Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote my very first letter for the Hinchingbrooke Herald in the Autumn of 2013 when this publication was launched, and this will now be my last as Principal of Hinchingbrooke School. I am very proud to have served as Principal for these past 7 years and a term and I have taken great pleasure from seeing and recognising the achievements and talents of our students, from acknowledging and supporting the hard work of a dedicated and talented staff and from having the support of parents and friends of the school. There have been many highlights and I know that the new Principal Mr Mark Patterson is very much looking forward to taking up the reins in January. I will of course still be here in the background, working with Mark and working to develop our outreach work with other schools under the auspices of the ACES Multi-Academy Trust.

The Autumn term is a long one, and one in which there is always a great deal of hard work. Our routines for rewarding this hard work and commitment continue apace. Regular visitors to the website will see the winners of House points, Golden Antlers and the nominees for ‘Hot Choc Friday’, as well as the celebrations of sporting successes across a wide range of sports. The charitable events such as the ‘Race for Life’ and the ‘Operation Christmas hamper’ are particularly worthy of note. Well done to all those students involved in any or all of these activities, and huge thanks to the staff that have made these opportunities possible.
I am particularly grateful for the work of Tracey Jago and Kate Tandy who publish these weekly updates on the website and for their redesign of the Theme of the Week to become our new Fortnightly Foci. These are linked to national foci across a wide range of topics and issues, such as disability awareness, mental health awareness, black history, anti-bullying, fair trade, the environment, human rights and many more. Each of these themes also link to work in the academic subjects and in tutor time, to provide opportunities for students to engage with the issues of the day. We even held our own election at the time of the national one last week. The Hinchingbrooke result however did not mirror the national picture.

Earlier in the term, the Science Department provided a great day for budding scientists in Year 9, thanks to their links with the University of Newcastle, and again a few weeks later, they enjoyed some reflected glory thanks to Megan Perry, Amy Smith and Emilee Alderman from Year 12, who were honoured for the presentation of their poster at the prestigious Babraham Science Conference.

Our Arts go from strength to strength and, under the newly appointed Head of Creativity, Mrs Anneli Lombard, we are forging ever stronger links with outside supporters and contributors to this area of work. I am pleased that we are also supporting a number of our primary feeder schools with the development of new curriculum opportunities and extracurricular activities. The curriculum continuity between primary and secondary is an important agenda, especially with the new emphasis placed on the quality of the curriculum experience in the new Ofsted framework, and Mr Dan Milner, our Transition Manager, has facilitated some excellent work in this area.

The school opened its new ‘Basecamp’ area in Lower School in September. This provides excellent nurture and support for a range of students, including those with special educational needs, and I am indebted to the leadership of Rebecca Bierton for her vision and expertise in this aspect of our work.

Earlier in the term we were thrilled by the Drama Department’s production of ‘The Witches’ by Roald Dahl. The talent of the younger students, as well as those who are older, mean that this important area of school life is set to go from strength to strength. Look out for their next production on 11, 12 and 13 February 2020 of ‘Little Shop of Horrors’.

The Music Department’s production of The Snowman in the second half of our Christmas concert last week was extremely well received. This highly professional production, following on from some joyous and heart-warming Christmas music in the first half, certainly lifted our spirits and spread a little Christmas cheer.

As always there are too many activities and highlights in a busy school to mention them all, but you will get a good flavour by reading the rest of this Hinchingbrooke Herald, by keeping a regular eye on our website and by following us on Twitter.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope that you get to enjoy some quality family time with good festive cheer and some relaxation from the pressures and stresses of life.

