamah  Ollie Baxter  Marcus Beatt
Mark Beckett  Patrick Brayne  Amy Brocklebank
Jack Brown  Shalom Chinnappa  Daniel Crooks
Lauren Elmore  Kerryn Feehily

Trips and Visits

The Computing Department have organised 2 trips to take place next term. 42 students will be heading to Disneyland Paris in February and 50 students will be visiting the Gadget Show live event at the NEC Birmingham in April.

Extra Curricular

We have launched a new group of digital leaders at Hinchingbrooke. The Student Tech team is available to students with a keen interest in IT & Computing and an obvious talent in the field. Students complete a training course to teach them the skills needed to assist other students and staff within the school. This provides an excellent foundation for those students wishing to work in the IT support and IT management industry.

Any students interested in joining, should download the application form from the information page on hbkcomputing.uk. Apps for Good Club meets every Thursday lunchtime and gives students the training and resources to design and prototype their own mobile apps. Teams can present their designs and prototypes in a national competition, with the chance to have their app produced and sold.

Stay tuned for a new Raspberry Pi club launching next term.

Mr Kilby
Dr Mike Leahy and the Zoo Bus

Dr Mike Leahy, Virologist and TV Presenter, visited Hinchingbrooke last Thursday with his Zoo Bus. As a reward for hard work in science, Forty-one Year 7 and 8 students visited the Zoo Bus during period 3, getting the opportunity to see all of the animals on board and handle some of Dr Leahy’s snakes.

Dr Leahy stayed for the rest of the day, entertaining Year 7 and 8 with his talk “Bite Me – It’s not the Crocs and Snakes that you have to worry about” The talk based on Dr Leahy’s “National Geographic Channel” series, used humorous anecdotes and funny stories to explain that the really dangerous animals are not the ones you would think of.

As well as entertaining us with his stories, Dr Leahy explained the science behind the creatures that you really should be afraid of. The students were enthralled by Dr Leahy’s description of how he grew a tapeworm inside himself for TV and got it out in one piece, while some staff felt a little queasy.

The parents and students who attended the Science Society presentation in the evening were treated to Dr Leahy’s “A brief history of self-experimentation”, another very humorous and informative presentation, with more gruesome stories.

Miss Waring

Primary Schools to Work - Launch Event

On the 16th October Hinchingbrooke School hosted an initial launch event in the beautiful Hinchingbrooke House Library; for a pilot careers scheme which encourages links and visits by businesses into schools on a regular basis. The scheme is called ‘Primary Steps 2 Work’ (PS2W) and it aims to bring ‘real world’ employers into the lives of students, who will give an insight into the world of careers and employability skills at an earlier age, and during their Primary education. The initial phase of the scheme is aimed at a range of year 6 students, who will potentially be transferring into Hinchingbrooke and St. Peters for Year 7; with a view to continuing this work and input beyond their primary years.

Huntingdonshire Chambers of Commerce is working in partnership with Hinchingbrooke, St. Peters, Hartford Community Primary, Huntingdon Primary and Thongsley Fields. The founders to the scheme are Derrick Woolf (a senior accountant and member of the Chambers) and Judy Newlove (a Primary school teacher). Judy, Derrick and Gill Prangnell from the Chambers team are working with key members of staff from the participating schools, including Andy Bennett (Head of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) and Kate Tandy (Head of Lower School) from Hinchingbrooke School.

The initial twenty Businesses who have signed up will each send a ‘motivator’ into the Primary schools to explain what skills are needed for different jobs. There will also be a school project, which will involve future careers research, writing CVs, publishing manuals and workplace visits.

The aim is that the ‘motivators’ are ‘rising stars’ within their business; relatively young and passionate about their jobs to inspire younger children. The end aim is that participating students will have a greater resolve to ‘do well’ at school, and aspire high, if they can identify what they need to do to achieve and meet those aspirations, whatever they may be.

The event was given a headline feature in the ‘Business’ Section of the ‘Hunts Post’, and has attracted a good level of attention from various local and National businesses, who are all keen to take part. The hope and intention is that the scheme will be adopted and rolled out across the Country.

