Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Sometimes it is easy to forget that this has been the very first year of our new structure of 'Schools' and 'Directorates', and that very many of the staff who have worked so hard to make this work for us, are also new to the school. I would like to start by acknowledging all that they have done, whether new nor not so new, and by thanking them for making such a success of the systems and procedures we have put in place to begin to set the school on the path to excellence.

Having acknowledged the new staff, I would now like to turn to those who are moving on to pastures new this summer. Having written so recently about staff turnover I do not intend to repeat any of that here. I would, however, like to pay tribute to all of our leavers, who have worked at Hinchingbrooke in any capacity. Thank you for your contributions and we wish you every success in the future. Special tribute must go to John Norris the current Assistant Principal, Director of Sixth Form, who retires after 36 years here at Hinchingbrooke School. (Please see article in this edition.) We wish him well in his retirement and are grateful for all the time he has invested in making our Sixth Form the success it is today. To take over form Mr Norris we have appointed Charlie Fordham from Long Road Sixth Form College. Charlie read English at Trinity College Cambridge, is an outstanding teacher and brings a wealth of experience to this very important position. We look forward to welcoming him in September and to continuing the process of improvement and development in the Sixth Form. Mr Norris will still be seen next year, as he is returning in a part time capacity to complete the teaching of the Government and Politics course for some students. Mike Addis also retires after 27 years from the Business Studies department. We thank him for his long and dedicated service to the school. He will also be returning part time to teach some Business Studies.

There have been so many highlights of the term and the year that I cannot possibly do justice to all of them. Many are featured in this edition of the Hinchingbrooke Herald (which itself is new this year), so I will content myself to just one or two. Our ‘personal development days’ (PD days) have been a tremendous innovation and the school is indebted to Paddy Winter and Amelia Parker for their creativity, ingenuity and hard work in making these happen. Good education is about so much more than merely subject syllabuses and GCSE or A level results, important those these are. Our four PD days throughout the year have challenged students to develop skills such as resilience, reflectiveness, reciprocity and resourcefulness.
By participating in the activities students have the chance to develop inter-personal skills such as team work, creativity and determination and they are encouraged to be aspirational, to think outside the box and to wrestle with some of the current issues of the day. There are elements of these in their subjects of course, but these days offer much more scope for them to be engaged in longer activities, not constrained by subject boundaries or course requirements.

Alongside the usual array of sporting and artistic events that make up the school calendar, this year we have had notable and well deserved success in the Formula 1 engineering competition entered and supported superbly by the Design Technology department. (Details can be found in an earlier edition of the Hinchingbrooke Herald.)

Amongst more recent events is the welcome return of Glastonbrooke after a year out. The rain did not dampen the spirits and the event was enjoyed by over 200 staff and students. The Year 6 Sports festival, based around the commonwealth games, and the Sports Awards evening, both of which are magnificent examples of well-run and upbeat events, where every student present can enjoy and acknowledge a whole range of achievements, helped to lift the spirits in a wonderfully celebratory way.

We have had, not one, but two visits from Ofsted this year - the full inspection in February and the monitoring visit to look at behaviour, only recently. They confirmed what we knew: that behaviour is good and overall the school needs further improvement. In my view, there will always be room for further improvement on the behaviour front, and nothing is more important in this regard than having the support of parents. Thank you to the overwhelming majority of you who give this unquestioningly. Together we can help to steer our young people to make the right choices, to take responsibility for their actions and not to stray from what they know deep down, is right, when faced with peer pressure or difficult situations. If we allow them to play off home against school and they do not see a united front between us, this makes success much less likely.

We have had some prestigious visitors this year ranging from Olympians like Cath Bishop and author Hilary Mantel to academics such as Dame Veronica Sutherland (former UK Ambassador to 5 countries), Professor Freeland from the Faraday Institute, Cambridge, (seconded to NASA to research the possible genetic codes of life on other planets), Anne McCarty, Development Director of " Solidarity with South Sudan" and, more recently, Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Physics, Master Elect of Churchill College, Cambridge, who spoke to the Sixth Form about the process of scientific research.

So, turning now to next year, our over-riding mantra will be to work towards achieving greater consistency in all that we do. It is hard, with so many staff, to get a 100% consistent application of every policy and procedure. We are, after all, human beings. That said, we are implementing some new quality assurance procedures that should help us to achieve a much greater degree of consistency. Through the student councils we will be offering more leadership opportunities to many more of our young people next year. There will be a review of rewards and sanctions, and much other work to do. We will continue to seek parental views through the parent forums. Please do come along to these, hear of our plans and share your feedback. We have only managed modest numbers this year, making it difficult to assess how representative the views expressed really are.

I said in my last newsletter that we would be looking at splitting lunch times next September. This is not now going to be necessary. We have been fortunate enough to be awarded a £2.4m grant to build a new sports hall and to convert the old one into a much bigger and better dining facility, capable of taking a much larger volume of customers, thus obviating the need to split the lunchtimes. As I write we are having a small set back, due to the discovery of some great crested newts, a protected species, that have a migration route across the land we are due to use for the sports hall. No doubt we will find a way around the problem and hopefully, these delightful little creatures will not halt the progress of this important new facility for the students, for too long.

As we approach next year we have the smart new uniform to look forward to and, although it has been an arduous journey and a frustrating one in terms of negotiating with our two suppliers, who seem to find problems with the supply chain at every turn, we will eventually achieve what we set out to do. I am sure the students and parents will be proud, and that the community will notice the difference and all that it signifies, in terms of the school's standards and aspirations. We want to be at the very forefront of educational excellence and innovation and to stand out from the crowd, typifying the very best of education, a 'premium brand', as it were, and the new uniform shows that we are serious in our endeavours to be seen as an academic and business like organisation.

As we move forward in this journey together, we also have a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate our rich heritage and history, with the 450th anniversary celebrations in 2015. Hilary Mantel has agreed to be our patron. Look out for more details next year.

Thank you to all the staff and students for your commitment and hard work. Thank you to parents and governors for your support in our endeavours. I wish you all a restful and restorative summer break and look forward to continuing our journey in September.

Kind regards

Andrew Goulding

Principal
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates
Summer Term Closes – Tuesday 22 July
Staff Training Day – Wednesday 23 July
GCE (A Level) Results Day – 14 August
GCSE Results Day – 21 August
Staff Training Days - 3 & 4 September
Autumn Term Opens (year 7 & 12) – Friday 5 September
Autumn Term Opens (All Students) – Monday 8 September
Staff Training Day – 24 October
Half Term – 24 – 31 October (inc)
Spring Term Closes – Friday 19 December

Parents' Evenings
Year 12 – Wednesday 10th September
Year 10 KS4 Success Evening - Thursday 18 September
Year 7 Meet the Tutors Evening - Tuesday 30 September
Year 6 Information Evening -Tuesday 7 October
Year 11 – Thursday 6 November
Year 7 – Wednesday 26 November

Events
Year 6 Open Day Morning Tours - Wednesday 8 October
Music Event – Wednesday 8 October
Glastonbrooke Unplugged -Wednesday 8 October
Year 6/7 Transition Event - Thursday 9 October
450th Reception – Saturday 19 October
Collapsed Timetable Day All Students -Tuesday 21 October
Music Concert – Wednesday 22 October
450th Piano Concert – Friday 31 October
GCSE Celebration Evening –Thursday 13 November
World War 1 History Show - 18 & 19 November
450th Piano Concert – Friday 28 November
Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 3 December
Year 7 Carol Concert – Friday 12 December
Carol Concert – Wednesday 17 December

Parent Forums
Wednesday 15 October
Thursday 11 December

Exams Results - Information for Students

GCE / A Level Results
Year 12 & 13
Thursday 14th August 2014
Between 8.30 - 11.30
Inner Hall, Hinchingbrooke House
If you are unable to attend in person to collect your results either:
- Provide the Exams Office with a stamped addressed envelope and results will be posted on results day
- Provide the Exams Office with a letter nominating an adult to collect results. The nominated adult must bring a copy of this letter with them for identification and authorisation purposes.

