Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents

After what has been quite a short, but busy and exciting Spring term, we are not only approaching Easter, but we also get even nearer to one of the main events in our 450th anniversary year. I hope that many of you have already purchased the excellent book “1565-2015 From Huntingdon Grammar School to Hinchingbrooke School” (The school's place in history)” which was commissioned for this anniversary and is available from reception, but if not, there will be opportunities at each of our events throughout the year. The first of the main events takes place at Hinchingbrooke House over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May when there will be an exhibition of the History of the Schools, a Flower Festival by Brampton Flower Club, Tours and Teas including guided tours of the House and, from our own very students and departments, an Art display and musical entertainment. I do hope you will come along and learn something of the wonderful history of the House and School. Unfortunately the anniversary lecture in the evening by Dame Hilary Mantel DBE FRSL is now sold out, but there are still some tickets available (from 01480 – 375678) to watch this via a live feed in an adjacent room and the rest will be there for everyone to enjoy. A little further into the future, but another event to look out for and ‘save the date’ is the Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School’s special recognition awards on Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 7.00pm in the Performing arts Centre. Please see our website under the 450th Anniversary tab for more details. Many other events for both the school students and community will have a 450th flavor this year, so do come along and support us.

In school we have been continuing to focus our efforts on improving the learning opportunities for students and trying to achieve greater levels of consistency across all areas. Our clamp down on the behavior of a small minority of students who disrupt learning has proved very effective. Although initially scheduled for two weeks, we have kept up the campaign throughout the term and I am pleased to say that it has made a difference. The numbers of students being put into the Senior Leadership Team detention on Fridays after school has decreased and the number of persistent
offenders has also diminished. I am grateful for the support that we have received from many parents during this initiative. The vigilance and action will continue after Easter,

Thank you too for those parents who have supported the Parent Forums. You will have seen, I am sure, the ‘You said, We did’ section of our website, which highlights the changes we have made as a direct result of feedback from parents. Please don’t feel however that you need to wait for a parent forum if you want to discuss some aspect of the school with a senior member of staff. We welcome feedback and discussion at any time.

There have been many highlights of the term including the ever popular ‘IndepenDance’, the music concerts and of course ‘Our House’, all of which have provided magnificent opportunities to show off the talents of our students. Sporting success has been significant too with Hinchingbrooke reaching the national finals of the Boccia competition, as well as Year 7 becoming District Hockey Champions, The 1st XV rugby team held Long Road to a 12 all match, while the Year 8 football team are through to the county semi-finals and the Year 7 girls’ cricket team will be playing in the district indoor cricket finals.

One of the significant opportunities for staff at Hinchingbrooke has come about as a result of us being invited to join the ‘Discovery Teaching School Alliance.’ This is led by Spring Common Special School who have recently gained Teaching School status. Partnership working has long been important in education and over the years this has been promoted by successive governments on the basis that co-operation and collaboration is better than competition. Whilst we are unlikely to eradicate all competition, and indeed some competition is a good thing, we can support each other much better by working together with other schools in the area. The Teaching School Alliances (and there are seven of them in Cambridgeshire) seek to work together in a number of key areas such as teacher training, recruitment, succession planning and supporting schools in difficult circumstances. One tangible benefit has been the designation of three of our staff as ‘Specialist Leaders in Education’ (SLEs). Congratulations go to David Riddick, Dave Banham, and Zara Patrick. I am hopeful that others will take up this opportunity as the next round comes on stream.

One of the most enjoyable things that happen this term, for me personally, is the interviews for Head Boy and Head Girl. As you can imagine there is stiff competition for this prestigious position, so hearty congratulations go to Esme Walters and Will Young (who, incidentally, took the lead in the production of ‘Our House’ and who is therefore an expert at quick changes on stage!)

As well as Head Boy and Head Girl, we have welcomed Ms Julia White and Mr Andrew Hobley on to the governing body as parent governor and staff governor respectively. Many congratulations on their appointments.

After the Easter break we look forward to all students (other than year 11) wearing our smart new uniform with pride. The appearance of students has significantly improved and we have received many compliments from different sources about this change. I am not aware of any outstanding issues with the supply of the uniform, though I know there have been issues in the past, which we have taken up with the relevant companies. Do get in touch with your Lower/Middle school offices if you need any support with this.

Another long awaited and much anticipated new start after Easter will be the beginnings of the work to build our new Sports Hall. After the euphoria of a successful bid to achieve the money, there have been, what have seemed to me to be interminable delays, on account of changing prices, further checks and tests needing to be done and of course the delightful great crested newts! That said, the ‘ducks are now in a row’, as they say – not actual ducks, you understand! - and we are ready to proceed. The project has had to be scaled down somewhat and the refurbishment of the old Sports Hall to work together in a number of key areas such as teacher training, recruitment, succession planning and supporting schools in difficult circumstances.

The finances are managed extremely well, but we are facing another situation where some cut backs are needed in order to balance the books. These are being managed with a view to maintaining the excellence we are so passionate about creating and in a way that has a minimal impact on the students.

The money for the new Sports Hall was a bid which provided additional funding especially for this project. The state of our ‘ordinary’ finances remains a matter that concerns the school greatly and a matter which takes up a lot of time for me and the governors. You may have heard of recent news about ‘fairer funding’ and more cash for Cambridgeshire schools? There has been some more cash, but it does not compensate for increases in spending that are outside our control, such as the increases to pension contributions and the reductions imposed on us in certain areas of the budget. The finances are managed extremely well, but we are facing another situation where some cut backs are needed in order to balance the books. These are being managed with a view to maintaining the excellence we are so passionate about creating and in a way that has a minimal impact on the students.

Staffing, which is always a challenge especially in some areas, at present is looking good. We have recently been able to appoint three new Languages teachers, all of whom, unusually, are able to start before September. Janice Large (Head of MFL), together with Alison Roberts (MFL Leader in Ks4 & Ks5) and Maren Blume (MFL Leader for Ks2 to Ks3). Mr Boyle has also joined the Maths department and we have secured a new Chemistry teacher to join us in September, Mr Nance. There is of course a way to go before we will know the full picture in terms of staffing, as teachers who secure other
jobs for September can resign up until 31st May. With all very much to play for and some exciting challenges ahead I will finish, by wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Kind regards
Andrew Goulding
Principal

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**New Uniform Update**

**Final Phase of New Uniform**

As a school, we are extremely pleased with the effect of the new uniform, both in and out of school and are very grateful to all those parents/carers who have already managed to make the change. All students in years 7 to 10 will need to be in the new uniform from after Easter. This means that we expect all students (except our current year 11s) to return to school on **Tuesday 14 April 2015** smartly dressed in the new uniform.

Price & Buckland online, [www.pbpantsonline.co.uk/hinchingbrooke](http://www.pbpantsonline.co.uk/hinchingbrooke)

Tesco’s online ‘Uniform Embroidery Service’ is also available to order blazers (with the house emblems), white school shirts etc. You can order your school items on-line at the following website address [http://www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear](http://www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear).

The Sainsbury store in Huntingdon have a mid-grey trouser for both girls and boys. Their store is being rearranged at present so please ask a member of their staff if you cannot find the trousers and relevant sizes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping the students to wear the new uniform with pride, we have really noticed the difference it has made. I look forward to seeing all our students on (with exception of Year 11) dressed smart and ready to learn when we come back to school after the Easter break.

*Mr S Cooke*
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates
Spring Term Closes – Friday 27 March
450th Piano Concert – 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

Staff Training Days – 2 & 3 September
Autumn Term Opens – Friday 4 September (Years 7 & 12)
Autumn Term Opens – Monday 7 September (All Years)

Parents' Evenings
Year 10 Parents' Evening – 2 June
UCAS Parents’ Information Evening – 1 July
Year 6 & 7 Taster Evening – 8 July

Events
Year 8 HPV vaccinations – 17 April
Junior Maths Challenge – 30 April
Hilary Mantel 450th Lecture – 2 May
450th Anniversary Celebrations – 2, 4 & 5 May
Exhibition of History, Flower Festival, Tours and Teas
Year 10 Work Experience – 11-22 May
GCSE Art Exhibition – 21 May
Year 13 Leavers Assembly – 22 May
A Level Art Exhibition – 11 June
Year 11 Formal – 25 June
Sports Day – 1 July
Sixth Form Ball – 3 July
450th Promenade Concert – 5 July
Sports Awards Evening – 9 July
Picnic at the House – 14 July
Glastonbrooke – 15 July
Collapsed Timetable Day All Students – Friday 17 July

Parent Forums
Thursday - 14 May
Wednesday – 15 July
Please follow the link below to find out more:- http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Parents%27Forum&pid=522

A great read about the school and local history

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.