Mr Bennett - Head of CEAIG
National ‘Primary Futures’ Launch Event

On the 15th October, Andy Bennett, Head of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance, was honoured to be invited to an outstanding event given by the ‘Education and Employers Governmental Taskforce’. This is a charitable body given the task of increasing links between employers, and the world of work, with young people. They do this through their ‘Inspiring the Future’ platform, where they currently have 17,431 volunteers registered across the UK to work with schools. The scheme works on the premise that event the ‘busiest’ people in the world of work can hopefully offer up an hour of their time, to feed their experience and enthusiasm into schools for the careers they pursue. The range and diversity of volunteers is huge and from every level of society, though it has to be said many of the volunteers have often reached the pinnacle of whatever field they are involved in.

We have been very fortunate to have built good links and receive great assistance from them in bringing employers and companies into Hinchingbrooke; for example during several of our collapsed Personal Development days and several other events. Please see the link for further information: [http://www.educationandemployers.org/programmes/inspiring-the-future/](http://www.educationandemployers.org/programmes/inspiring-the-future/)

It was their fifth anniversary as a charity on the 15th October, but it was also the launch of their new National scheme: ‘Primary Futures’. This will build on the ‘Inspiring the Future’, and recent ‘Inspiring Women’ programmes, and provide direct access to their volunteers by Primary Schools as well.

The event was held at the Great Hall, at Lincoln’s Inn, London and was sponsored by Deloitte. Key note speakers included David Cruickshank (Chairman of Deloitte and Chair of the Ed. and Employers Taskforce), Russell Hobby (General Secretary of the NAHT), Robert Peston (Chief Economics Editor, BBC), Nick Boles (MP and Minister of State for Skills and Equalities), Lord Grade and Miriam Gonzalez Durantez (Partner at Dechert, LLP and Nick Clegg’s wife).

It was an inspiring evening, and enabled a number of contacts to be gained and built on, to the benefit of Hinchingbrooke and its students in the future; including not least Bal Choda from Aston Martin, and Air Vice-Marshal Elaine West CBE (the highest ranking female officer in the RAF).

Mr Bennett
J-Sol and Hussain - CEIAG and Year 9 ‘Anti Cyber Bullying’ and Careers event

On the 24th September we had a very special event for Year 9s on ‘Cyber bullying’ and ‘Careers in the performing arts and music industries’. This was delivered by a ‘rising’ pop star, J-Sol and writer, actor and ‘you tube’ channel presenter, Hussain- from ‘Hussain’s House’.

They were on a tour of forty schools in September (six in Cambridgeshire). They came to Hinchingbrooke and led what was an excellent extended assembly about the concerns and dangers of cyber bullying and how to avoid them. They also talked from personal experience about their career routes and progression paths. In Hussain’s case this was quite circuitous, having started out with a degree in surveying!

J-Sol is a ‘rising’ urban music singer, with several musical collaborations to his name, and he performed several songs, even though he was not at all well. Hussain has worked with a wide range of ‘celebrities’, is increasingly becoming a ‘YouTube’ phenomenon, has been in Eastenders and is currently working in a big show coming up on Sky 1 soon. He has worked with Pharrell Williams, been an Olympic torch bearer, and was invited to Downing Street for his charity work etc. For more information follow the link: www.HussainsHouse.com

They both really engaged with Year 9 generally, with what was a very vibrant, but informative and relevant presentational style. Given the very sensible message they were conveying it is hard to imagine two individuals, acting as positive role models, with more ‘street cred. Many of the students commented afterward that it was the ‘best assembly they had ever had!

Mr Bennett - Head of CEIAG

6th Form Visit to ‘Forward Composites Co.’

In October, six Hinchingbrooke A level Students, all of who are considering a future career in Engineering, attended an outstanding workplace visit at ‘Forward Composites Co.’ in Huntingdon. They were accompanied by Dick Dunkley (Head of Design Technology) and Andy Bennett (Head of CEIAG and DT teacher). They manufacture high end ‘composited’ (carbon fibre etc.) items for the aerospace, defence, communications, automotive, motorsports and renewables industries just 30 minutes walk away from school. To have such a ‘cutting edge’ and increasingly world beating manufacturer, on our ‘doorstep’, was an inspiration to all of the students (and staff) who took part.

Though originally aimed at an hour and a half visit, it turned into two and a half hours of being guided around the whole company by Forward’s managing director, Paul Jackson, for the whole of that time, such was the level of his and the visiting group’s enthusiasm for what they were being shown. The company has recently been voted by the Hunts Post as ‘Business of the Year’ and Paul has recently been named ‘Business Person of the Year’ by the Cambridge News.