GCSE Results Day
Year 11
Thursday 21st August 2014
Between 8.30 - 11.30
Maths Area - Middle School
If you are unable to attend in person to collect your results either:
- Provide the Exams Office with a stamped addressed envelope and results will be posted on results day
- Provide the Exams Office with a letter nominating an adult to collect results. The nominated adult must bring a copy of this letter with them for identification and authorisation purposes.

Year 9 & 10
Between 9.00 and 11.00
The Year 11 Common Room / OMD
Results not collected will be distributed on the first day of term by form tutors.
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, the local community, Old Huntingdonians Association and Friends of Hinchingbrooke House.

A small working group is planning a weekend of celebrations on the anniversary weekend of 2nd and 3rd May 2015 and a variety of other events throughout our anniversary year. We are delighted to announce that Hilary Mantel CBE, one of this country’s most acclaimed and garlanded writers, has agreed to be the Patron of the school’s 450th anniversary celebrations.

Hinchingbrooke School was founded, as Huntingdon Grammar School, in 1565. Among its pupils in its early history were Oliver Cromwell and Samuel Pepys. At the beginning of the 20th century the school began admitting girls as well as boys and by the 1960’s was admitting about 90 pupils per year. On the 1st September 1939 the school opened in a new building on Brampton Road - the same day that war broke out. In 1970 the school began to take children of all abilities and soon became fully comprehensive. At the same time the school changed its name, and pupils in Year 9 and above moved to new premises in Hinchingbrooke Park and the renovated Hinchingbrooke House, which had been sold to the Local Authority by the Montagu family in the 1960’s when they could no longer afford its upkeep. In 1992 the former Grammar School buildings were closed and the whole school was finally united on a single site in Hinchingbrooke Park.

Hinchingbrooke School is a fully comprehensive school with some 1900 pupils on roll, including more than 400 in the Sixth Form (Years 12-13). In 2011 the school converted to Academy status and in 2012 a new Principal, Andrew Goulding, was appointed.

The Times once called Hinchingbrooke School "The most beautiful comprehensive school in England" and a plaque commemorating this is on the wall of the House foyer. The school finds inspiration from its heritage which gives both staff and students a very special pride and a sense of identity.

Caroline Sheffield and Tom Wheelely
School Governors

Your Views and Questions

The Parents’ Forum meets regularly in school to discuss topics and seek views from parents on areas of development in school.

Previous topics have included:-

- Transition from Year 6 to Year 7
- Communication
- The new school uniform
- Parents’ Evenings and school reports.

We always welcome your views and feedback. So if you have any questions about the Forum or any feedback for us. Please forward to Jackie Moore via:- jm@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

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

Forum dates are shown on page 2.
Lower School - Achievements
Years 7 & 8

Head of Lower School - Kate Tandy

What a year it has been for years 7 and 8! With lots of change to get used to. We started the year with an idea of what we wanted Lower School to become and lots of hard work from the Lower School team, supported by students and parents, has seen this become a reality. Crucial to this process has been the work of Miss Rana as Deputy Head of Lower School. Throughout the year Miss Rana has not only worked tirelessly to implement the wide range of new initiatives and procedures needed to ensure Lower School worked effectively, but she has also been the source of many innovative approaches herself. Miss Rana is leaving us at the end of term and we wish her all the best with her new promotion and thank her for everything she has done during her time at Hinchingbrooke.

As one door closes, another opens and we are excited to welcome Miss Crumpler to the Lower School team as the new Deputy Head of Lower School. Her ideas and enthusiasm are already having a positive impact on the vision for Lower School for the new academic year.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Lower School tutors and support tutors for their part in making the first year of Lower School so successful and also extend our thanks to Mrs Darbyshire, Mrs Ellis and Miss Erskine who have been the heart and soul of the Lower School and who constantly go above and beyond what is expected of them. As the end of term draws near, may I wish you all a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Star of the Week Draw

Each week form groups and tutors nominate candidates for their 'Star of the Week', which are based on all forms of success both inside and outside school. These students are congratulated in the weekly assembly and have their 'star' displayed during that week on one of the Lower School noticeboards. At the end of each half term, all of these stars are placed into a draw to win a free cinema ticket. The students on the right were stars of the week last half term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower School Award</th>
<th>Manev Krishnan LSM1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Amaani Mahran LSP1
Sophie Morris LSV1
Samuel Steel LSW2
Alexander Liney LSM1
Naomi Hailstone LSV4
Manav Krishnan LSM1
Izzy Billings LSW3
Samuel Fuller LSC4
Louis Corby LSP3
Jack Ellis LSW2
Lauren Elmore LSM4
Sophie Rankine LSP1
Olivia Hunt LSW3
George Dobbie LSC4
Thaine Allen LSM4
Holly Hoy LSM3
Terry Connelly LSV1
Miles Jones LSP2
Natasha Newland LSP2
Bob Bristow LSC4
Katherine Lyon LSM2
Alanna Moor LSV2
Millie Oldwood LSV4
Curtis Reay LSW3
Jay Jamieson-Hixon LSC3
Oliver Smith LSP1
Eddie Farley LSW2
Winners of Star of the Week Cinema Vouchers

Sophie Morris P1
Naomi Hailstone V4
Manav Krishnan M1
Samuel Fuller C4
Olivia Hunt W3
Thaine Allen M4
Holly Hoy M3
Miles Jones P2
Bob Bristow C4
Jay Jamieson-Hixon C3

Lesson Monitor

Hinchingbrooke now uses Lesson Monitor across all lessons.

You will hear students talking about fives and ones. 5s are awarded for excellent effort and work, whereas 1s indicate that there has been a problem.

Accruing a certain number of 1s may lead to a student being placed on report and other sanctions. However, there are prizes for those students who get lots of 5s. For information; a 2 is given if a student does not present their homework, 3 is given for missing equipment and 4 is for a mobile phone infringement.

There is healthy competition to be the student, form and House with the most 5s! Please see the names of the Lower School students with the most 5s.

Top 5 Year 7 students with the most 5s

Alexander Robinson LSM3
Diana Vasile LSW1
Charlotte Pearce LSW1
Lauren Egan LSW1
Sam Pearson LSW1

Top 5 Year 8 students with the most 5s

Francesca Moore LSM3
Holly Hoy LSM3
Ethan Gadenne LSW3
Oliver Nind LSW2
William Johnson LSW2

Below are some of the things the Lower School students are proud of from this year...