Best wishes

Andrew Goulding
Principal
Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates 2019-2020

Christmas Break: Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020 (inclusive)

Term 2:

Staff Training Day 4: Monday 6 January 2020
Opens: Tuesday 7 January 2020
Closes: Friday 14 February 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020 (inclusive)

Opens: Monday 24 February 2020
Closes: Wednesday 1 April 2020

Easter Break: Thursday 2 April 2020 to Friday 17 April 2020 (inclusive)

Term 3:

Opens: Monday 20 April 2020
Early May Bank Holiday: Friday 8 May 2020
Closes: Friday 22 May 2020

Half Term: Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020 (inclusive)

Opens: Monday 1 June 2020
Staff Training Day 5: Friday 19 June 2020
Closes: Wednesday 22 July 2020

Term & Holiday Dates 2020-2021

Term 1:

Staff Training Day 1: Thursday 3 September 2020
Staff Training Day 2: Friday 4 September 2020
Opens: Monday 7 September 2020 for Year 7 and Year 12 students only
Opens: Tuesday 8 September 2020 for all students
PiXL News

With the PiXL Edge programme now firmly embedded in the House system, we await with excitement to see which of the Houses will gain the honour of winning the House Point competition this term. The House Leaders have overseen all Year 7 students’ enrolment onto the PiXL Edge scheme since September, which targets key values and skills that potential employers have deemed most valuable. All students have an online portal where they can record and log all their achievements towards the award.

PiXL Edge has 5 key ‘LORIC’ principles (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative & Communication). These principles have been targeted through some of the many inter-house events which have been held this year, through the extra-curricular programme and from activities outside of school. The House Leaders have also worked with each Year 7 form group to facilitate the PiXL initiative and to encourage the students to start their journey towards achieving their PiXL Edge awards.

During the vast array of inter-house activities it has been great to see so many of our Year 7 students developing and refining their skills, in particular leadership. This has been showcased through the inter-house competitions on offer for the students to participate in, including Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball.

The students’ organisation skills have been augmented through organising charity events as a form. Students have also had the opportunity to take part in a cake-making competition, organising their entry within the form.

Over 800 students represented their house in the largest inter-house event ever this year. Within the Cross country, students showed wonderful resilience and teamwork to complete the wet, gruelling course through Hinchingbrooke Country Park. Many students also took on the challenge of running the course for charity this year, taking part in the School’s Race for Life event, organised by Pepys House.

The STEM inter-house organised by the Science department, and University challenge (Vesey’s charity event) were opportunities for the Year 7s to demonstrate their initiative and communication skills, working as part of a larger team to overcome problems.

As always, the House system took time to celebrate, raise the profile and fundraise for various charitable causes, where students took the initiative to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Well done to the House team, House captains and all members of the Houses who have embraced PiXL Edge and helped it to grow at Hinchingbrooke, we are all truly #HBKProud!
House News
Head of Cromwell House – Mrs Trewin

Who: Mrs Trewin and 300 Green Students

Motto: One Team, One Dream

Charity: Macmillan Cancer Support

- The House Leaders promoted the ‘Ambassador’ role to Sixth Formers in a recent assembly. The role is a stepping stone position for those students vying for a Senior Student role in Year 13.

- Students were invited to fill in an application form in order to apply. The Ambassador role adds another string to the students’ bows for their CV, University applications or employment.

- Ambassadors will be kept busy with a variety of House-related roles, such as charity ventures, supporting Inter-House events and mentoring younger students.

- Our successful applicants for Cromwell are: Georgia Long, Molly Bateman, Chloe Wiseman, Havana Miller, Jacob Dear, Jake Bycroft, Kieran Latham, Tom Smith, Tom Warham (see photo)

- Since we last went to press, I can tell you that CROMWELL won the inaugural University Challenge. Contestants were: Harry Dawe, Tom Warham, Lily Bass, Dan Claxton, Tom Olejniczak

- Cromwell also had their annual visit from local Macmillan representative, Phillip Malley, where we were able to present £150 to the charity - money that Cromwell students have earned over the past year.

- In terms of sport, we have had Netball, Football, Rugby and Hockey – results are always celebrated in assembly! We are not in the lead yet, but we are working on it! There are plenty more sports and ventures coming in the new year!
What a busy half term it has been and I’m so happy my Montagu family have managed to carry on without me. It has been awful being away from my House but it has been amazing how so many people have helped and stepped in, in my absence. A massive shout out to my House Ambassadors who have been amazing in my absence by rallying the troops when needed.

This half term Montagu have participated in so many Inter-Houses. Inter-Houses that have included…. Castel making, University Challenge, STEM, Cross Country, Boys Rugby and Girls Hockey. A massive thank you to all those who have taken part and represented the Montagu House.