We were also accompanied by Neil Burton, the Manufacturing Manager. The visit started with a presentation given by Paul about the products manufactured at Forward and the incredibly inspiring success and growth story of the company. It has gone from three staff to one hundred and three within a very short period (just over a year). The main reason for this success is the Company’s attention to detail and flexible preparedness to take on almost any level of job which fits into their spectrum of composites production, either working with, or designing for the client.

Both Paul and Neil, and indeed the whole workforce, could not have made us feel more welcome. We walked through the various, fascinating stages of production. Students were able to see, and indeed hold first-hand, items designed, manufactured and produced at the company, from initial client brief to completed products…unfortunately many of which are confidential! An extremely interesting outcome from the trip is that the father of one of the attending students is currently having something produced by the company, partly as a result of his son’s visit. All the students said they had gained a great deal from the visit, and several of their parents have been in touch to convey the positive impact the trip has had upon them.

For more information please look at the Company website, of what is a superb success story for Huntingdon, and consequently, potentially for our students. Particularly pleasing is that Paul Jackson and the company are keen to continue working with us, and to maintain a relationship with them in the coming years: http://www.forwardcomposites.com/
In the first term of this academic year, so much has already been achieved and enjoyed in the Global Citizenship Directorate. We started the year on a high, having had some fantastic results over the summer both at GCSE, AS and A2 levels. All are noteworthy, although I will just mention the fantastic successes of the Languages Department with their 92% A*C in German and 82% in French. English Language achieved 91%, Full Course RE 96% and Global Perspectives 100% A*C. Results we are working to build on and perhaps even exceed with the new Year 11 cohort.

We have welcomed a number of fantastic new staff, who have made a massive difference to the learning environment and the quality of teaching and learning within the Directorate. We have a new debating club which enables the students to learn how to argue…I mean debate! So watch out at home, students will soon be able to offer a rebuttal and counter any argument you offer!

Due to a new initiative called ‘Room with a View’ we have surveyed over 300 students using online facilities. Students representing all the Global subjects have had an opportunity to give us their views on a wide range of issues, including the teaching and learning, marking of books and whether they get an opportunity to correct their work (feedforward). The results have been fascinating and will enable us to improve still further.

As you can see from the following articles, we have already had a large number of trips too. The India Trip over the summer was a unique experience for our students, offering them the opportunity to work with children in orphanages, both teaching and working as part of a team to decorate. Although there was also the odd cultural trip, I have no doubt that for those who attended it will be an experience which stays with them for a lifetime. Global Citizenship is very much about the creation of students who understand their place in the modern world; how to make it better and contribute in a positive way. It is why the various excursions and overseas trips should be an opportunity that all students at Hinchingbrooke have. Even the German Exchange last summer, which had its moments, was an experience students will learn life lessons from; ones they cannot learn in a classroom no matter how fabulous the teaching and learning.

With the commemoration of the start of World War One there has also been a range of opportunities in which our students could be involved. Understanding the past, being empathetic and understanding it’s impact on our lives today are also essential key factors of our directorate.

It is with sadness that we are saying goodbye to staff who are off to pastures new: Miss Cassedy has a promotion to Head of History in a school in York; Mrs Black is leaving us for a short time to have her first baby and Mrs Barratt in English is moving to another school nearer to home. We wish them all the very best and hope they keep in touch.

With the Christmas holidays approaching we look forward to the successes of the Year 11 mocks and hope the Sixth Form have an opportunity to revise amongst the plethora of food and presents. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.
Middle School Debating Society “Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument” - (Desmond Tutu)

Hinchingbrooke’s Middle School Debating Society got off to a resoundingly enthusiastic start. After just a few short workshops, Year 10 students performed in our first Comedy Debate during the Year 6 Open Evening back in October. Students debated motions ranging from “This House Believes in equal pay and working conditions for our mythical holiday creatures” to “This House Believes that in the event of de-unification, the garden gnome should become the English national symbol”. Certainly the evening was a true test of rhetoric and witicism!

Since launching the society, we are thrilled that the number of debaters has swollen to over thirty five students. We meet every Thursday lunchtime to argue a range of motions, discussing contemporary political issues and current affairs. It has been a pleasure watching students grow in confidence and articulacy since the beginning of term. Certainly we now look forward to rewarding our hard work at our Christmas Debate in December; an opportunity to celebrate students’ efforts and showcase their newly honed oratory skills. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to participate in the festivities or simply come along and enjoy an afternoon of wit and verbal artistry.