"Interhouse is great because we get to do sport for longer, and it's a competition between the Houses."

"Getting the Golden Antlers for the most 5's" (Form Tutors wear a pair of golden antlers if their form has the most 5s for the week)

"The Carol Competition was really fun and you get to work as a team"

"I really enjoy getting the chance to play against other schools in Football Club."

"Winning the regional final of the German Spelling Bee."

"Playing the title role in Oliver"

"Winning the Junior Maths Challenge."

"Raising £40 making House coloured cupcakes which we sold during form time."
Middle School News

Year 11 News

Year 11 is finally drawing to a close. The exam season went well and our year ended on a fantastic high. On 21st May at the Year 11 Leaver’s Assembly students spent a very emotional afternoon full of reminiscing, celebration and many tears. Students had created fantastic videos of their time at school and shared some amazing performances. We are hopeful that following this successful year full of change, with a new year 11 uniform, a new head of year, new Student Support Officer, new tutoring structure and new Year 11 common room, that students will be rewarded for their efforts by earning the grades they deserve in their exams.

On Friday 27th June our Year 11 students gathered together in celebration for one final time at for the Year 11 Prom. A massive thank you must go to Mrs Woolhouse and the Prefect Team for organising a fantastic event with the theme of the Great Gatsby. The Performing Arts Centre was transformed into a gold and black cocktail bar and disco, complete with a replica 1920’s car. It was lovely to see all the students in all their finery arriving in all manner of unusual modes of transport; from limousines, a tractor, a quad bike and even a couple of camper vans. It was also great to see so many staff entering into the Gatsby theme and donning feather boas, glamorous prom dresses, fine dinner jackets and Mr Turnbull impressed in his full ‘Turnbull’ tartan!

We look forward to next year and seeing if the new Year 11 will be able to outdo the unbelievably high standard that the 2013/14 cohort have achieved.

The GCSE results will be distributed on the Thursday the 21st August and we look forward to this incredibly talented year group fulfilling their potential and gaining access to their chosen post 16 destinations.

Mrs Winter

Year 9 Work for BBC News

On Thursday March 27th, four of our year 9 girls: Hannah Clarke, Charlotte Warren-Palmer, Harriet Powlson and Jodie Vuylsteke, took time out of classes to create a news article for the national BBC News Report that is a chance for students to get a taste of what life in a news studio is really like.

They had to work to a tight deadline, the finished product needing to be downloaded by 4pm, so team work and focus were imperative. The topic they chose to work on was the ongoing mystery-disappearance of the Malaysian airliner in February, and they conducted a series of interviews with peers and staff to get ‘sound bites’ of different theories. As well as the moving images, the girls put together and edited a montage of images from the airports in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing as well an emotive soundtrack that they checked for copyright.

The girls met the challenge with gusto. They worked hard, and, despite the pressure, remained upbeat, cheerful and on task; an absolute asset to the English department and the school.

Miss Stockwell
John Norris Retires

Time has flown by since John Norris was a curly headed enthusiastic young Manchunian teacher in 1983 to the shaven, mature (Manchester City supporter, but don’t hold that against him!) and still enthusiastic teacher and Head of Sixth Form today.

John has always been a teacher with students at the heart of everything he does, they are his focus and raison d'etre. Sixth formers have seen him participate enthusiastically in many leavers assemblies, including ‘I could walk 100 miles’ also Abba and Queen medleys.

John, is a teacher who really does believe that fun should be an essential part of learning for both students and staff alike. John is aware every day that teachers have the ‘power to inspire or make a student’s life miserable’ (Hiam Ginott). He successfully made the former his aim and is at his best in the classroom and this is what he enjoys best.

John has taught Politics, Sociology, Psychology and Law as well as setting up the original PHSE in Hinchingbrooke, he mentored student teachers, ran the Staff Development evenings, which were great fun. Throughout all, he mesmerized, challenged, and enjoyed his teaching.

To paraphrase (and alter a little!) the famous quote from George Orwell’s political allegory of the Russian revolution (Animal Farm), “all teachers are born unique but some are more unique than others”...John is one of those!

John will be greatly missed by the sixth form team and students alike and we look forward to hearing about his future adventures!

Four Hinchingbrooke students offered places at medical school for September 2014

Mr Goulding said “I am delighted for these hardworking and talented students. This is our best performance for medical applicants in recent years which pays testimony to the bespoke guidance programme that we have developed for those of our highest achieving students”. Mr Norris added, “I would like to thank Professor Chris Griffiths, professor of primary care at St Bartholomew’s, London for all the advice and guidance he gave to the students throughout the challenging application process”.

Year 12 & 13 News

Well over a hundred Year 13 students have already accepted places at university including two students who have accepted places abroad and Jake Smith who has secured an apprenticeship at Rolls Royce.

This year’s UCAS application process is about to begin and we have already taken a number of Year 12 students to the UCAS convention at Anglia Ruskin University. Students were able to visit stands to find out about hundreds of universities, institutions and courses. They attended seminars on relevant subjects and listened to general talks providing information on matters such as writing a personal statement and various aspects of student life including finance. For those students not intending to apply to university they will have the opportunity to attend a number of different conferences on work and apprenticeships in July.
New Head of Sixth Form Appointed

Charlie Fordham is starting with us in September as our new Assistant Principal with specific responsibility as Head of Sixth Form. He is joining us from Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, where he has led two different departments and been the Head of Studies. He is a sixth form specialist and Cambridge graduate who will be ideally suited to support and inspire our sixth form students. He has already visited the school on several occasions, including on July 11th for our new Induction Day for the upcoming intake of sixth form students for September, and says he is “thrilled at the prospect of working with Hinchingbrooke’s wonderful students and excellent sixth form team”.

Sixth Form Summer Ball

The Sixth Form Summer Ball was a wonderfully lavish ‘Great Gatsby’ inspired event organised by the students’ summer ball committee. The jazz band on the lawn, the DJ in the marquee and varying entertainment around Hinchingbrooke House ensured that everyone had a wonderful time. In addition everyone was well catered for with a hog roast, a noodle bar and the ever popular chocolate fountain!

Leavers Celebrations

At the year 13 leavers’ assembly; many awards were handed out celebrating student achievements during their time in the sixth form (some awards were not so serious!). The weather held out for the BBQ, which followed on the terrace, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a relaxing time together before the exam season began in earnest.
Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Simon Cooke - Vice Principal

As the Summer term and academic year comes to a close, it is as ever, a busy time. There is still so much to fit in before the summer holidays begin; particularly so for the departments in the Performance & Creativity Directorate.

‘Glastonbrooke Festival’ (Tuesday 8 July 2014) has been moved in the calendar to occur during the summer festival season. The main stage (and only stage) can be placed outdoors in the grounds of the House.

That week continued to be busy with Sports Day on Wednesday 9 July 2014 followed by the ‘Sports Awards Evening’ on Thursday 10 July 2014 in the Performing Arts Centre.

Then the week finished off with the PD (Pastoral Development) Day on Friday 11 July 2014, when students were off timetable participating in a variety of exciting activities. This is the fourth PD day of the year and is entitled ‘Creating Change’.