There were 15 entries that took part in the castle making inter-house, the amount of effort and time those students took to make their castles was amazing. Overall, we finished up 5th position. So well done to all those students and to Pepys who won overall.

In the first round of the University Challenge Inter-House Montagu came second. Thank you to those who took part.

Cross country saw so many of the Montagu family taking part, I was so proud of you all. Here are a few of my favourite pictures of the smiles that crossed the finish line. The other inter-house results are still being collated but once again I thank you all who took part and represented Montagu.

All that is left to say is that I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Miss Phillips
An Overview of Pepys House

Pepys House has demonstrated an array of different talents this term within students representing the House in Netball, Football, Hockey, Rugby, Tchoukball and Cross Country sports events. Other Inter-House competitions have included a History Castle Competition, Poetry, University Challenge and STEM, all of which have been a stage for our talented students to showcase their skills.

Not only have we witnessed some excellent individual performances from our students, but our teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship have been paramount to our successes within Inter-House competitions. Pepys House have been dominant throughout the House Point competition this year, and I am hopeful that we will be able to continue this through our hard work and dedication.

As we near the end of our first term, I would like to share that I am incredibly proud of our students. On the whole, they are determined, resilient, and proud to represent Pepys House. Our House moto of ‘Be the best you can be’ has been our focus, with every student contributing towards the success of the House. The majority of our students have stepped up to the mark to fulfil their potential and contribute towards Pepys’ successes this year. You can follow us on Twitter @HBKPepys.

Inter-House Cross Country

Pepys had a wonderful turn-out in our annual Cross-Country Inter-House event, with several of our runners qualifying to run in the District event, representing Hinchingbrooke School. Special commendations go to Jasmyn Hubbard 7P1, Esmee O’Shea 7P1, Liam Conway 8P2, Oscar Scott-Donkin 9P1, Libby Bycroft 9P1, Howard Croft 10P1, Sam Wootton 10P2, Cerys Davis 10P1, Daniel Ryder 11P2 and Georgina Chaffe 11P1 who all finished in the top places to earn Pepys House vital points.

There were a total of 802 runners this year, which was a record participation figure for this event. With the addition of it being a charity event, there was a great atmosphere around the course. Thank you to all the staff and students involved in making this event such a success.

Charity

We have continued with our charity work this term, raising money for Cancer Research. This term Pepys House organised a Schools Race for Life which corresponded with the Inter-House Cross Country event. Students and staff raised money through sponsorship and donations, raising a whopping £1,373.60 for Cancer Research UK. Thank you to everyone who has supported Pepys in raising money for our charity this year.
House News

Head of Vesey House – Miss Walder

Vesey have had an extremely busy yet productive term and a festive house assembly on Wednesday celebrated all that Vesey have achieved.

Vesey ran a University Challenge inspired inter-house quiz for the first time. The 5 houses competed with every year group represented. An extremely strong start by Montagu saw them steam into the lead, but Pepys didn’t let their rivals run away with it and began to gain points. Vesey and Cromwell had very slow starts, but the comeback of the year went to Cromwell who were ruthless in rounds 8-10, running out as the winners with 60 points to Montagu’s 50 points. Pepys finished 3rd, Wylton 4th and the hosts finished in 5th place. It wasn’t all doom and gloom though for Vesey, who raised money at the event for the British Heart Foundation! Students and the audience enjoyed the quiz so much, 2 more quizzes will run before the academic year is out!

Bring it on!

Miss Walder

The Golden Antler competition has been won 8 times by Vesey forms, namely 7V1 and 9V2 – well done to them - and 8V1 won form of the week in October!

INTER-HOUSE RESULTS SEPT-DEC 2019

STEM:
Quiz: 5th place

Cross Country: 5th place

Y7 History Castle Comp: 3rd place

Rugby: 2nd place
Football: 1st place
Netball: 3rd place
Hockey: 1st place
Tchoukball: 3rd place

House Trophy so far: 3rd place!
House News

Head of Wylton House – Mr Hall

2019/2020 has started with a bang! Before we knew it, half term was upon us and our first Inter-House events were complete.