Contact: 01480-375700
We are delighted that Dame Hilary Mantel CBE, one of this country's most acclaimed and garlanded writers, agreed to be the Patron of the school's 450th anniversary celebrations this year. Dame Hilary will be giving the Anniversary lecture on 2nd May as part of our celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the school in May 1565.

Hilary Mantel's novels, *Wolf Hall* and its sequel *Bring Up the Bodies*, both won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. She is the first British author to have won two Booker prizes, the only woman to have done so and the only writer to have won with two consecutive novels. *Wolf Hall* is the most successful Booker winner since records began, selling over 200,000 copies in hardback, and 600,000 copies in paperback, in the UK alone. Both books were adapted for the stage in a 2014 production by the RSC which opens on Broadway at the end of March 2015. An adaptation of *Wolf Hall*, applauded by critics, starring Mark Rylance, Claire Foy and Damian Lewis was shown on BBC2 in January/February with nearly 4 million viewers watching the first episode.

Hilary was born in northern Derbyshire in 1952. She was educated at a convent school in Cheshire and went on to the LSE and Sheffield University, where she studied law. Many of her earlier works have been recognised and won literary prizes: In 1987 she was awarded the Shiva Naipaul Memorial Prize for travel writing. Her fourth novel, *Fludd*, was awarded the Cheltenham Festival Prize, the Southern Arts Literature Prize, and the Winifred Holtby Prize. Her fifth novel, *A Place of Greater Safety*, won the Sunday Express Book of the Year Award. *An Experiment in Love* was published in 1995 and awarded the Hawthornden Prize. *Beyond Black*, published in 2005, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize, while *Wolf Hall* won the 2009 Man Booker Prize, and *Bring Up the Bodies*, its sequel, won the 2012 Man Booker Prize.

Hilary is writing the third and final novel in the trilogy *The Mirror and the Light* and her short story collection *The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher* was published in September 2014. Hilary was awarded a CBE in 2006 and in 2014 she was made a Dame.

The first two books in Hilary Mantel's majestic trilogy feature the rise of the enigmatic and powerful Thomas Cromwell from brewer's boy to Henry VIII's chief minister. Thomas Cromwell was the uncle of Sir Richard Cromwell, the first Cromwell to own Hinchingbrooke House who in turn was the great grandfather of Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector.

Hilary Mantel visited the school in 2012 at the invitation of School Librarian, Tamsin Page and had a private tour of the House led by history teacher Tom Wheeley. Mantel said she was, 'so grateful for the opportunity' to see inside the House in such detail and enjoyed her visit so much she left, promising to 'try to set a scene' in the House in the last book of her trilogy, *The Mirror and the Light*.

Caroline Sheffield - School Governor

**Dates for 450th Anniversary Celebrations**

**Anniversary Weekend Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May**

Exhibition of History of Hinchingbrooke School/Huntingdon Grammar School; Flower Festival by Brampton Flower Club; Tours and Teas with guided tours of the House and Anniversary Lecture by Dame Hilary Mantel DBE (Sold out).

**Foundation of Hinchingbrooke School Special Recognition Awards on Wednesday, 21st October 2015 AT 7pm in the Performing Arts Centre**

(Application details on the school website under 450th Anniversary Tab) Ticketing arrangements to be confirmed.

**Hunts Phil and Hinchingbrooke Music Concert on Saturday 7th November in the Performing Arts Centre**

Ticket arrangements to be confirmed.
Lower School Years 7 & 8

Head of Lower School - Mrs Tandy

It has been another busy term in Lower School and indeed a very exciting one for our Year 8 students who will be leading the way with the new three-year Key Stage 4. Indeed the recent GCSE Options Evening and Year 8 Parents' Evening were very well attended and there was a positive and thriving atmosphere at both events. Year 8 students are currently participating in one-to-one interviews about their options choices as the deadline for submitting their forms draws nearer.

Next week we will have our Celebration Assembly where each of the Lower School forms will have the opportunity to share their achievements and of course we will have the all-important cinema ticket draw amongst this term’s Stars of the Week (See below).

Courtney Greer LSV2 for being a super helpful member of the form
Phoenix Wallace LSM1 for an excellent start to the year
Daniel Abou-Shaqa LSP4 for progress
Philip Springer LSV4 for doing a good quiz for the form
Jasmine Dahiya LSW3 for being resilient
Laith Hassan LSV1 for noticeable improvement in effort and behaviour
Katherine Lyon LSM2 for her outstanding behaviour and growing confidence in lessons.
Eloise Wilsher LSC2 for positive attitude in form and lessons and good progress and behaviour across a number of subjects.
Sam Steel LSW2 Perseverance and determination
Alice Nicholson LSM3 for excellent attitude and behaviour in every lesson.
Sophie Ratcliffe LSP3 for progress in lessons
Lily Gipson LSW1 Always being happy and helpful.
Lauren Elmore LSM4 for looking after others in the form
Joshua Spillett LSM3 for his sterling effort in tutor activities so far this term.
Farrah Tarplee LSM3 for positive attitude throughout all lessons
Lawrence Hammond LSM4 for fantastic effort in our numeracy lesson.
Theodora Knaepel LSP4 persistent brilliance
Deean Crespillo LSV1 Good attendance and effort
Sam Walters LSW3 for being really helpful when people have nosebleeds.
Marnie Butler LSM3 for her excellent effort in PD days
Jake Bycroft LSC1 for being always polite and well behaved
Leo Sacker LSW2 his participation on PD day
Jacob Johnson LSC4 for being always happy and smiled
Farhan Islam LSP4 for a positive attitude to PD day
Emer Myton LSV1 for contribution to dance/PD day
Caitlin Howard LSV1 for contribution to dance/PD day
Sasha Lloyd LSM4 for a thoughtful discussion and contribution during PD day
Lilja Hodge LSV2 for her amazing You Tube science animation
Charlie Stewart LSC4 for being helpful in form and subjects
Layla Wraight LSV1 for effort and attitude
Will Stimpson LSP1 for being reliable and hard working in form time
Ben Sheldrake LSP4 for persistent hard work and effort
Megan Wallace LSW2 for her consistent good effort and achievement
Amy Gatward LSV2 for being a fantastic role model
Travis Hampton LSW2 for improved behaviour in lessons
Sam Hindmarsh LSV1 for good uniform and organisation
Oliver Payne LSC4 for being helpful, good and cool
Paul Crouch LSM3 for his excellent record of 5s last week
Alistair Campbell LSW3 for not getting distracted
Chris Bownes LSP4 for persistent hard work, effort, work ethic and positive attitude for reliability and for good behaviour in form time
Tiffinie Randall LSP1 for roller-skating to school
Katie Lewis LSV3 for being selected for the Vesey interhouse public speaking team
Amy Smith LSV4 for being a good friend and helping with homework
Sophija Dula LSC4 for being calm
Liam Chamberlain LSW3
Will Pitts LSV1 for contribution to form time
Alexandra Robinson LSM3 for her continuous excellent effort
Martyna Krokowska LSM2 for her consistently positive attitude towards challenging subjects
Miss Crumpler

At Hinchingbrooke it is no secret that we are continuously encouraging our students to do their very best and to actively engage in their lessons. In Lower School we take great pleasure in rewarding our students in a range of different ways, including identifying 'Stars of the Week', awarding House Points and the new addition of the badges and ribbons many of our students are wearing with pride in recognition of the number of fives they have been awarded in their lessons.

You may be familiar with the relatively new addition of the 'Lesson Monitor' initiative. This is a system whereby students across the school are striving to be awarded a five in their classes for actively engaging and positively contributing to their lessons. This data then allows us to assess and analyse which students are meeting our expectations, and which students are going above and beyond. Each half term this data is then presented to the students in an assembly and various targets are set for students to try and achieve the following half term.

We're incredibly proud of all of our Lower School Students as the progress that this data demonstrates is fantastic. During the first half term, collectively, Lower School were awarded 25,025 fives. This meant that on average students were earning fives in nineteen percent of their lessons. The most recent data demonstrates that this has now significantly increased to thirty seven percent.