The ‘festival-feel’ continues into the following week with ‘Picnic at the House’ (Tuesday 15 July 2014). This event is open to all and really is a P&C Directorate event with students and staff performing music, dance and drama inside and outside Hinchingbrooke House. Additionally, on display will be various pieces of art produced by students this year. Please bring your picnic rug and hamper and join in with this marvellous event.

As a school we are also preparing to welcome our new Year 7 students who will be joining us in September. Therefore, on Thursday 3 July 2014, we will hosted a Year 6 Sports Festival. Hopefully this gave students a positive taster experience of sport at Hinchingbrooke School. In addition, there was the Year 6 Transition evening on Wednesday 16 July 2014, where the new students and parents will be provided with an abundance of new information.

As the exam season comes to an end it is always nice to enjoy these events that bring the year to a fitting close. I hope that you were able to join us for at least one of these excellent events.

Thank you to all the staff in the Performance & Creativity Directorate for their hard effort and commitment throughout the year.

I wish the students an enjoyable and relaxing summer. I am sure that parents will be only too pleased when September comes around again.

Fire Walk for Macmillan Cancer Support

On Saturday June 7th, the Head of Cromwell House at Hinchingbrooke School, Michelle Trewin and her two sixth form House Captains, Amy Hogg and Charlie Gabriel completed a FIREWALK for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event was organised by Paul Dyer, owner of the Exhibition Pub in Godmanchester and Phillip Malley, proprietor of Gatehouse Estates. The pair are renowned for their charity work over the years, having completed numerous charity runs as well as their ‘Kick it up Killi’ campaign, where they kicked a football up Mount Kilimanjaro; their trek to Everest base camp and their most recent ‘Taxi to Talinn’ adventure.

Each House at Hinchingbrooke has its own charity that it supports and Cromwell House is basing it’s fundraising around Macmillan. On the evening, there was a very supportive atmosphere at The Exhibition pub and a large turn-out of supporters. Charlie Gabriel also undertook a challenge of walking across broken glass. The fire walk itself was strangely straightforward in the end, this was due to the psychological frame of mind the firewalk tutor put everyone in; despite the temperature of the coals being 1000 degrees! The tutor, Steve Consavalez, used tasks that got all the participants into a positive frame of mind, as well as encouraging the walkers to chant ‘ice, ice, ice’ as they ventured over the hot coals.

Pictured are the Cromwell House members presenting a cheque for £500, the amount raised by sponsorship from friends and family, as well as from an event we staged at school over 2 lunchtimes, called 'Hinchingbrooke's Got Talent'.

Mrs Trewin
Hunts School Sports Partnership

Hosted and supported by Hinchingbrooke School

This academic year the Hunts School Sports Partnership (Hunts SSP) has worked with 45 (78%) of the primary schools across Huntingdonshire to support them to deliver the outcomes for the new Sport Premium funding that primary schools now receive. This year the government removed funding for secondary school based PE specialists who previously worked with clusters of primary schools but they gave Primary schools Sport Premium funding to raise standards within Physical Education and School Sport. (All funding for School Sport Partnerships ceased in 2011.) Since then, the Hunts School Sports Partnership which has been in existence since 2006, has maintained an infrastructure of trained primary Physical Education Specialists and Sports Coaches to support schools through our subscription service. We are looking forward to continuing this next year. For more information contact Sue Ager on sa@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

The Hunts SSP team have worked closely alongside primary teachers to up-skill and support them to have the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver high quality physical education in the curriculum. Several Sports Science events have taken place across the Partnership using the Batak machine and other pieces of sports science equipment to inspire children to be active and enjoy physical activity.

The summer term has seen several sports festivals and tournaments taking place with schools qualifying for the Sainsbury’s School Games Level 3 County event. Our inclusive competitions started off the summer term with a Cerebral Palsy inclusive fun event for primary aged pupils with a disability, from main stream schools and special schools. All of our events have included a festival event which is for children who are not ready to take part in main tournaments. This ensures that all children have the opportunity to take part in a competitive event that is fun and inclusive. It has provided them with the opportunity to develop their skills within a specific sport and be part of a larger event at a community venue.

In May, 32 teams took part in the year 3 & 4 tennis festival and tournament at the Hunts Tennis Club in Huntingdon. June saw 23 teams take part in a Quick Sticks Hockey Festival and Level 2 tournament at the St Ives outdoor centre. The following week over 200 children took part in the Quad Kids Athletics festival and tournament where Brampton Primary School qualified to represent Hunts SSP at the Level 3 event.

Hinchingbrooke School had great success with the Year 8 girls rounder’s team, the golf under 15s Beginners and Intermediates teams, the Year 7 boys Table Tennis and the girls’ year 7 Netball team; all qualifying to represent Hunts in the Level 3 County Sainsbury’s School Games event. We wish them good luck in the finals!

Beach Club has also seen 70 pupils taking part in sailing and kayaking on the Hinchingbrooke country Park Lake. Look out for more information about the courses starting in September!

Mrs Ager
Well Done and Good Luck to the Year 11 Dance Class Leavers

Mrs Trewin and Ms Phillips would like to congratulate the 2 classes of year 11 BTEC Level 2 Dancers on all of their hard work over the past 2 years. They have all danced their way through many different practical assignments and performances. On May 8th, in an exam setting, they all showed their own choreography; where they had to plan and lead their own dance. The dance had to have a theme, appropriate costume and music. It was wonderful to see their pieces come together for the final exam day.

Good luck with all your future career plans dancers of 2012-2014!

Mrs Trewin and Miss Phillips

Dance Workshop, Hills Road May 2014

Hinchingbrooke School was offered 15 places on a ‘Performing Arts / Dance’ workshop led by a current top-class contemporary choreographer, Mr Joss Arnott. He is a graduate from the renowned Dance University, Laban, and now runs his own professional dance company that performs and tours around England.

Together with students from Hills Road, Hinchingbrooke students participated in 2 workshops, learning techniques, routines and performance skills. The workshops were of A Level standard, giving our students an opportunity to work in a challenging and innovative environment.

Students involved: Abey Cherian, Ben Watson, Ellie Cook, Fiona Gillespie, Lucy Watts, Olivia Drane, Olivia Nye, Phoebe Knibbs, Kyra Sharp, Lily Jones, Izzy Reuter, Emily Thompson, Jasmine Thompson, Eloise Bell.

Mrs Trewin & Miss Phillips

Year 9 Golf Champions

12 year 9 students played golf at Pidley on Friday 27th June.

There were two teams, the beginners and intermediate, led by Jordan King and Dan Pedlar respectively.

Hinchingbrooke were overall champions on the day, overcoming other teams from Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, Chloe Drewery finished two under par for the day.

A great performance....

Mr Turnbull
Hinchingbrooke U16 Netball Academy team win in France.

During the Easter break 3 teams from Hinchingbrooke School’s Netball Academy played in the International Junior Netball Festival based at Euro Disney in Paris. The tour consisted of 3 days of netball including a Master Class coaching session with visits from Mavericks, England International player - Sophia Candappa, Loughborough Lightning and New Zealand International Jessie Waitapu. When not playing, the teams spent time in the Disney Parks.