Our girls have been out on the netball field and the boys have been on the football pitch. In each of these we have had some great performances, with some excellent team work shown in all. These events have really shown that our unity as a House is what will make this year a success. Alongside our sports endeavours, budding Wylton poets have submitted their work into the Poetry competition. These were judged after the half-term break and from the ones I saw we have some future Woodsworth’s in our ranks.

Our Sixth Formers have also been busy, with the Inter-House university challenge.

We have also appointed our new Y12 House Ambassadors, who are looking forward to working with the House Captains and House Reps to drive Wylton forward. Our new Ambassadors are: Jess Nash, Kamari Erekosima, Josh Benge, Scott Marshall, James Beckett, Kaysea Howard, Trenton Anderson, Liza Bondarenko, Cameron Bruce, Rida Qayum, Alistair Campbell and Megan Wallace.

There are plenty of events left to go, so keep your eyes peeled for what is coming up next.

Mr Hall
Lower School News

Year 7 – Mr Milner

What a fabulous start the Year 7 students have made to their Hinchingbrooke journey. Many of them have really thrown themselves into the huge variety of extra-curricular opportunities on offer. This has really helped them to become part of the community. A measure of how well they have bonded as a group is that the girls have recently become District Netball champions, going undefeated through the entire tournament, and the boys have reached the FA Schools cup 5th round. The rugby squad has been huge this year, with some impressive successes. This doesn’t happen by accident and is thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of the boys and girls, along with some inspirational staff thrown into the mix!

We began the year with a competition in which the form groups were tasked with designing and then creating their form noticeboard. This was a closely fought contest with 7C1 narrowly coming out on top! In addition the first half term saw the ‘Meet the Tutors’ evening, where there was a great turnout of students and parents. During the evening they were able to hear from various senior members of staff as well as the most important member of staff in their children’s education, their tutor.
The Year 7 form reps have been extremely committed to their role so far. This was illustrated by the huge presence at the Y6 Open Evening. They were very enthusiastic and polite in responding to questions and approaching parents and prospective students to share information from a current student’s perspective. In addition to the Form Reps, there were a number of other Year 7 students representing a variety of subjects around the school site. They all demonstrated the 3 strands of the HBK community; Empathy, Responsibility and Pride.

The students gained their first experience of Remembrance during our assembly on Wednesday 6 November 2019. This is something the school commemorates in a very formal and respectful manner and the Year 7 students certainly lived up to our expectations of them during this occasion. They were transfixed and silent during the conversations held with current service personnel from the local area. This was matched during the reading of the roll of honour of students who fought and died in the World Wars and the silence which followed. I was immensely impressed by both the event and the students’ conduct during it.

Everything seems to have happen on a Wednesday so far this year, with the annual cross country competition taking place on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 November 2019. There was magnificent participation from the Year 7 students for this event. Although the conditions were a little boggy under foot and as such the course had to be altered this did not deter the competitors who acquitted themselves admirably in earning valuable house points.
Congratulations to all the forms who really threw themselves into our interform bake off competition. It was a very close contest and judges Mrs Pittock and Mrs Sheehan deliberated for ages before deciding that the top hat from 7M1 should be victorious based on the 3 criteria; Taste, Looks and Participation - Well done to everyone, it was a great way to finish the final assembly of the year!!!

Parental engagement is so important for children to be successful students at school and that's why I am so grateful for the 85% attendance recorded at our parents evening on Wednesday 20 November 2019. It gives me an enormous sense of hope for this cohort of children, that their parents are so interested in their progress.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Mr Milner
Lower School News

Year 8 – Mr Hobley

New term, new teachers, new classes and new subjects. However much has remained the same for Year 8 as they moved into their second year at Hinchingbrooke. The year group are no longer the youngest cohort in school and they have been finding their places within the school all over again. It has been heartening to see how they have taken to looking after many of the Year 7’s, probably with vivid memories of how it feels to start secondary school.

The curriculum has been extended and they have embraced the new challenges – whether in forest school, on the sporting field, on the stage or at the desk in a classroom.