In addition, students are set targets to achieve each half term. The first half term they were given a target of 25,000 fives, and this was surpassed by a margin of more than 5000. The following half term students were set an ambitious target of 35,000 fives (as that particular half term was a week shorter than the previous two), and again students lived up to our high expectations and for a third time running set themselves a new record of scoring over 39,000 fives. Using this data to appeal to the competitive nature of our students we also like to get the house system involved. As it currently stands things here are incredibly close. Cromwell have received 18% of all fives awarded, both Montagu and Pepys are tied having received 19%, Vesey have been awarded 21%, but currently our congratulations go to Mrs Nicholls and Wylton house who have just edged into the lead with 23% of all fives.

Another way we use this data is to identify our 'Form Heroes'; these are two students, one boy and one girl in each form, who have the highest number of fives within their form group. The most recent Form Heroes are identified below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSV1</td>
<td>Joey Allen</td>
<td>Ellie Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV2</td>
<td>Connor Paffett</td>
<td>Freya Stening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV3</td>
<td>Lewis Platt</td>
<td>Katie Copson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV4</td>
<td>Ralf Lindsay</td>
<td>Amy Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC1</td>
<td>Laith Yazidi</td>
<td>Chloe Wiseman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC2</td>
<td>Jack Winstanley</td>
<td>Georgia Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC3</td>
<td>Alex Suntharalingam</td>
<td>Charlotte Orugboh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC4</td>
<td>James Beckett</td>
<td>Emily Aston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSM1</td>
<td>Gwilyn Andrew</td>
<td>Leila Datuin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSM2</td>
<td>Kyle Burnett</td>
<td>Martha Binks-Iturriagagoitia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSM3</td>
<td>Paul Crouch</td>
<td>Mia Bradshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSM4</td>
<td>Luke Clemmence</td>
<td>Lucy Pettitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSP1</td>
<td>Edward Hall</td>
<td>Elise Drinkwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSP2</td>
<td>Oscar McClintock</td>
<td>Hope Dawe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSP3</td>
<td>Adam Thoday</td>
<td>Jessie Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSP4</td>
<td>Chris Bownes</td>
<td>Theodora Knaepel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSW1</td>
<td>Scott Marshall</td>
<td>Emelia Hutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSW2</td>
<td>Jake Galloway</td>
<td>Martyna Bas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSW3</td>
<td>Robert McMaw</td>
<td>Seven Pitchford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSW4</td>
<td>Joseph Winterlich</td>
<td>Poppy O'Driscoll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise these individuals as well as congratulating Lower School students on the fantastic progress they have made so far.

Miss Crumpler
Lower School Students

Why not come to the Lower School Debating sessions
Voice your opinion on a range of topics, in room 98
On a Monday lunchtime at 1.30 pm.
Come and try it out!
Oliver Carter LSC4

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Lower School Committee Report

The current Lower School Committee only came into existence at the end of the last academic year. As the Student Council at Hinchingbrooke was still at its early stages, the first task for the two of us as Leaders was deciding the structure and organisation of the Student Council for years 7 and 8. After a few meetings trying different things, it was decided that the most effective way to organise Student Voice in Lower School would be to have a committee comprising of all form reps which would be a consultative platform to get the views and opinions of Lower School as well as to identify issues and projects. Any project would then be taken up by a smaller working group.

The first issue on the agenda was uniform. In the summer term last year, the Committee tackled the plans for new uniform. Senior staff members Mr Cooke and Mrs Tandy came in and spoke at meetings where they were questioned by the form reps on uniform issues. As a result student views were effectively conveyed and students received information on the future of uniform too. Both teachers remarked how they were impressed by the level of questioning and engagement displayed by the Lower School Committee.

At the start of this academic year, we began by helping provide Mrs Tandy and her team with a student perspective on rewards as well as deciding on designs and colours of badges etc. by a process of democratic vote. Next on the agenda were a few weeks of focus on ‘Curriculum’ where the committee worked with Mr Walker talking through plans for a new ‘Three Year KS4’. Form reps met with Mr Walker to explore and give feedback on the proposed changes as well as delivering the views and queries they had collected from their individual form groups.

However, while we were working on other issues, we were developing a strategy for integrating the Lower School Committee with the brilliant environmental work being promoted by Miss Toone. Also now as part of the Lower School Committee, we also have the Eco Warriors, a group of form reps and volunteers, who are led by Miss Toone. The Eco Warriors are the ones responsible for collecting and emptying recycling bins in classrooms, perhaps you have seen them around at lunchtimes working hard. Over the last half term, the committee as a whole has been working on a project, to be presented in assembly, promoting awareness of why the environment is important. All in all, we have seen a great deal of enthusiasm across the committee to get involved.

Aside from the Eco project, we are about to launch a campaign to improve communication by encouraging Lower School to use their school emails. We thought this would be a worthwhile project because it is often difficult for a student and teacher to directly contact each other. By making use of emails, students and teachers can efficiently and effectively communicate, which would make it much easier to get messages across. In addition to this, students can get into the habit of checking their emails, which they will be required to do higher up in the school. To ensure they know their username and password, there will be a PowerPoint sent out to form tutors with the necessary information. We really hope this campaign will be successful, which is why we ask everyone to make an effort and use the email system.

Our project for the rest of the spring term will be all about school uniform. With the deadline approaching for all students to have the new uniform, we are planning to make use of the old uniform by collecting and donating it to a school in a less developed country, or to a charity. There is much research to be done but hopefully we will have a clear plan of action by the end of the term.

Joanna Chen and Tooba Khokhar - Year 13
Middle School News

Year 9 - Mr Williams

Year 9 have had a busy term full of exciting new developments. At the forefront of everyone’s mind was the students' first real experience of exams. The year group committed themselves to revision and preparation, and the process was a real success. On the whole invigilators were impressed with the conduct and behaviour of the students. The Year 9s now eagerly await their results from their teachers, which will be contained in the next round of reports.

Several Year 9s acquitted themselves successfully this term. Ellie Farley has been working hard to raising money for the Wood Green Animal shelter, and indeed half of the Year 9s proceeds for Comic Relief will be going to the shelter. Ben Lukey won the Young Chef of the Year award through the rotary club, and his immense achievement was commemorated at the celebration assembly this term. We have also had our first Year 9 assembly performer, Olivia Pink.

The forms are now in the race to see which one of them can be the first to achieve the Gold Dragon badge. The competition is fierce with 9M2 currently in the lead. This would be a great achievement for the form, who are also chasing their first win as Form of the Week.

Coupon Crazy!!

I’m Ellie and I’m a 14 year old girl who enjoys collecting coupons. In October I got a coupon to get a free bag of cat food. Due to this, I wanted to collect more and donate them to a local animal charity. I emailed 20 companies asking if they had any samples or coupons. Most of the companies couldn't give me anything, so I kept emailing until I got some samples. To my surprise I got more than a few samples. I got 500 bags of animal food. I donated all the food to the Wood Green animal charity. Wood Green were very happy with all the donations, so they contacted the Hunts Post who uploaded an article onto their website. I am now planning on doing something else and have already raised £500 and another charity event in school.

Year 9 raised £150 on Red Nose Day for Wood Green animal charity

Ellie Farley 9M2

Year 11 News - Mr Pape

As we rapidly approach the end of the spring term, Year 11s are preparing for their GCSE examinations which start in earnest after the Easter break with the Art practical exams. Some students have recently completed a second round of mock exams in Maths, English and Science which have been used to reinforce predicted grades and highlight areas that need further focus.

Year 11 recently welcomed ‘Positively Mad’, a company, well regarded as providers of education based seminars. Our students benefitted from a high-energy, highly interactive workshop designed to improve memory skills, increase self-confidence, understand the importance of reflective practices and regular review, and to prepare for exams. It aimed to provide a heightened sense of aspiration and self-belief and promoted a positive attitude towards learning. The skills learned in this workshop are expected to improve exam performance. Some students also received a session based on improving motivation.

Our third Collapsed Day of the year which was a resounding success. It focussed on Politics and the upcoming General Election. The aim of the day was to build knowledge and understanding of the processes involved in Parliament and what an MP's role is - what do they do for us? Manifestos for the 5 major parties were analysed and the day culminated in a vote, mirroring that of a General Election.

Red Nose day on Friday 13th March was a non-uniform day and the students raised over £1400 for the charity. Plans for Prom on 26th June are well underway. Based on questionnaires filled out during tutor time, the colour theme this year will be blue and silver. There will be a photo booth, casino tables plus many other surprises. The prefects are releasing more details of the event each week during assemblies. In order to make this the biggest and best Prom ever there will be a need for some fundraising which the students will be undertaking themselves.