After the first day’s play the teams were put into leagues for the finals with the U16’s winning through their league to play Acklam Grange ‘A’ from Middlesbrough in the final. Having drawn with them in the previous round they went one better in the final winning 13-9 to become the 2014 International Junior Netball festival U16 Challenger Plate Competition winners.

The U14’s took to the courts after the first day of play and they were put in a league with six other teams. The U14 teams both played extremely well as a team and were driven to win each vital game in order to be in with a chance of first to third place. Unfortunately the A team was beaten by one goal in the second game of the day, which meant that they were then competing for 4th to 6th place. For the final nerve racking game the A and the B team had to play against each other in the battle for 5th and 6th place. After a fantastically competitive game the B team was awarded 5th place and the A team came away with 6th place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local businesses that supported us in our fundraising efforts prior to the tour.

Mrs Stevens

Staff Netball - Workplace Challenge

In June, female staff from Hinchingbrooke School took part in a new initiative organised by ‘Living Sport’ - a nationwide company committed to raising the profile of sport across the country for children and adults.

The challenge was entitled ‘Workplace Challenge’. Six teams took part in matches and Hinchingbrooke’s team of Miss Bloxham, Miss Leighton, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Stevens, Miss Phillips, Mrs Trewin, Mrs Jago, Miss Wagstaffe and Miss Bonner were joint winners of the event. This is intended to be the first of many such initiatives with teams being requested for other staff events in the future, such as rounders and hockey. Other companies that featured in the event included ‘Marshalls Aerospace’ and ‘Savilles’ construction group. A big thank you to Caroline Bloxham for organising and to Gill Stevens for umpiring all the matches on the evening.
GCSE & A Level Art Exhibitions 2014

This year’s GCSE and A Level Exhibitions were alive with colour, craft and pure talent from all of the students. The hours of hard work, tears and tantrums, really paid off, resulting in varying styles and skills which were shown by everyone, and speaking with the students and staff, everyone was very proud of what had been achieved.

The evening of the GCSE exhibition saw a large crowd of parents, friends, and staff come and grasp the wonderful efforts of the Year 11s. A lot of praise and even some purchases were made that evening, all of the students stood back and took pride in what they had done. The A Level exhibition was also full of compliments and congratulations, students, family, and staff all once again taking pride in their hard work. Even some Year 10 and 11 students showed up to get some inspiration for their college or A Level work in the coming years.

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who helped make both evenings so inspiring, and we hope that next year will be filled with just as much brilliant work.

Some of the incredible art produced by Hinchingbrooke students by (clockwise) Charlie Ling, Arianna Cortez, Katie Scholey and Amber Tennant.
Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry

Lee Walker - Vice Principal

It seems like no time at all since I was writing the introduction to our Directorate report for the inaugural Hinchingbrooke Herald earlier this year. How time flies in education! These recent months have been packed with the usual range of activities you would expect – not least of which has been the preparation by students in all year groups for their examinations, both public and internal. As ever I am grateful to all the staff in the Directorate for their hard work and excellent support for students in the run up to their exams.

In addition, this term has seen another hugely successful Work Experience fortnight for our year 10 students, with all 297 of the cohort placed externally in a wide variety of settings and locations. The number of placements now accessed by students across the partnership is 863, a testament to the hard work of our Information, Advice and Guidance team.

We are delighted to welcome to the team our new Head of Maths, Andy Bennett. This term has also seen the appointment of four Directorate Teaching Assistants who will offer specialised support for students in subjects across the Directorate. We wish all of our new starters the very best and we look forward to working closely with them to maximise achievement across our subjects, and through the school as a whole.

Community News - Hinchingbrooke Work Experience 2014

297 students recently spent two weeks out within the realms of the working world and once again was a tremendous success. Employers provided some wonderful comments about students who have been trying their hands at a variety of different jobs.

Work experience really helps students get to know what jobs and working life are really like and allows them to develop different types of skills, preparing them for their own future employment. Following the two weeks we have at least 6 students being offered part time work and at least two students carrying on with extended placements to support their studies.

A few success stories include:-

Owen Bevan and Jarred McNamarra who worked at AK builders of Godmanchester where the boss said they were both excellent lads who he would definitely consider employing when they are old enough. For both boys it has been a very positive experience. Karl Hurst said he “enjoys the scheme and it gives youngsters the opportunity to get the experience”.

Samatha Allere worked at Borney UK where she had her own desk and was even working on some designs for the company which they are sending to clients!

Finally Tom Sturgeon worked at Jewson and didn’t want to come back to school as he really was one of the team there. He had been busy working on product displays, serving customers on the counter and drinking tea!”

Our students have had some fantastic opportunities and experiences and whilst we can’t mention them all we are delighted with how well the students worked and represented school.

Hinchingbrooke would like to thank all the companies that took in students, it really is appreciated, and without them this fantastic life experience would not be possible.

Mrs Tanton-Smith
Subject World is Born for Hinchingbrooke Students

Subject World is a new and exciting cloud based app that has been developed in house to meet the needs of our students. It is available on the following platforms: desktop, all android and all IOS smartphones/ tablets. Subject World allows students to effectively manage their learning across all subjects. The app has the following in-built features:

- Timetable, homework planner, revision schedule, lesson monitor data, attainment records in all subjects (can also be displayed as a graph), record extra-curricular activities, calendar, interesting facts, revision cards, mind maps and useful websites

To create a new account, use the school id as 22203 and user id as your surname followed by your first initial. An email account is required to retrieve the password. For more information, please visit the support page or contact the developer (Mr Woodfine - mhw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk):

http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/Subject%20World/Support%20Page.html

Year 9 Business Studies Lion’s Lair Competition

Over the past 5 years we have been running a very successful Lion’s Lair competition, which is based on the famous Dragon’s Den. Students who have opted for the Year 9 Business Studies course, research and develop a detailed business plan from Christmas onwards, which they pitch to their fellow students and staff. Their work and presentation make use of their experiences of running a business stall selling products at the very popular Christmas Fair, which is the first terms work for this course.

The two most successful groups from each class are then entered into the Lion’s Lair final, where each group competes against each other in front of real business people. We have a panel of four people who work in local and national businesses and mark the students presentations based on how well they have put across their business idea and whether it would be feasible in the town centre of Huntingdon.

The winning students receive a trophy awarded as part of the Year 9 preferences option and they also win some cinema tickets. This year the presentations will be given in Hinchingbrooke House on July 9th and once again we are benefitting from four local entrepreneurs who are giving up their free time to help judge the best groups.

Mr Kennedy
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematics Challenge

On the 1st May a combination of 80 year 6, year 7 and year 8 students took on the latest challenge that the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) had to offer. The group consisted of the most gifted and talented Hinchingbrooke students in maths from years 7 to 8 as well as, for the second year running, some exceptionally gifted mathematicians from Buckden Primary School’s year 6 cohort.

All students met outside room 121 where they were taken down to Hinchingbrooke House to write the challenge in the assembly room. It was easy to tell without even knowing who the year 7s were! They were filled with the anticipation of not quite knowing what to expect even though we had armed them with examples of past challenges and discussed strategies to minimise the negative marks. On top of that there was the added drama of working in Hinchingbrooke House. The year 7 students were clearly nervous but excited to have been chosen to go up against the best in the United Kingdom.