Sarah Spikesley

HBK TV Continue to Break the News

Having got together some new budding reporters at the ‘Bells Gone – What’s On?’ event, HBK TV is back to bring students the news that matters to them! Based in the Lower School, the team of nine reporters and Miss Neasham meet once a week to write various news stories. These reports are then shown on the TV information screens around school – so do look out for them! A big thank you to Olivia Bail, Year 7, as one of our top reporters.

This term, we have reported on various activities in school. For example, the inter-house challenges and the Hunger Games inspired charity event. We also conducted a poll in response to the amended lunch queue rota in the PAC. 76% of our readers, said that they prefer the new two-sittings.

Most recently, we also covered Halloween and Fireworks night. On a less pleasant note, was our story on seagull droppings which we wanted our students to be wary of!

Look out for our TV bulletin, coming out before Christmas to bring you even more news. If anyone would like to join us, come along to room 7 on Wednesday lunch times (biscuits included!)
Commemorating WWI Sunset Memorial Service

I am pleased to write that Jasmine Thompson, one of our year 10 history ambassadors, recently represented the school at Huntingdon’s WWI memorial service to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War. Jasmine read the following story of Frank Clark a former pupil who was killed serving his country during WWI. The ceremony included the Mayor, local councillors and military personnel, including many members of RAF Wyton. The service was a lovely way to end a day of re-enactments on the Water Meadows.

Frank Esmond Clark was the son of Frank and Jane Clark, of Brooklyn, Huntingdon. Before signing up Frank was a pupil at Huntingdon Grammar School. Frank joined the 2nd Company of the 1st Battalion of the Honourable Artillery Company early in the war and fought in France in 1914 and 1915. Whist serving at the front, Frank Clark wrote frequently to his parents. He said ‘We used to march to the firing line, get up at 5.00 a.m. and dig trenches under fire’. Like many Frank thought the war would be over by Christmas 1914 but he soon realised this would not be the case and so wrote to his parents ‘Please wish all my friends and relations a very Merry Christmas and ask them to think of me when the pudding is served.’ A few months later he wrote that he had had a lucky escape when a sniper’s bullet had clipped his ear. Sadly in May 1915 Frank was wounded in the side by shrapnel and died of his wounds two days later. It must have been with the deepest grief that his mother read the following words from his company commander: “I can tell you very truthfully that all who knew him feel they have lost a really brave comrade, and one who kept his spirits up through all the time he has been in the trenches.”

For the last two decades, hundreds of Year 9 students have taken part in our School’s History trip to the battlefields of the First World War and each year we lay a cross on the grave of Frank Clark to remember a local soldier who died at the age of just 17.

Mr Leigh

Year 9 Experience World War 1

A group of year 9 pupils were lucky enough to be invited to take part in a range of WWI workshops as part of Huntingdon’s commemoration of the start of WWI. The workshops took place at the Town Hall and were led by volunteer re-enactors who took pupils through what it was like to join up. Activities that included how to survive a gas attack, how to use a Vickers .303 machine gun and how to treat a battlefield injury. A great time was had by all as you can see from the pictures.

Mr Leigh
#HBKGeogontour

Since the start of the new school year Hinchingbrooke Geographers have spent time out of the classroom investigating their environment in a wide variety of contexts. Year 8 students went to Hunstanton for the day to look at coastal processes and management as well as the role of tourism in the town, whilst Year 13 geographers went further along the coast to study the sand dunes at Burnham. Year 12 Geographers kicked off their AS course with a three day trip to Snowdonia where, amongst other things, they studied the glacial landscape.

Finally, a group of thirty-one A’ level Geographers spent the half term in Iceland where, as well as investigating a range of themes covered in the A level course, they bathed in the Blue Lagoon and saw the Northern Lights.

Then back into the classroom for winter!