Mr Pape

Year 10 Students
Who attended the
Enterprise Event
(See next page)
Christopher Buckenham
Alice Maylor
Gatley Searle
Holly-Louise Lawman
Charlie Padgett
Jasmine Thompson
Kyran Repetto
Sophie Stamford
Chloe Drewery
Gemma Hartley
Charlie Leggett
Year 10 - Mr Milner

CEIAG/Year 10: The Perse Conference - ‘Starting Up’

On Monday 9th February, a group of Hinchingbrooke School students were invited and attended The Perse School’s tenth Enterprise Conference. This prestigious event is primarily designed to help pupils in year 11 and sixth form to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills, understanding of business and the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in the modern world.

Over 200 high achieving students, representing twenty schools and colleges from across the whole eastern region, attended the event; which took place at the 5 star Belfry Hotel in Cambourne.

The conference theme was ‘Starting Up’ and many guest speakers were on hand to give personal and thought provoking insights into how to develop initial enterprise ideas into fully-fledged businesses, how to gain investment funding and what challenges may lie ahead.

Speakers included: William Reeve (former McKinsey Consultant and founder of LOVEFiLM.com, board member with Graze.com, PaddyPower and Zoopla, and venture partner with DFI Esprit).

Johnny Luk (formerly Senior Policy Advisor/Deputy Head of Strategy for Entrepreneurship for the UK government, and now CEO for the National Association of College and University Entrepreneurs) Ed Taylor (Food and wine industry Entrepreneur – ‘tayloryandell.com’, and founder of ‘Cook. Taste. Smile’ – online cookbooks) Max Grell (co-founder of ‘GivTree’ – an online chain reaction donation platform for various charities)

Our students also worked in collaboration and in teams with students from other schools; taking part in Networking and Dragon’s Den sessions. In the Networking sessions they had to interview ‘genuine’ and ‘mock’ business people, in order to identify which amongst them were the ‘real’ ones.

In the Dragon’s Den sessions they presented business ideas and plans to influential business people including Richard Mitchell (RAE Visiting Professor of Innovation at Cambridge University and of Innovation Management at Cranfield), Glenn Collinson (co-founder of Cambridge Silicon Radio – CSR) and Dan Sandhu (co-founder of ‘7C’ and now CEO of ACIS).

We were the only school to field a group of year 10 students, and to a person they acquitted themselves with consummate professionalism, confidence and perception. Two were in the top 4 Dragon’s Den teams (out of 20), and one was in the winning team. Both students were awarded signed book gifts of ‘The Smart Entrepreneur’.

Our students were a credit to Hinchingbrooke School, thoroughly enjoying themselves and unanimously deriving a great deal from their participation.

Andy Bennett (Head of CEIAG) &
Dan Milner (Head of Year 10)
Upper School News

Director - Mr Fordham

Sixth Form News

Post 18 Choices conference

On 3rd March we held the annual Year 12 ‘Post 18 Choices conference’. The conference has developed over the years to assist students with their research regarding their future after A levels at Hinchingbrooke; it might seem a long way off, but it will be here before you know it! We are very aware of our responsibility to offer students the best possible guidance as to their next steps after school, be that university or employment, or training, or something else.

We had speakers presenting information about Gap years, a workshop on applications to top universities, a recent graduate asking students to think about the question ‘why go to University?’ and some helpful “do’s and don’ts” from UCAS to remember when it comes to writing personal statements. ‘Pure Potential’ came in to deliver a session presenting alternatives to University which looked at the pros and cons of different routes, which some students felt opened up pathways into further study and employment that they had not considered before. At lunchtime there was an information stall about ‘Morrisons’ sponsored degrees for any that wanted to learn more.

With university Open Days coming up after Easter and work beginning on personal statements next term it was an opportunity for students to look beyond their A levels and consider their futures in a well-structured and informative way.

All of the visiting speakers commented on what lovely students we have in the Sixth Form and how they enjoyed coming here.

Applications

We have been interviewing applicants from Year 11 here at Hinchingbrooke and from other neighbouring schools, and from some schools further afield. What we are particularly delighted about is that the number of ‘internal’ applicants has significantly risen, as we have worked hard this year to promote the sixth form to our own students and the fact that we are keen for them to come here as a natural progressions route. We had an excellent Open Day in December, but we have also done a lot of work through assemblies and tutorials to answer questions, give guidance, and put forward all the strengths of the Hinchingbrooke sixth form.

Of course, there are many students who for excellent reasons, choose to go elsewhere, and we as a school aim to offer the best impartial advice we can to all of our Year 11, but we are thrilled that so many are choosing to stay. We are also excited by the number of our external applicants, as about a quarter of the sixth form apply from elsewhere. We do everything we can to support external applicants, such as having a two day Induction in July, which, as well as being a transition event for our own students, is one of several strategies we use to try and help students from other schools manage the shift to a new environment, and hopefully our ‘externals’ already in the sixth form will agree that their experience here is as rich as those who come through the main school.
Enrichment Talks

We have had another diverse and enlightening range of outside speakers and talks this term, covering aspects of health and welfare such as breast and testicular cancer.

We have been invited to contribute to a creative project where our students are able to get involved to promote awareness of the new drug driving enforcement – student input so far has been in the fields of both art and music so we are looking forward to the finished result.

Our own Mrs Howells invited students along to her ‘Sleep Clinic’ where common factors that interfere with a good night’s sleep were discussed and ideas about how we can take control to improve our sleep were shared.

Head Boy and Girl

In March we begun the process of interviewing the new senior students for 2015-16 with the election of the new Head Girl and Head Boy. This begins with the Hustings in the Assembly Room in which the prospective candidates stand up and give a speech justifying their candidacy to all who come and choose to listen. This year the room was packed with fairly raucous but very supportive Year 12s and Year 13s, and the mood genuinely reflected the great family atmosphere of the sixth form. There were seven candidates, and all gave superb speeches, though differing in tone, from the reflective, detailed proposals of some to the more directly persuasive approaches of others (in no way singling out James Armstrong’s, "I am the strong arm candidate"). The students then vote in order of preference for each post, and the votes are counted by means of single transferable voting, so that we end up with two applicants each for Head Boy and Head Girl. These are then put through two interviews, one with the sixth form team and the departing Head Boy and Girl.

At the end of a rigorous process, we are pleased to announce that Esme Walters is the new Head Girl, and Will Taylor the new Head Boy, but our congratulations go to all the candidates for the courage, creativity and confidence of their applications.

Sixth Form students enjoying Red Nose Day when the school raised over £1700 for charity

Esme Walters & Will Taylor
Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Mr Cooke - Vice Principal

Although this Spring Term has been a shorter one there have been no fewer events to try and fit in. All the departments within the Performance & Creativity (P&C) Directorate (Art, Dance, Design & Technology, Food & Textiles, Music and PE) have done a marvellous job of coping with the extra pressure. The Spring Term tends to be one of the busiest for all of the P&C departments as coursework deadlines and assessments usually occur before the Easter break.

Despite exam pressure there have been many other events and opportunities on offer to the students, some of which are reported upon in the following pages. Some of the significant events include: four evenings of the School Production – ‘Our House’, two evenings of the IndepenDance 6 show, a ski trip to Austria, a trip to Euro Disney and the Easter Music Concert, which will feature the newly formed Hunts Community Youth Orchestra, which includes students from our feeder primary schools.

I hope you enjoy reading about all that has been going on and look forward to all the fantastic events scheduled for the summer term. Hopefully you will be able to join us, it will be well worth it. Happy Easter.

Ski Trip to Altenmarkt

A group of 53 students and staff from Hinchingbrooke visited Altenmarkt during the February half term, they spent a week in glorious sunshine, and extreme skiing and snowboarding being the order of the day.

The group was made up of total beginners and some experienced skiers and boarders, testing their resilience and team work. All had a fantastic time, experiencing the best skiing conditions and staying in a first class hotel and sampling great Austrian cuisine.

Our students were a credit to the Hinchingbrooke School ethos, always being polite, motivated and with a smile on their faces.

Mr Turnbull
Music Department News

Easter Concert

Featuring the Senior Choir, Pop Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Flute Choir, Hinchingbrooke Community Choir, Brampton Primary School Singers, the Orchestra, Fusion Band, Swing Band, Soloists, Ensembles, and the newly-formed Hunts Youth Community Orchestra (HYCO), the concert is set to be a great success on Wednesday 25 March. The Music Department are proud to round off each term with a concert, as well as the Autumn Concert in October, various lunch time recitals throughout the year, and other performances for the school and the wider community.