One of the Buckden students even asked if getting help from the ghosts of Hinchingbrooke House was cheating, as they are technically not people!

The year 8s by contrast now considered themselves the veterans, as with the year 7s, we had armed them all with past papers, given them ‘drills’ before, during and after school to give them the best chance of achieving in this challenge.

As before the challenge tested all areas of the students’ mathematical ability with the questions getting progressively harder and harder. This challenge paid particular attention to geometry in conjunction with algebra and sequences. Challenging indeed! The students answering certain questions had to really ‘broaden’ their way of thinking in order to arrive at the correct result. This was apparent in the last half of the paper; especially with the last five questions.

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

Congratulations to all that took part, it is an accomplishment just being selected. But special mention must go to the following students: Isabel Page who achieved the highest mark in year 8 and in the school and Will Steel who achieved the highest mark in year 7. They were both awarded gold certificates by the UKMT.

I have already had students asking me for past papers or where they can get their hands on some so that they can be better prepared for next year’s challenge.

I think there will be a lot more students attempting the challenge next year and we will be looking at involving more students from our primary schools.

In addition, the following students also received awards:-

Gold certificates: Isabel Page, James Hau, Thomas Hollingshurt, William Steel and Sophie Burnley

Silver certificates: Lene Kennington, Rebekah Watts, Max Hawthorne, Finley Thompsett, Gemma Edney, Emma Bird, Samuel Gabe, Joe Butler, Hannah Ryder, Harry Keates, Manav Krishnan, Isabel Williams, Emily Saul, Emma Burnley, Max Creek, Rianna Gonzales and Omar Hassan.


Mr Hancock
Web Design Excellence

Students on the Year 12 ICT course have utilised a variety of web technologies and learnt about developing and adapting creative technologies and digital resources to produce truly exceptional websites of near professional quality this year. The students have now established an up-to-date understanding of web design and have taken into account modern day issues such as designing and testing websites that work on PCs, tablets and mobile phones equally well. Students have used Adobe products such as Dreamweaver and Adobe to gain experience of software which is used by professionals in the IT industry. The students have demonstrated a real willingness to try out new techniques and creative ideas, leading to some really impressive and innovative websites.

After their development success this year students will move on to launching their website online as well as developing marketing materials and generating a web presence for their chosen company. The ICT department is not only delighted with the quality of the work produced but also the fact that students are learning and developing skills that will put them at a definite advantage when it comes to their employment opportunities.

Mr Ray Larkin

Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition

Hinchingbrooke School has managed to secure 25 tickets to the Royal Society’s Summer Science Exhibition at Carlton House in London. This opportunity allows some of our students to meet the minds behind some of the UK’s most exciting scientific advances and interact with the scientists themselves!

Exhibitors this year include:

- Ants and antibiotics – the next stage in antibiotic development
- Brain networks – mapping connections and measuring damage
- Treating cancer – PRaVDA: Seeing and treating cancer with protons
- Smart wing design – turbulence control
- Butterfly evolution – from jungles to genomes

The event is also open to the public from 1st - 6th July. It was an extremely exciting and informative day.

Mr Pinder and Mrs Waring
Directorate of Global Citizenship  
(Global Communications & Global Society)  
Anna Nightingale – Vice Principal Global Citizenship

As the year comes to a close I am able to look back over what has been a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable year in the Global Directorates. In the last term we have had numerous local, national and international trips ranging from Hunstanton to Malaga, with more planned in the last few weeks. Year 9 are jetting off to Sicily and there is also the return leg of the German exchange to look forward to, not to mention India over the summer holidays. A huge thank you from me to the staff for giving up their time (and undoubtedly sleep, their holidays and quite possibly their sanity!) to ensure that these fantastic opportunities are extended to the students. A thank you also to the students themselves for never letting the school down and for making us proud when we take them beyond the school gates. Let’s hope the weather holds for the last few trips and that Mount Etna calms down in time for the Hinchingbrooke arrival!

We, in the Global Directorates, will be saying goodbye to a number of valued teaching staff in July. These include Ms Stockwell, Ms Newland, Miss Wagstaffe, Mrs Gossage, Miss Jimenez, Miss Rana, Mr Hopkins, Mr Burton, Mrs Derbyshire, Mrs Moore and Mr Norris. Some are moving on to well-deserved promotions and others to equally well deserved retirement. We wish them all the best in their new adventures, whatever these may be. We have a range of fantastic new staff joining us in September, and I look forward to welcoming them into our directorate and the exciting times that lay ahead.

Since this half term Jemma Jones has become a TA within our Directorate and Gabriella Waters has joined the English department as a TA. Both are a fantastic addition to the Global team and will support students of all abilities in lessons across a range of subjects. Victoria Feingold will also join us in September to extend this team even further.

It has been a hectic year in which there have been a myriad of highlights. Seeing the two Global Directorates coming together to become Global Citizenship has meant there are more superb departments who can work together and share their best practice to achieve a greater cross fertilisation of ideas. Literacy has taken off under the leadership of Mrs Page with extra intervention for those who need a little more help in addition to the Cooking and Gardening Club! There have been spelling bees, competitions galore and PD Days to put a smile on the face of even the hardest to please. There has been a focus on teaching and learning in the form of both improving the marking of work and in terms of ensuring that all lessons meet the needs of our learners. This will be an ongoing focus, but one which is already starting to pay dividends.

We also look forward to the results this summer. Undoubtedly there will be a lot of nervous students come mid-August. So fingers crossed all the hard work pays off.

Finally I would like to say a personal thank you at the end of my first year. It has been exhausting, but I already feel like a member of the Hinchingbrooke family and look forward to all the challenges of a new academic year in September! I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday when it finally arrives.

Rapid Read Supports Rapid Progress
Rapid Plus is an exciting new series of finely levelled books and software for KS3 and several hard-working, committed students from Years 7-9 have been accessing the programme throughout the year to build on their reading skills. The Rapid Plus software is an easy, innovative way for students to practise their reading skills independently, helping to build fluency and improve comprehension. Success is achieved through:

- Online access to carefully allocated e-books and activities
- Innovative features to support students when reading on their own
- Fun activities to motivate students and to build their comprehension skills.

One of Hinchingbrooke’s particular success stories is Oli Nicholls (pictured here) who has read over 18 e-books this year!  

Mrs Page
Film Studies News
After the hastily withdrawn announcement by Ofqual that Film Studies was to be ditched as an A-Level, the future of the subject is now back on the cards. Phil Lloyd is none the worse for the false alarm though may have added to his collection of grey hairs. Hopefully, planned curriculum changes will not include a new unit on celebrating Britain's glorious colonialism on screen.

The return of year 12 will see the students engaging with the new facilities for practical filmmaking and are likely to have been spotted around the site jumping around in front of a camera towards the end of term.

The student interest in pursuing careers in Film this year has been strong, with ten year 13s having applied to do filmmaking courses at University or College. Dr Sarah Barrow, Head of Film at Lincoln University is due to make her annual visit in the next few weeks, which has traditionally netted year 12 interest for the following year.