Mr Evans
The German Exchange 2014

On Friday 11th July 2014, the intrepid explorers, bound for Germany and the Lower and Middle School Exchanges, boarded the coach and waved a fond farewell to their families. After an estimated three minutes all thoughts of Hinchingbrooke and home had gone and all thoughts were looking ahead to our week in Herrenberg. However, we had the small issue of a nineteen hour coach journey to contend with. The realities and challenges of the double decker coach with around seventy people aboard soon hit home when we had our first travel sickness incidents. Not only this, but we also had a very sick Year 10 student who had come down with a bug during the journey. He was unbelievably stoic in the face of such a difficult journey and did not complain once. That said, at about 3pm on Saturday 12th July, after nineteen hours on the road, several sick bags and a few closed roads and detours later we arrived in Herrenberg – home for the next week.

The students were met by their exchange partners and disappeared in a buzz of excitement and farewells. For the weekend, the students spent their time with their exchange families and some of our students went to theme parks, punting on the river and even skiing! Perhaps the most exciting and culturally historic experience was to be in Germany the day that they won the 2014 World Cup. Sunday evening was at times exciting, at times tense and, in the closing moments of the game, certainly fraught. However, the German team fought back and victory was celebrated in true style. It was an honour and very exciting to be in the country on the night itself – especially when it seems unlikely that England will enjoy these scenes in the near future!

We were all reunited on the Monday morning for our first joint day of fun! Trips for the Lower School Exchange included a visit to Tripsdrill Theme Park, Stuttgart Zoo, shopping and punting in Tubingen and a morning of great excitement and running around at Sensapolis Adventure Park.

Middle School students enjoyed trips to Rittersport chocolate factory, summer tobogganing in the Black Forest, shopping in Stuttgart, all rounded off on the Friday with a trip to Europa Theme Park.

The trips and entertainment laid on by our hosts was fantastic and enjoyed by one and all. Our journey home should have begun on Sunday 20th July. However, this was a trip that enjoyed all sorts of unexpected excitement. The coach that had served us so well during the week broke down and we had to source replacements! With the help of our lovely German colleagues and the unending hospitality of our German host families a coach was found and we finally left Herrenberg early on Monday 21st July. The journey going home didn’t have quite the same excitement factor and students and staff alike settled themselves in for the ride. We arrived home in the early hours of Tuesday morning exhausted but filled with tales of adventures enjoyed. Friendships were cemented or new ones forged and staff and students alike enjoyed a fantastic week – one that won’t be forgotten in the near future!

Miss Parker
The Language of Poetry

Francesca Moore, a Year 9 student of German has been inspired to enter her poem in a national poetry writing competition, based on artefacts housed in a current exhibition in the British Museum, “Germany – Memories of a Nation”.

The project, which is jointly funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and IMLR (Institute of Modern Languages research), is encouraging students from the age of 12 to visit the British Museum in person or on the website and to take inspiration from objects they find displayed there. Once inspired, poems can be written in either English or in German and students can tap into their curiosity and creativity to 're-sculpt' the objects into words. The exhibition is accompanied by a major BBC Radio 4 series presented by Neil McGregor, the director of the British Museum. Winning entries will be presented at the British Museum's 'German folk tales' event on Friday, 12 December.

We all have our fingers crossed for Fran and hope that she is able to win a scholarship to attend a German language summer course in 2015 - viel Glück Fran!

Tracy Henriksen

Der Schwebende

By Francesca Moore

Der Schwebende, soaring in mid-air with an ambiguous fate,
What fate could be waiting for her on the other side?
Der Schwebende, her fate in which is undecided and thus she is to wait,
What fate could be waiting for her on the other side?
Der Schwebende, her facial expression nothing but mysterious in the beholder’s eyes,
What else could she be contemplating?
Der Schwebende, and her meticulously crafted figure makes her a prize,
What else could she be contemplating?
Der Schwebende, her mysterious facial expression consumed in melancholy,
What else could she be contemplating?
Der Schwebende, for what I denote is nothing but acrimony,
What else could she be contemplating?
Der Schwebende, the creator makes her a prestige,
A deity of intrigue,
What else does she have in store for us?
Der Schwebende, soaring away in liberty,
Soaring away from the devils of misery,
What else does she have in store for us?
Der Schwebende, her eyes shut and arms folded securely,
Yearning to be at peace with the world, surely?
Der Schwebende, possessing a strong desire to soar forward and not a hesitation to turn back,
What else does she have in store for us?
Der Schwebende, you remain a mystery in our very eyes,
Making you a mixture of emotions in disguise!
Trip to India - “We All Speak Smile”