We are always keen to encourage more students along to all our ensembles... and are looking out for performers ready for Glastonbrooke and Picnic at the House in the summer term!

Samba Band in the Summer Term

We have been awarded a sum of money to fund a new musical ensemble in school and have decided to GO SAMBA!!! There will be limited places in the group so if students are interested they should join early to avoid disappointment.

Our House - The Musical

The annual school production saw the Music department work closely with Drama and Dance. Mrs Nichols, our Musical Director, created an incredible band made up mainly of our own student instrumentalists. An unforgettable show and a true highlight of the year once again. Congratulations to all performers and those who worked backstage.

A Level Recital Evenings

Our A Level Musicians wowed audiences over two evenings on 11 and 12 March, performing in Hinchingbrooke House for 30% of their A Level marks. Well done to all the students who played and sang so well.

GCSE Recordings

Our Year 11 GCSE Music students also performed really well, both as soloists and in their ensembles. It will stand them in good stead going into the final examination in May.

A Christmas Celebration

This was a wonderful concert back in December, featuring over 100 performers including the winners of the Year 7 carol competition. Combining festive favourites with a few show-stoppers along the way, the concert got everyone in the right mood for Christmas!

Glastonbrooke Unplugged

Staged in Hinchingbrooke House, complete with comfy sofas, fairy lights and a general 'cool' ambience, the evening in January was magical. Some memorable performances from our talented singer/songwriters from year 9 upwards including Mr Bennett.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 17 April 3.45-5.00pm

Hinchingbrooke Community Choir – 1st rehearsal for summer term. All students, parents, staff and friends welcome!

Tuesday 14 July, evening

Picnic at the House! A true celebration of the arts at Hinchingbrooke. Dance, Music, Drama and Art come together for this incredible summer’s evening.

Wednesday 15 July, evening

(Date now changed)

Glastonbrooke! Rock out to our best young bands. A mini-festival with plenty for everyone, organised by our students.
Hinchingbrooke Boccia team win Regional Championships!

Hinchingbrooke’s Boccia team represented Cambridgeshire at the Regional Championships held at Braintree College in Essex last week.

The team was made up of the same players that became Lords Taverners U19 County Champions in November and were again ably led by Captain Jabe Peake, with Tom Mayers and Harry Parker making up the rest of the team.

As usual Hinchingbrooke made things difficult for themselves by losing their first game 0-3 against Suffolk One. After that defeat they picked up their game and beat Southview from Essex 8-1 to clinch a semi-final match against the winners and hot favourites from the other group, Lonsdale from Hertfordshire.

Hinchingbrooke were leading 2-1 in the final end when the Lonsdale Captain sent his ball towards the Jack and Hinchingbrooke’s ball, landing so close that the referee and tournament organiser were called to measure, to see if there was a clear winner. Lonsdale were given the decision.

This meant that there had to be a “sudden death” throw of one ball per team. Jabe bravely made the decision as captain to take on the responsibility.

Lonsdale threw first and their player misjudged the weight of his throw and the ball went sailing past the Jack, leaving Jabe with a clear view of his target. Taking time to settle and going through his breathing routine Jabe composed himself for the throw that would take Hinchingbrooke through to the final. He knew as soon as it left his hand that it was a winner.

The final was to be an all Cambridgeshire final with a repeat of the County final and a re-match against local rivals Granta. Hinchingbrooke won the game 2-1 when Granta were unable to take the lead and having used up all of their balls, Jabe made the decision not to throw their remaining balls and Hinchingbrooke were crowned Regional Boccia Champions.

The trophy was presented by Dan Bentley an England Boccia Paralympic gold medallist from Beijing and bronze medallist from London 2012.

They will now go on to represent the Eastern Region at the National finals in Sheffield in April.
IndepenDance 6

At the time of writing this article, the Dance department are days away from ‘IndepenDance 6’, the annual school dance show. This venture attracts over 150 students, who are keen to showcase their exam dance work from their lessons and their club work from our extremely popular KS3 Dance Club. We are simply inundated with students motivated for Dance. A huge thank you to the year 10 leaders who help to run this club with Mrs Trewin and Ms Phillips – namely: Eloise Bell, Harriet De’ath Stevens, Jasmine Thompson, Deanna MacDonald, Olivia Nye, Lucy Watts, Lauren Moore, Danni Cowell, Phoebe Knibbs and Maisy Napier. We also have a keen boys group who have a street dance piece in the show. The group are pictured with their choreographer, Sam Fleet.

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

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

Miss Trewin

Photo of some of our A level dancers:
Sabrina Hunt, Evie Belgrove, Abbie Watson, Amy Hunt, Rebecca Harrington, Kristine Flores, Izzy Hunt, Lucy Gaskin, Megan Hill

Boys Dance Group pictured with choreographer, Sam Fleet.
Madness as Students perform “Our House” the musical.

Hinchinbrooke School recently presented four inspiring evening performances of the Madness musical “Our House”. Will Taylor (Year 12) played Joe Casey, a Camden lad who tries to impress the girl of his dreams, Sarah, played by Poppy Hall (Year 13). Both performers excelled with their amazing vocals and Will Taylor, rarely off the stage, provided seamless transitions between his good and bad persona, a key element of the story when his life splits into two.

The lead performers were admirably supported by Richard Mason (Joe’s dad), Abbey Furmedge (Joe’s Mum), Jack Edwards, Matt Pickering, Emily Thompson, Bobbie Dennis, Dan Cartwright, Harriet Mace, Josh Clarke and Liam McCleary. The great supporting cast, chorus, dancers and the school House Ska Band all produced wonderful renditions of many Madness songs, including; House of Fun, Baggy Trousers, Driving in My Car and It Must be Love.

Particular thanks go to Mrs Akielan, Head of Drama (Producer) Mrs Nichols, Music Teacher (Musical Director) Mr Howells (Set & Lighting). All of our school productions are a team effort. Many people have contributed towards this year’s production and we would like to thank them all.

The musical by Tim Firth and the music and lyrics by Madness was presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.
Hunts School Sports Partnership  HSSP

KS4 Rowing event Hinchingbrooke School Qualify for the Sainsbury’s School Games County Event.

HHSP Multisport event for students with SEN

Football
Sainsbury’s School Games
Year 3 & 4 Key Steps
Gymnastics at Huntingdon
Olympic Gym
Schools from across Huntingdonshire took part in gymnastics with some very close results. Winners of the event were Priory Junior School from St Neot’s with the Newton’s Primary school from Eltisley in close second place.

Tag Rugby
Over 250 children took part in year 5/6 Tag Rugby at Hinchingbrooke School, the event was for ‘B’ teams and a Festival event for teams who were not ready for a competitive event. It followed on from a very successful event in the autumn term. Young Sports Leaders from Hinchingbrooke officiated and supported the event by working with Pupils and helping them to develop their skills and confidence to play the game.

Sainsbury’s School Games County Rowing Event
Hinchingbrooke School hosted the prestigious County School Games rowing event in March with over 100 year 9 and 10 students from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough taking part in indoor rowing. Hinchingbrooke and St Ivo teams representing the Hunts School Sports Partnership were in fantastic pink Tee shirts and stood out at the event.

Hinchingbrooke young leaders supported the event by officiating and in leadership roles. There were some excellent rowers and races were very close. Hinchingbrooke came a close third in the year 10 rowing, but put on an excellent performance.

Students also had the opportunity to have a go at indoor kayaking getting them ready to sign up for the subsidised Beach Club (Sailing and Kayaking) on the Hinchingbrooke Country Park Lake after Easter. For more information contact huntsssp@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Why Not Have a Go?
...at sailing and Kayaking on the Hinchingbrooke Country Park Lake

Beach Club starts after Easter and is subsidised by Sport England’s Sportivate

Early bookings receive a further 10% discount, sign up now for this great subsidised club. For more information contact

Huntsssp@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk
Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry

Mr Walker - Vice Principal

I write this introduction just as all of the Year 11 students have completed their second mock examinations in Maths, and a large number have also completed second papers in Science and English. This provided the students with a second ‘go’ at experiencing what the real thing will be like in summer.