Finally, if anyone has a big birthday coming up and is on the lookout for an expensive present, the Routledge Encyclopedia of Films will be published on July 23rd for an eye-watering £125.00. This book “comprises 200 essays by leading film scholars analysing the most important, influential, innovative and interesting films of all time.” It includes nine chapters by Phil Lloyd who intends to dine out as a ‘leading film scholar’ for a while.

Mr Lloyd

Geography Department News
Year 9 trip to Hunstanton

On Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th June 150 Year 9 students went to Hunstanton. The purpose of the trip was to give students the opportunity to gather the primary data for their current investigation.

Global Perspectives - Visit by a delegation from Montford College, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The school is one of the most eminent in Thailand and it was a pleasure to establish links with them.

Their visit was to look at best practice when implementing the IGCSE Global course. The 3 visitors were incredibly impressed with the school, commenting on the beautiful grounds and the standard of work that they saw. A massive thank you should be given to the students who met the visitors and answered their questions insightfully and politely. They were a huge credit to the school. It is undoubtedly another wonderful international link that we can exploit when it comes to completing our cross cultural collaboration in September.

Over the weeks the students will be analysing their findings to answer their investigation title: “Is Hunstanton’s Shoreline Management Plan justified?” Comments from the students included, “It was good, it helped us understand the coastal processes”, to “fresh air from the sea – full on!”

The investigation itself is preparing the students for their GCSE controlled assessment which will be undertaken in Year 10.

Other Geography trips have included Sicily for 37 Year 9 students and Shropshire for 65 Year 10 students.

Mr Evans
Malaga Trip 2014

A very successful trip to Malaga took place from the 9th to 13th June. I together with Karen Gossage, Joe Howells and Jill Nairne-Clarke took 36 very excited year 8 and year 9 students to sunny Malaga in "la Costa del Sol". Amongst other activities the students enjoyed, 12 hours of Spanish tuition delivered by natives, a private flamenco show with workshops to learn the basics steps afterwards, sports by the beach, opportunities to do some sunbathing and paddling in the sea and a visit from dolphins!!!, which apparently only swim through those waters once a year.

We also enjoyed, guided tours around the ancient city monuments of Malaga, a visit to a cave, loads of shopping in the local shops and supermarkets (I am sure Malaga's economy enjoyed a mini boost during those five days due to our students). A visit to a local school provided an opportunity to practice their language skills in Spanish with local students of a similar age. I think this was the highlight of the trip, as they enjoyed swapping details to keep in contact with each other.

"The Spanish lesson was good because we didn't just sit and write we did activities. Everyone in the school was really welcoming and we all made new friends. I would like to go back next year" - Year 8 student.

"I really enjoyed the whole Malaga trip because we did fun activities such as learning to flamenco dance. Also the beach was amazing because we got to see dolphins" - Year 8 student.

It was a very inspirational trip for the staff and for the students, it was a pleasure to lead such a great bunch of students who were highly praised for their good behaviour and manners on many occasions.

Mrs Melchor-Bailey

RE Trip to Florence, February 2014

It is difficult to walk through the beautiful city which is Florence without stumbling over one masterpiece or other. The tiny streets open onto beautiful piazzas adorned in art and architecture and small obscure doorways hold behind them pieces of pure genius. It is one thing to show a student an image in a book or a PowerPoint presentation but to give them the opportunity to stand in front of Michelangelo’s David or to touch the desk upon which Savonarola wrote his damning thesis, is to give the students the chance to engage with religious and historical concepts in a brand new way.

Whilst education has to, rightly, have a focus on exams and assess progress, it must also have a view to extending the horizons of the child and to allow them to engage with the world around them, recognising the beauty and the power of ideas, and as such these are the aims of the RE department trips to Italy. Whilst four days in Florence with 35 year 12 students might not be enough time to fully appreciate the art and to fully comprehend the religious concepts which inspired them. However, such a fleeting glimpse of the Palace of the Medici’s, the Duomo and Uffizi barely did justice to Florence. Yet it is hoped that the trip will have ignited a spark of curiosity, a desire to learn more, see more and achieve more.

Mr Winter
History students do it in style: Lecture and Formal Meal at the House

Last term saw Dr Andrew Hopper of Leicester University visit Hinchingbrooke to deliver a lecture on ‘Turncoats and Renegades: changing sides in the English Civil War’. It was delivered to Year 13 World Historians who are studying the period 1629-1667 for A-level. The talk was based on a book recently published by Dr Hopper on this previously unexplored topic surrounding the issue of side-taking during the ‘Great Rebellion’. In so doing it linked directly to one of the historical controversies that students have to explore as part of their Unit 3 exam.

Dr Hopper met students as they enjoyed reception drinks before listening to the lecture in the Assembly Room. After taking questions, Dr Hopper agreed to join the students for ‘Formal Hall’ (a formal dinner) which was served in the Inner Hall of the House. This remarkable opportunity to talk to a leading historian who also serves as admissions tutor for his university was not lost on the students.

As if the historical environment of the House was not enough, the dinner was enhanced by period entertainments in the form of topical readings by Mr Wheeley connected to the history of the House and by musical performances. Matilda Haymes, accompanied by Miss Cassedy on the piano, performed a seventeenth-century royalist ballad entitled ‘When the King enjoys his own again’, and Fergus Moran sang the radical leveller song, ‘The world turned upside down’, playing his own accompaniment on the guitar. The latter turned out to be Dr Hopper’s favourite Civil War song and was met with thunderous applause.

A remarkable occasion in a remarkable setting by a remarkable department!  

Mr Wheeley

The Merchant of Venice Trip

Students and staff are delighted to have been invited to the dress rehearsal of ‘the Merchant of Venice’ - performed by the Huntingdon Players as their chosen play for the annual ‘Shakespeare at The George’. Approximately thirty students who are currently studying the IGCSE English Literature course will be attending this performance of their set text. In addition, students will be participating in follow up events with Huntingdon Players exploring characterisation and themes in the play. The English department are very grateful to the company and to Mrs Catmull for enabling our students to have this fantastic opportunity to engage with their Shakespeare text!

Mrs Fenton / Miss Parker

Sixth Form Sociology Trip

In July a group of 30 Year 12 students, together with Hayley Weightman and Bernadette Howells depart from Huntingdon train station en route to London for two days. Many of our students, despite living so near London, do not go there very often or take advantage of the wealth of culture the city has to offer, so, in a small way, this is why we do this. It is also an excellent time for staff and students from different subject areas within the Sixth Form to get together after the stress of all their AS exams.

We stay at a Hall of Residence that belongs to the London School of Economics, so this gives our students a taste of student accommodation! This year we will be visiting Covent Garden, taking a boat to Greenwich as well as an historic guided walk and a visit to the Theatre. You will learn and see more of all that in another Hinchingbrooke Herald, when we get back next year!

Mrs Howells
Regional German Spelling Bee Competition

Hinchingbrooke School is celebrating winning the Regional German Spelling Bee Competition which was held at Comberton Village College at the end of April. Hinchingbrooke student Salma Hassan was crowned German Champion for the Eastern Region, fighting off strong competition which started as a field of 10,000! Shalom was unlucky to miss out on a place in the National Final by one word, with Sophie Saberton and Lucy Sheehan also narrowly missing out in the Spanish round.