There are odd points on school trips where you suddenly realise how far away from home you are. The worst case I have ever experienced was on the recent school trip to India when, upon looking up from the map at the other 2 teachers and 28 students on the pavement outside a closed mosque in the middle of Old Delhi Spice Market, I had this overwhelming feeling of being so far from Huntingdon. It wasn't helped by the overwhelming feeling that I couldn't hear myself think. It wasn't one particular noise. It was everything. The noise of the tuk-tuks and car drivers who seemed to use their horns to express any emotion they felt on the road. The noise of the spice sellers who convinced you that theirs was the bargain you craved. It didn't help that the fumes from the exhaust pipes, the spices and my increasing fear of my own body odour were all battling it out for control of my nasal passages. Suddenly all of this seemed so very far away from Huntingdon High Street. The halcyon days of Pizza Express and Costa... So what to do in the midst of all this noise, chaos and confusion? Get stuck in off course! Explore, discover, smile! When were we going to come back? When would we see these things again? Possibly never. So now was definitely the time to explore, discover and smile.

Leaving behind the serenity of Hinchingbrooke School during the summer holiday, two groups of Year 10 and eleven students entered one of the busiest and most confusing places on earth – New Delhi. A place of contradictions where a 5* accommodation block can be built at the entrance to a slum it certainly warranted exploration. Granted – 2 weeks would not be enough for our students to understand the whole of India but they could gain an insight into the nation, a glimpse into something so different from Huntingdon.

One might think that this wouldn't be possible but for our students the project of teaching and decorating slum schools in Faridabad, New Delhi gave them the perfect opportunity to find out about the dynamics of such a vibrant place. Whilst excursions in Delhi to see tourist sites and a trip to Agra to see the Taj Mahal will certainly stay with the students, it will be the work they did with orphans and slum children throughout the week which will have made them stop and think. Suddenly our students were on the other side of the classroom and needed to communicate with these children in front of them. Whilst they might not admit it, there are a lot of budding teachers amongst the 2 groups as they encouraged and entertained the Indian students throughout their lessons. Despite some of the harrowing conditions, the students were struck by the fact that no matter what happened, the Indian default position was a smile; something so incredibly infectious that many of our students returned from the teaching projects with broad grins on their faces.

It is said that it is not possible to teach leadership but instead it is something learned and these students certainly found out and in fact there was something touching to see our students evolve very quickly from Hinchingbrooke Students to painters and teachers; working together as a group to ensure enjoyment for the children they were working with or the competition of decoration projects such as the dining room for the girl’s orphanage. Our students knew only a little about the culture at the start of the trip but it was clear from the final departure days to see what an impact the trip had on students who, through the tears, were also able to smile at just what they had seen, eaten, heard and created in India.

Many thanks go to Group 1 Leaders: Amelia Parker, Wayne Hall and Group 2 Leaders: Michelle Woolhouse, Jill Nairne-Clarke and John Parker

Mr P Winter
Learning About Life Behind Bars

On Monday 24th November, Year 12 Sociology students attended the Life Behind Bars Conference in Central London. This exciting event allowed students to hear first-hand what life is really like in prison. A number of ex-offenders gave their insights into committing crime, rehabilitation and serving a prison sentence. Ex-offenders on the day included a murderer who had been released on a life license and a successful businessman found guilty of fraud. A fascinating insight into 'life behind bars'

Our Pre U Psychology students attended a Criminology Conference on Thursday 27th November. Every year we offer our psychology students the opportunity to attend a one-day student conference in London. This is on Monday 8th December and run by Philip Allan Updates Conferences and is intended to give students an informative and stimulating day. University lecturers run sessions on subjects specifically related to their course including: Obedience: Auschwitz and Heroes; Gambling and Addiction; Memory and Classroom Learning; Understanding Sleep and Hypnosis.

Also on Monday 8th December we have a trip for our politics and global students to the Houses of Parliament. All will give insight into life at university with lecture style presentations in additions to covering course content.

It should be a mind blowing experience!

Mrs Howells

Inclusion at Hinchingbrooke School -
Letter written by Miss Lavery - Mother of a Year 8 Student

I recently contacted Hinchingbrooke School to ask for support in light of the importance to myself as a Muslim parent that my children be able to practise their religion. I explained that there is a prayer that needs to be made during the school day and without facilities available at school that would not be possible, I asked if there was anything school could do to help with this? Also acts of worship become mandatory once children have hit puberty, so the school has facilitated my son joining prayers in the nearby hospital chapel to fulfil this.