Alongside this, revision sessions are in full swing in all subjects across the Directorate, for Year 11 and Sixth form students, as we creep ever closer to the start of the exam season. This is certainly a very busy time, but it is crucial for students facing these examinations to remember that personal investment of time and effort will reap huge rewards in the long run. If you have a child in years 11, 12 or 13 please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, are looking for extra support or guidance, or just want to let off some steam! We are here to help.

The following pages provide a brief overview of some key events in recent weeks and months in the Directorate. There are a host of other events and clubs that make everyday life in Enterprise and Enquiry so vibrant and rewarding for staff and students alike. Please do get in touch if you can offer any ideas for how we can broaden the experience for our students or do things even better!

Mr Walker

ljw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Disneyland Paris Trip

The Computing department teamed up with the Textiles and Hospitality Department for their trip to Disneyland Paris in the February half term for year 9, 10 and 11 students. This was to explore the use of IT in the running of the attraction, the use of IT in the production of cartoons and movies from Disney, as well as exploring how Disney use IT in the running of the company.

Continued on the next page…

The Computing department have been working hard this term with a wide range of things happening. Lots of our students have been busy coding and making their own mobile apps and computer games. Our year 11 students and sixth form students have been finishing off coursework and preparing themselves for their final exams. Developments are already underway, preparing for new courses starting next year for year 9 and 10 students. The Tech Team students have been going through their basic training.

Raspberry Pi Club

Around 25 students have now started to meet each week for a new Raspberry Pi club. Students will be learning about the small £25 computer and developing ways to use it. Students will be learning to install, set up and program the computer. Students will build up their skills each week to enable them to connect the computer to a wide range of other devices and to program and build their own inventions.

The club is still open to new students and meets after school on Wednesday until 4:30pm.
After a long coach journey to Paris through the Euro-Tunnel, we arrived at the park and booked into the hotel. Students had no time for a break as we made our way to the first seminar in the park’s cinema complex. This looked at the design and construction of the park and how IT had been used in the development process. As we were staying on the complex, the second day started early in order for the students to grab breakfast and make use of the early entry passes. Students managed to get on a lot of the rides and activities within the park. Students met back at the cinema complex towards the end of the day for another seminar. This was looking at the use of IT in the running of the business and the marketing systems. We were then able to go into the park to the park before watch the fireworks before heading back to the hotel for dinner. The students’ behavior was exemplary at the park, with some of the hotel staff describing our students as one of the best groups that he had seen – a real credit to the school.

For those students who attended, we currently have a competition for the best photo from the trip. A range of Disneyland prizes are on offer and submissions are via our department website at hbkcomputing.uk
On the 5 February a combination of 110 nervous, excited and fearful students took on the latest challenge that the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) had to offer. The students consisted of the most gifted and talented students in Maths from Years 9 to 11.

The challenge tested all areas of the students’ mathematical ability with the questions progressively getting harder and harder. The students had to really ‘think out of the box’ for certain questions, especially for the last half of the challenge paper.

Most of the students really enjoyed the challenge and could now see for themselves how they matched up with the best in the country.

Due to the policy of negative marking students also had to adopt a certain strategy when approaching the paper to get the maximum marks that their ability allows them to.

Congratulations to all who were nominated for this challenge and who took part.

The following students achieved the following awards:

**Gold certificates:** Yinzi Zhang, Jordyn Perry, Joshua Clarke, Chris Addis, Konnor Wingate, George Sturdy, Cameron Campbell and Adam Steel.

**Silver certificates:** Emma Bownes, Bethany Heath, Alex Clayden, Benjamin Witten, Jessica Ng, Joshua Young, Leon Kontos, Jenny Macey, James Ireland, Bradley Denison-Shaw, Ryan Turner, Ellie Cook, Ashley Balls, Cameron Mahon, Ben Rycroft, William Lake, Isabel Page and Lene Kennington.

**Bronze certificates:** Matt Wiltshire, Will Gould, Heather O’Mara, Lauren Thacker, Nathan Ball, Peter Homer, Adam Smith, Chloe Drewery, Owen Heaton, Jenny Ashley, Annie Smith, Daniel Marshall, Dan Crooks, Evie Andrew, Harry Edwards, Max Hawthorne, Samuel Gabe, Emma Bird, George Rendall, Benjamin Sanati, Joe Butler, Dominik Kozuch, Tate Abel, Sophie Tomkins, Thomas Hollingshurst and Manav Krishnan.

**Special congratulations must go to Yinzi Zhang, Jordyn Perry, Joshua Clarke, Chris Addis, Konnor Wingate and Cameron Campbell**

*Mr Hancock*
Business Studies
Department by Mrs Beadle

"Having joined the Business team as the new Subject Leader in January it has been a pleasure to meet the staff and students of Hinchingbrooke. I think I will always remember my first day of teaching here when the majority of the students in main school and sixth form left their classes thanking me for their lesson, it's what makes this job so rewarding and confirmed what I already knew about the school.

After nearly a decade of teaching at my previous school and running a successful large department I had felt in need of a new challenge and was excited by the prospect of working at Hinchingbrooke. I live in the area and had heard lots of positive personal recollections of the school and its staff and this confirmed my choice to change schools.

I am someone who likes change that enhances and improves the department and will be bringing lots of ideas. With all the changes taking place to the curriculum and structure of GCSE I am looking forward to the opportunities it will provide to bring in new experiences and a new vision for the department.

I am passionate about my subject, Business is a major part of everyone’s life and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future. It is a very practical subject, to understand its application and usefulness to organisations it is best taught in a way that brings in real examples and to this end I am always seeking people and organisations that would be interested in sharing their experience and operations with our students, if you feel this may be you or your business please contact me lb@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk, I look forward to hearing from you!"

This year has seen some exciting changes in Business with the addition of a new Subject Leader and the introduction of a range of extra support sessions. As ever, we as a team are committed to securing the best opportunities for our students and to this end members of the department have started running lunch time coursework sessions for all students, supporting them in meeting any deadlines and in helping them produce outstanding pieces of work. This has proved extremely popular amongst our students and will be something that we will continue to do whilst it is required.

We have also introduced after school revision sessions for GCSE and GCE subjects. Students who have attended have found this useful and feedback has been very positive. Working on ensuring good topic understanding and exam skills is a continuing priority for the department in the run up to the summer exams and we will look for any opportunity to sustain outstanding results for our students.

The department has also been lucky to secure outside speakers for Sixth Form who will be coming in over the next few months to talk about careers in various fields. Business Studies is applicable to all professions and careers and we are grateful for local business support.

Next year is going to be an exciting one with trips and visits planned to enrich the student experience and develop their understanding of business studies in practice. We also will be looking forward to welcoming lots of new students into year 9 and 10, and providing them with plenty of enterprising opportunities such as Tycoon in Schools and Citrus Saturday. Exciting times!

Nick Bowles - Minister of State for Skills and Equality

On Friday 27th February, as a member of the Cambridgeshire Learning and Skills Sector Committee, Andy Bennett (Head of Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance) was invited to attend a meeting at the new Stamford Football stadium (The Daniels Stadium); held by the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce.

The lead aspect of this was a talk given by Nick Bowles MP for Grantham and Stamford. Also in attendance were a number of other skills and education providers, as well as business people, from a variety of small and medium sized enterprises. This is part of our ongoing vision of increasingly building links with businesses and companies for the varied benefit of Hinchingbrooke School and its students.

As well as an insight into the many ways how the new Stamford Football Stadium feeds in to the local community, Nick Bowles MP, Minister of State for Skills and Equality, also outlined the current government’s plans for the future; if voted in for another term of office.

During this meeting Mr Bennett personally discussed with Mr Bowles (who, amongst other remits, is minister for Apprenticeships and Further Education) the issues of funding careers education within schools, the close links Hinchingbrooke has with both its alumni and local and national businesses and agencies. Along with the fact that (contrary to many schools) we had bucked the trend and continue to provide a whole year group with work experience (an area being re-stressed as essential to a student’s personal development and preparedness for work by the government, CBI and the like), and the continued need for growth in apprenticeships Post 16.

Mr Bennett – Head of Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance

Nick Bowles MP – Minister for Skills and Equality
Year 8 Wood Green Apprenticeship Event

On Tuesday 16th December, 56 of our year 8 students attended an excellent ‘Careers, Information, Advice and Apprenticeships’ event; held at the Wood Green Animal Shelter in Godmanchester.