Below is the message sent from the accompanying language teacher Mrs Kelly, to the students who competed in the event.

"I just wanted to write to you to let you know how privileged I felt at having the chance to accompany you to the Spelling Bee last night. It was great to see Hinchingbrooke students have such success, but more importantly you all did yourselves so proud! The commitment to your team, excellent behaviour and fantastic support not only of each other but competitors from other schools was a credit both to you, your parents and Ms Wagstaffe who trained you. It is a lot to ask of you to commit all those lunchtimes with the small hope of success from such a huge field of competitors and you all showed true resilience, responsibly and reciprocity in your approach to it. This is just fancy teacher terminology for the fact that you gritted your teeth, took the job seriously and supported each other through it. Very well done!"

Students competing included: Salma Hassan; Shalom Chinnappa; Sophie Saberton; Lucy Sheehan; Sam Jennings; Francesca Moore; Junior Asare; Sophie Rankine; Lauren Elmore and Alexandra Robinson.

Miss Wagstaffe

Lower & Middle School German Exchange

This year has once again seen the Exchange programmes go from strength to strength. Both the Middle School and Lower School visitors have been over to Huntingdon and had action packed programmes. The Middle School pupils fought it out in the bowling alley, rode on broomsticks at Harry Potter World and experimented with science at the National Science Museum. Meanwhile the younger visitors got wild at Woburn with the animals and bones workshop, lost phones in the river Cam, whilst punting and were blown away out at Blakeney Point as they visited the seals. They also got into the minds and eyes of reptiles at the Natural History Museum, before trying to find the treasure at the Tower of London.

In addition to these excursions the pupils benefited from the generosity and hospitality of our wonderful host families; without whom the Exchanges would not be possible. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all involved for all of their hard work and support. It really is a pleasure to work with such supportive parents and pupils.

From 11th to 20th July we will all be in Herrenberg. For the first time both Lower and Middle School will travel together. I am so excited about the prospect of leaving HBK with 80 pupils on a double decker to travel through the night! During the week there are lots of activities planned, including the Wilhemena Zoo, Europapark, Waterfalls, Schwarzwald, famous Castles and also city tours and excursions.

Oops, how could I forget the chocolate factory! I am sure our pupils will return with happy memories, enhanced language skills and the foundations firmly set for lifelong friendships with their partners. I would strongly encourage all pupils to participate in an Exchange at some point during their school career, as it has all round benefits.

Many thanks once again to all involved, staff, students and parents, without whom I would not be able to run the trip.

Miss Wagstaffe
New Uniform - Find Out More

As you are no doubt aware Hinchingbrooke School will be adopting a new uniform from September 2014. At Hinchingbrooke we believe that a school uniform gives a sense of belonging and pride in the school whilst ensuring equality amongst students. In addition, a smart appearance contributes positively to the students’ attitude to work and study; it also significantly influences how the school is portrayed to the general public.

This will apply to all students in the new Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 (i.e. current Year 6, 7, 8 and 9). It will be optional to the new Year 11 students (current Year 10), since they will only have just over 2 terms remaining.

The Year 7s starting in September 2014 must be in the new school uniform from their first day in school, Friday 5 September 2014. The new Year 8s, 9s and 10s will be allowed to change to the new uniform as they outgrow their current one. This transfer must have occurred by the start of the summer term 2015. The new uniform is as follows:

**Girls’ Uniform**

- Black blazer with school badge (in house colour) on breast pocket
- Plain white traditional school shirt with collar to take a tie
- Bottle green clip on tie with coloured stripes to represent year group (for 2014/15: white Year 7, black Year 8, bronze Year 9, silver Year 10 or gold Year 11), or prefect tie (year 11’s only)
- Bottle green jumper with grey stripe on v-neck or grey jumper with bottle green stripe on v-neck (this is an optional item). The jumper cannot be worn without the blazer. If too warm, the jumper must be removed not the blazer.
- Mid-grey (not charcoal) school trousers or ‘granite grey’ tartan skirt
- Plain black or natural colour tights
- Plain white or dark socks (not patterned)
- Plain black school shoes which can be polished (no canvas or trainer-like shoes such as Vans. Sensible heels only – no sandals or slingbacks)

**Boys’ Uniform**

- Black blazer with school badge (in house colour) on breast pocket
- Plain white traditional school shirt with collar to take a tie
- Bottle green clip on tie with coloured stripes to represent year group (for 2014/15: white Year 7, black Year 8, bronze Year 9, silver Year 10 or gold Year 11), or prefect tie (year 11’s only)
- Bottle green jumper with grey stripe on v-neck or grey jumper with bottle green stripe on v-neck (this is an optional item). The jumper cannot be worn without the blazer. If too warm, the jumper must be removed not the blazer.
- Mid-grey (not charcoal) school trousers
- Plain dark socks (not patterned)
- Plain black school shoes which can be polished (no canvas or trainer-like shoes such as Vans)

Each year group has a different coloured stripe through their tie, as explained above. The students keep the same tie for their 5 years at Hinchingbrooke. Therefore, each year the new Year 7s adopt the colour stripe of the Year 11s who have just left. For example, in September the Year 11s will have the gold stripe which will then be adopted by the new Year 7 in September 2015.

Price & Buckland has an on line ordering service. Orders can be delivered to your home address and should be received within 2-5 working days. Otherwise orders placed for delivery to school will be sent to the school only twice a month (2nd and 4th Monday). The link is: [www.pbparentsonline.co.uk/hinchingbrooke](http://www.pbparentsonline.co.uk/hinchingbrooke)

Arrangements have also been made so that Tesco can supply a number of the approved uniform items such as blazers, school shirts and mid-grey school trousers for boys and girls. The staff at Tesco Huntingdon will be happy to help you purchase the correct items for Hinchingbrooke and plan to have a display of the uniform items in the store. The Tesco website link is: [http://www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear](http://www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear)

Find your school – Select the local education authority – Cambridgeshire
Select Hinchingbrooke School and your child’s House in brackets
Followed by - SHOP NOW
New Sports Hall for 2015.

We are delighted that we have been awarded £2.4 million by the DoE which will enable us to build a new state of the art Sports Hall and transform the existing outdated one into a new, much needed, much larger and centrally located dining facility. Building works will start in mid July 2014 with completion during May 2015. The facility should be completed in time for September 2015. This will coincide with our 450th anniversary celebrations and provide a wonderful boost to our existing provision.

Principal Mr Andrew Goulding said “We are delighted to have been successful in our bid. This will provide a much needed and very welcome enhancement to our sporting and dining facilities and represents the first significant capital investment in the school for some time.”

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.

The existing sports hall will be converted into a much needed dining facility, the walls of the hall facing the current swimming pool and dance studio will benefit from doors and large glass windows making for a large and light dining space. We will be increasing the current dining space which totals just over 200 square metres in the Performing Arts Centre to a 460 square metres dining space in a more centralised area of the school.

Mr Ian Oliver the Site Manager who secured the funding for school and who will be managing the project said “This is wonderful news and we are delighted that we can finally update the sports facilities available to our students and the local community”

The attached drawings show the concept sketch, the side elevation and the internal plans.