Within the space of the first week back at school a room was identified and is being prepared as a prayer room, to provide a room where my son can pray at lunchtime (Salat ul Dhurh). This is near to student toilets so they can make ablutions (Wudu) before they pray. Mrs M Benjafield at Hinchingbrooke School, who has gone above and beyond any expectations helped us with this initially and after submitting the request in writing, purely for school records, this request was also granted. The school have also said they would be willing to look at a larger room if and when the need arises.

Miss Kimberley Lavery said "As a practising Muslim family, it is so important to us to be able to follow our prescribed acts of worship on a daily basis. Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life. Many of our younger generation are feeling too shy or embarrassed about practising their religion in front of their peers, in case they get bullied or teased. I would like to do all I can to try to make this generation/our children happy and confident enough to be who they are and who they want to be without fear of ridicule. It is important for any parent to have children who are strong, confident, respectful, tolerant, caring and kind not just to their peers but the wider community too. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Hinchingbrooke School for making all this possible."
Young Carers Project - Carers Trust Cambridgeshire.
This project recognises young people who care for a family member who has a disability, long term illness, mental health problem or who misuses drugs or alcohol. Young carers may be prevented from doing things that their friends do outside of school, or may take on extra responsibilities in and around the home.

If you think this may be you or a friend, please talk to your Form Tutor or Student Support Officer. They will be able to refer you to the project by filling in a form. Once this has been passed to us we will come and visit you. If you are invited to the Young Carers’ project, you may attend the group which runs at your school. This would give you time to meet other young carers and talk to a young carers group leader. The group also takes part in fun activities and gives you time away from your caring role.

Lauren Mowbray | Young Carers Group Leader and 1:1 session worker
www.cambsyoungcarers.org.uk | Follow us:

CUrious - Christian Union
Each Tuesday lunchtime in room 131 a group of people meet to discuss things that they are CUrious about.

CUrious has been running for a number of years and we have had lots of different people get involved over that time. There isn’t anything obvious that links these people: they don’t all have the same interests; they don’t all come from the same place; they definitely don’t all agree with each other! But they do all have an opinion and they are willing to share it and to listen to what others have got to say.

Everybody is welcome-whatever they believe in. We discuss all sorts of things and lots of our topics lead us to debate about what people think of God and if so how faith plays a part in our world.

We enjoy questioning and challenging ourselves and each other. All questions are welcome and no-one is wrong!

CUrious to find out more? Come and join us and enjoy fun, games, food and a great debate.

New Sports Hall for 2015.

We are pleased to say that plans are progressing for the new Sportshall.

We will be building build a new state of the art Sports Hall .Building works should now start in mid-January 2015 with completion in early October 2015. The sports hall will be equipped with a 594 square metre hall (4 full sized badminton courts), a fully equipped gymnasium with the latest state of the art exercise equipment, fitness room, two sets of changing facilities, a reception, offices and a PE classroom.

Mr Ian Oliver the Site Manager said “There have been challenges along the way but now we are now in discussion with the contractor and look forward to breaking the ground soon!
New Uniform Update

Thank you for your continuing support in the introduction of the new school uniform, we know that there have been challenges in getting the right sizes and in awaiting stock from our suppliers; we appreciate your patience. The uniform has received many compliments from parents and members of the public. There are many students who are very proud of their smart appearance despite their initial reservations. We look forward to seeing all students (except the current year 11) wearing the full new uniform after the Easter holidays. This is the deadline for the final transition from old to new uniform items.

Following this date the green sweatshirt, white polo shirts, black trousers and black skirts will no longer be acceptable uniform. Price & Buckland provide all the uniform items except girl’s mid-grey trousers. Blazers with an embroidered badge can also be purchased from Tesco Uniform Embroidery Service accessible online. In addition, Sainsbury in Huntingdon are continuing to supply in store mid-grey trousers for boys and girls. If you choose to purchase trousers from an alternative supplier please ensure that they are mid-grey and not charcoal-grey.

If you need any more information or help please visit the school website uniform pages [http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Uniform&pid=135](http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Uniform&pid=135) where there are some useful FAQs and where you can access the different website links for ordering items. Please order any uniform items soon so that your child can be wearing the new uniform after the Easter deadline.

The photograph is of some year 7 students showing off their new uniforms in an article published in the Hunts Post earlier this term.