The event had been organised to benefit schools within the Huntingdonshire Academy Schools Partnership (HASP) and was aimed at giving slightly younger students an earlier insight into local businesses, educational providers and careers. As such, over 50 stands and exhibits were provided by local business people, and the event was not open to the general public. The vast majority of stall holders had interactive activities for our students to participate in.

The wide and varied Career sectors covered included the National Health Service, Armed Forces, Uniform services, working in the recording and music Industry, web design, architecture and construction, working with animals and many more.

At the busiest time there were about 430 young people present, and our students were universally applauded for their willingness to take part.

This was recently reflected in an email asking if the Senior Architect of a company could come in to an assembly, and personally present students with an award for their having achieved the ‘tallest tower’ at the event. This was quite an accolade given the hundreds of entrants taking part.

On the buses back to school the students were clearly enthralled by the whole event and felt that it had been extremely worthwhile.

Mr Bennett (Head of CEIAG)

Principal, Mr Goulding, with some of the Year 8 students, enjoying the Wood Green CEIAG event
On the 5th February, Andy Bennett (Head of Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance) and Sheila Wotherspoon (Communications Manager), were interviewed live, for an hour, by Huntingdon Community Radio Station (http://www.hcrfm.co.uk/). The interview was led by Nicola Rule, regular DJ and presenter at the Community Radio Station, in the regular ‘Over to You’ Community information programme.

We were invited to discuss our plans to build on our growing Alumni network, and in particular our involvement with the National Charity platform called ‘Future First’. This excellent service has been widely supported, including a week’s run of articles in ‘The Independent’ newspaper and recent development into an International Alumni network as well.

This enables past students to sign up, keep in touch and offer their time, experience, expertise and involvement, for the benefit of current students. This is done with the aim of providing extremely relevant and up to date careers and progression insights, as well as provide other opportunities to benefit the school; for example acting as sponsors or student mentors.

Prior to the interview Mr Bennett signed up the presenter’s daughter, who he used to teach, and awareness is increasing locally with promises to pass the link on to friends and associates. In the few weeks since working with ‘Future First’ we have had 155 past students signed up and offer their involvement, across a wide range of career sectors.

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

Alternatively, go to the Hinchingbrooke School’s web site, and use the link to do so at the top of the home page.

Andy Bennett - Head of CEIAG

Your Daughter’s Future - a new resource on employability and aspiration for parents of young women in key stage 3 & 4

On Friday 27th February, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) launched ‘Your Daughter’s Future’, a guide to help parents support their daughters as they make important decisions about their next steps and career choices.

The PSHE Association developed ‘Your Daughter’s Future’ on behalf of GEO with the help of girls aged 12-16 who have a wide range of career aspirations, from politics to sport and midwifery. It sets out what support girls said they want from their parents as they weigh up exam and career options, at key stages 3 and 4.

You can download this resource from: https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/YourDaughtersFuture.aspx?dm_i=HSS.7yVX0,6LCR81,BIZM2,1

The guide offers parents information on which GCSEs and A Levels to consider for different careers, while aiming to ensure that young women’s decisions are not driven by tired gender stereotypes. It also contains tips on organising workplace visits to gain experience, managing exam stress and boosting confidence, with tailored information for different ages. The toolkit contains 8 units that address different topics and age groups and can be read independently or together.

Your Daughter’s Future was developed in conjunction with girls, parents and teachers from Northfleet School, Henrietta Barnet School, Costello School, Hayes School and Sydenham School for Girls, as well as Girl Guiding UK, Stylist magazine, the National Careers Council, and the Education and Employers Taskforce.

This is a truly outstanding publication and I wholeheartedly recommend that any parents or carers with daughters find some time to go through it with them.

Mr. Bennett - Head of CEIAG
Another hectic and thrilling term comes to a close. We can always rely on the subjects in Global Citizenship to get students out of the classroom, learning in a range of different and unusual ways. Geography generally lead the way, although this term History have been giving them a run for their money, what with trips to the Belgium Battlefields and to St Petersburg and Moscow. I am always blown away by the number of staff willing to give up their precious holidays in order to organise and run trips. Students here at Hinchingbrooke are really fortunate to have such committed and wonderful staff.

Talking of staff, we have some fantastic new staff joining us in the coming months. Miss Fender has settled in well to the fabulous History Department, and after Easter she will be joined by another new recruit, Mr Smith. In the first instance he will also be teaching a little Key Stage 3 Geography, to help out during Mrs Blacks’ maternity leave. We are also looking forward to some fabulous new staff in Modern Foreign Languages. Miss Blume joined us just before Easter, teaching German and as the Leader of Key Stages 2 and 3. After the Easter break Mrs Roberts will join us as a French specialist and Leader of Key Stages 4 and 5. It is with great sadness that we will be saying "auf wiedersehen" to Mrs Henriksen at the end of April. Although she hasn’t been with us for very long she will be a tremendous loss to the department and indeed the school, and we wish her well with the next steps in her career. We are incredibly lucky to have already found a new Head of MFL, who will also be starting straight after the Easter break – Mrs Janis Large. As such we have a full complement of staff in the department and leaders to ensure that the results go from strength to strength in this area. Mrs Thomas will leave us at Easter as Mrs Page will be back from maternity leave just before the holiday. Again we offer our sincere thanks and best wishes to all the staff who leave us.

At the end of this term the GCSE exams started in earnest for some of the Global subjects. Those sitting the IGCSE in English have been busy rehearsing and sitting their oral exams, as have the students of German and Spanish. The last few pieces of controlled assessments have been completed and the holidays are the time for staff to mark and moderate the students’ efforts. The revision sessions and interventions are well underway, with some even taking place in the Easter holidays! Staff and students alike are pulling together in the final push to ensure that all will have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students and staff for their hard work this term; to wish you all a restful break (not filled with too much chocolate) and here’s looking forward to another busy term full of opportunities, and hopefully this time, some sunshine!
Language Assistants at Hinchingbrooke School

Two language assistants joined our school in October last year. Coralie Frachisse is a student from Lyon, while Maxine Albrecht studies in the German city of Siegen. They decided to come to England for 9 months to experience the culture and language in daily life and to gain work experience as teachers.

They have one to one lessons with A-level students and also support teachers in class. As native speakers they focus on speaking activities with the students and prepare authentic materials for the students to work with. Thanks to these sessions, language students have the opportunity to improve their speaking and listening comprehension while conversing with them. Students also receive individual help if they feel like they need to work on a specific topic or grammar point. Even though at the beginning many students were quite shy, Maxine and Coralie can already see some progress made by their students as the learners quickly gained more confidence and improved their fluency and pronunciation. According to the language assistants there is no better way to improve one’s language skills than having a conversation with native speakers.

The two assistants have learnt a lot about the English school system. They find that the students at Hinchingbrooke receive a lot of support and are lucky to have language assistants helping them individually with their language skills. Moreover, the members of the MFL department are very supportive and are ready to answer any kind of questions. Maxine and Coralie also found that teachers do not appear as strict as in their own countries and the lessons are more interactive and fun than in German and French schools.

Coralie says that this experience encouraged her to become a primary school teacher and she will start her training when she goes back to France in the summer. Maxine adds that she enjoyed her time at Hinchingbrooke and she will miss the students and teachers. She goes back to Germany in June to continue her studies.

Psychology Conference

On the 8th December 2014, on a very cold, frosty morning. A group of AS and A2 Psychology students set off on a trip to the annual Psychology conference in London. After our exciting experience on the underground trying to keep together on the very long escalators, we all made it to the conference. It started with a very interesting talk from Professor Russell Foster on understanding sleep. Whether you rave about sleep or think it is a waste of time, Professor Foster explained how important it was and how it affected every part of lives from alertness to blood pressure. Dr Lucy Johnson then took the stage and spoke on how psychiatric diagnosis needs to change, expressing a need to understand the person and not just give a label. After a quick break, working memory and classroom learning were the next topics for discussion. With interesting ways on how to help students in the classroom to improve their working memory.

It was then off for some lunch, either down to the Costa Coffee or the luxury café on the corner. On our return we were entertained by a very interesting lecture on how gambling is now being classed as an addiction. This was well delivered by Professor Mark Griffin. Cara Flanagan then took centre stage challenging Milgram’s explanations of obedience. Unfortunately due to the train times, our group missed the last and final talk on Hypnosis. We had to do the return trip along the lengthy escalators, we made it to the station with 20 minutes before the train left. After a quick look round the station including the Harry Potter shop and a look at the entrance to the 9 ¾ platform, we boarded the train. On the return trip the students discussed the topics with enthusiasm. Opening up new areas of interest for some students. An enjoyable day was had by all.

BBC School News Report

On Thursday 19th March twelve very excited students from Year 7 to Year 9 took part in the School News Report. This is a national event and our report was sent to the BBC. The BBC audience will be directed to our website, along with other schools taking part, to view our news!

After much writing, recording and editing our programme can be viewed through a link via the BBC and on our website: http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/bbcschoolreport/

The video takes a few minutes to buffer though as it is 10 minutes long – so please be patient!

If any other students would like to join HBK TV – we meet at Wednesday lunch times in room 7.

As in past years, was an exhilarating, exhausting and rewarding day!

Miss Neasham

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”
Nelson Mandela
Film Studies News February 2015

Like proverbial buses, this year’s Film Studies events all came at once: February saw trips to the Cambridge Arts Picture House for year 12 to see two interesting talks on the genre characteristics of film noir and the processes that go into writing creatively for the screen from the BFI and EON Productions writer Rick Harvey. This was followed by a viewing of Christopher Nolan’s 2000 neo-noir film *Memento*.

A little over a week later and year 13 were off to the same venue for a screening of Jack Clayton’s 1961 classic *The Innocents*. Students who had studied the source novel, Henry James’ *Turn of the Screw* were unanimous in their praise for the adaptation. Everyone agreed that the atmosphere of creeping gothic menace and paranoia was a real strength of the film.

Almost immediately after this, the Cambridge-based filmmaker Ryd Cook came to Hinchingbrooke to spend a day offering practical advice to year 12 on how to achieve a professional look to their filmmaking coursework projects. We all learned how to create an industry standard look to lighting and camera movement with the aid of tin foil and balloons! The discipline needed on a film set was a surprise to everyone, who rose to the challenge and are now hard at work shooting and editing their own films.

GCSE History Trip To Duxford

Over two days in early February nearly 120 GCSE Modern World History students braved the cold and visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford as part of their studies on the Cold War. Pupils were privileged to take part in a hands on history session in which some got to dress up as a Vietcong freedom fighter and an American GI (or ‘grunts’ as the humble drafted infantryman was known in ‘Nam). This activity allowed them to find out about the differences in experiences, equipment and motivation between the two sides in the Vietnam War.

Students were also given a guided tour around some of the hardware associated with the war including the Dakota gunship, B-52 bomber, lightning fighter and the versatile Huey Helicopter that is such an iconic part of the war. Also linked to their studies pupils saw and found out about part of the Berlin wall, a U-2 spy plane associated with the Cuban Missile Crisis and viewed a couple of blockade runners from the Berlin Airlift. Finally pupils were given the chance to explore the Land Warfare Hall, the Battle of Britain exhibition and a trip to the cafe for a much needed hot chocolate to counteract the chill and the snow on the ground. Overall it was an excellent revision opportunity and a good time was had by staff and pupils alike, one pupil was even strapped into an ejector seat by one of Duxford’s enthusiasts as a reward for asking some excellent questions!

Mr Leigh
The History Department’s Russia Trip, 2015

Threats of minus 19 and deep snow had abounded before thirty-eight intrepid students and four staff set out on the History department’s Russia Trip. In reality, we escaped the arctic conditions with a low of minus 10 and only flurries of snow. Setting off at 4.30am the tour took us first to St. Petersburg to explore the wonders of the Tsarist capital city built by Peter the Great. Activities included a night tour, a visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress, and an extensive tour of the Hermitage. Students saw the tombs of the Tsars, including Nicholas II and his murdered family, as well as the cells in which the revolutionaries were held; they explored the site of the assassination of Alexander II, now marked by the Church of the Spilled Blood, and perused the many souvenirs on sale in the street markets.

An overnight train took us through the snow laden countryside to Moscow where we saw Lenin’s mausoleum in Red Square. Sadly, Lenin was closed for a maintenance and change of suit so we didn’t get to see the man himself! Staying in the Hotel Cosmos opposite the space race monument gave us a real flavour of the bygone Soviet era as did the remarkable underground stations built as palaces of the proletariat. The trip ended with a tour of the Kremlin and its wonderful Orthodox Churches in which every Tsar has been crowned and blessed.

Mr Wheeley

Year 7 Geography Fieldtrip

Year 7 have recently been studying energy and sustainability. To find out how we could make our lives more sustainable students visited the Greenhouse Project in St Ives. Here they discovered how we can adapt our houses to make them more energy efficient and ways to create our own electricity. Students all had a great time and came back to school full of ideas to help reduce their carbon footprint.

Mr Evans

Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip

In preparation for their A2 Geographical Skills exam the Year 13 Geographers spent a day in the cold surveying the River Kym. Most students decided to stand on the river bank recording results, but a few brave souls spent much of the day wading in the river. The main finding of the day? The waders were not high enough at site 2 to keep out the water......wet socks for Sam until site 10!

Criminology Conference

On 27th November our Psychology Pre U students attended a conference in London where they heard lectures from Professor David Wilson, a forensic psychology expert as well as Professor Graham Pike and Dr Lyndsey Harris. Here they heard about Crime Myths, what Criminology really entails, how to write your personal statement for UCAS if you want to study Criminology at university and how important it has become to have an A level in psychology to do this due to the increased competition for these courses. From Dr Michael Fiddler they heard how we have explored the public’s responses to crime and punishment and lastly they were included in a discussion with Noel ‘Razor’ Smith, author of ‘A Few kind Words and a Loaded Gun’...unfortunately this last session was cut short due to the necessity of catching the train!

This was a truly memorable and fascinating conference and the students talked about it all the way home and have used this information in the ‘forensic psychology’ section of their course.

We were sent the following in order to ‘make’ our own identikit face before the conference so we could e mail it to the organisers...it does show how poor identikit pictures can be...why not have a go yourselves?

Online

www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/photofit-me

Apple App

https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/photofit-me/id429931191?mt=8

Android App

Politics Day Years 7-11
On Budget day, 18th March, students at Hinchingbrooke School spent the whole day off timetable focussing on the big issue of politics and the upcoming General Election in May. The educational day run by teaching staff looked at some key questions; What is Parliament? Who are our political parties and what do they say? What does an MP actually do? How do you elect a government? Why is politics important?

The day culminated in each student and staff member voting in a closed ballot. The votes were counted to see how Hinchingbrooke School would vote in the pending election, the school’s voting pattern created a hung parliament.

Organisers Patrick Winter and Amelia Parker (Curriculum Innovation) said: “It would seem that there is currently a gap in education around the role and nature of British Politics. As Education is entirely a political product it is appropriate that this development day provides more time for students to look in more depth at the complex issues in politics. The day should enable them to answer the questions posed above, therefore making them a viable or future viable part of the electorate. The whole school vote will provide students with the opportunity to use their political understanding to take part in an election process and then review how it felt to be able to influence the overall outcome.”

Spotlight on Clubs
Games and Model Making Club - Meets Thursday after school 3.30-5.30

The games & model making club is a long established extra-curricular activity. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for like-minded students (and teachers) to meet and share our enthusiasms. The club plays chess, board games, card games and Games Workshop games – in fact anything that involves playing face to face without the use of a computer screen. The other aspect of the club is for those who want to make and paint models -whether it is for a dolls house, origami or a good old Airfix plastic kit. Expert advice is available from the staff or from more experienced modellers at the club. We currently have 30 plus members with ages ranging from year 7 to the sixth form. The club has established links with local model clubs and for the last two years we have put on a display at a model show in St Ives, with our stall being manned by students & staff from Hinchingbrooke.

You do not have to know anything about model making or playing games to join our club – we will teach you and all are welcome. What better way to end then with some of the views from club members.

"The club is a great opportunity to learn new skills and meet new friends – a great experience in gaming and modelling” – Windsor, year 10

"I enjoy coming to the club because I’m surrounded by people that play the same games as me” – Marcus, year 7

"It’s a great atmosphere – you enjoy your hobby with other enthusiasts” – Christopher, year 10

"The club is an environment in which I can build, paint and play games with others. This opens new possibilities to what I can do which I cannot do at home” – Josh, year 10.

Mr Middleton
New Sports Hall for 2015.

We are pleased to say that work is now underway for the new sports hall. We will be building a new state of the art sports hall now due for completion in February 2016. 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 "We are delighted that the project is now underway. We would ask parents and customers to be understanding as access and some parking will be affected by the building work. However, we look forward to the wonderful new facilities that this project will bring"