During assemblies the year group have been focussing on the Hinchingbrooke Way, and everything that the students do now is developing their Empathy, Pride and Responsibility. We have had guest speakers from the armed forces and Churches Together. Our Remembrance assembly, which was led by Mr Cooke, was undoubtedly one of the highlights. The Year 8s approached it with the appropriate amount of decorum which befits such a sombre occasion and the tutor led activities for that week reminded everyone how lucky they are. There have been some inspired musical performances during assemblies allowing students to share and celebrate their often hidden talents.
Both the girls and boys sporting teams have continued the long tradition of sporting excellence with district and county-winning teams in Hockey and Rugby. Indeed, the boys rugby team remains undefeated this year. There have been national and international success as well, with students proving beyond doubt that it is possible to be both academically and athletically elite. The two exhibition games allowed the students to compete in front of a crowd of 300.

Many of our students took part in the drama performances and the Christmas concert, and under the guidance of Mr and Mrs Cooke from the Music department, students have even formed their own band, rehearsing in their lunch times.

During PSCHE lessons students have been examining the role of Democracy in our society, forming their own cabinets and deciding how they feel the countries budget should be spent. They have also been looking at the challenges that they will face as they moved away from Hinchingbrooke and learning how to deal with these.

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the Year 8 and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Mr Hobley
Middle School News

Year 9 – Mrs Daniell

Wow! What a fantastic start Year 9 have made to their GCSE studies. They have embodied the characteristics of HBK.COM, proving to be responsible, empathetic and proud. In fact, we had so much to celebrate in our end of year assembly that we ran over by 10 minutes!

Amongst the highlights have been how our students have embraced charity events this year.

In October, our tireless team of charity reps organised a number of whole school events on #HelloYellow Day in support of Young Minds, a charity that aims to raise awareness of mental health issues in young people.

Whilst this month they have held a charity raffle in order to gather donations for the Godmanchester Food Bank. In addition, they helped to pack Christmas hampers and experience first-hand how Food Banks operate. Our Foundation Learners also got into the charity spirit, organising another whole school event in support of Wood Green – The Animals’ Charity. In a massive individual effort, I’d also like to mention Lilly Hunter in 9P1 who raised £250 for Macmillan by shaving her head!
We have also had a huge range of sporting success within the year group, with a number of individuals reaching county status in cricket, rugby, cross-country and fencing – what a talented bunch! Our sporting prowess has been further emphasised by the achievements of our Year 9 Sports’ Leaders who have given so much of their time but also gained valuable experience through working with younger students.

Within form-times and PSHCE lessons, students have been given a wide range of opportunities to learn about the world around them and their place within it – from considering why we need rules to remembering the sacrifices made by our armed forces. In assemblies they have received insights into Ghanaian culture alongside a greater understanding of Disability.

A testament to the success of our students this year is that, at this point, they have received almost 5000 more 5s than they had by the same point in Year 8, and around 400 less 1s.

Year 9 really are a year group to be proud of and I love working with them. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas break and am looking forward to what the New Year has in store for us all.
Middle School News

Year 10 – Mrs Nichols

Yet again another busy term for Year 10. It’s been full of hard work, sporting prowess, theatrical wonders, work experience fact finding and form filling, musical concerts to the highest of standards, exciting Science days, trips to exciting places, visiting workshops, interhouse competitions, Dance workshops and not to mention a gas day!

We working very hard in RPE to ensure that our very first GCSE exam that takes place in the Spring term is met with confidence and with the promise of success, we have also been outstanding on the Rugby field and the netball court. A huge shout out for our fabulous ladies and their wonderful coach Gill Stevens for coming in on our gas day to dominate the netball courts and pushing on the next round of the district tournament.

The first half term saw Year 10 playing in the Autumn concert all based around the music of Elton John, with their amazing performance of ‘Goodbye The Yellow Brick Road’, and then the detailed preparation of the Snowman, which is wonderful every year. The Witches performance was outstanding too!! A bit scary in places, but absolutely amazing. Well done to all those performers who have taken part in these.

Preparation for the RPE exam has been underway with detailed revision sessions being offered. We wish you all the very best for your mock exam after the Christmas break and all the very best for your first real GCSE!

Lots of work experience visits and form filling has also been going on this half term. Currently 10P2 are in the lead with the most amount of forms returned... I wonder who will be the first!! Please ensure that this is done as soon as possible so we can work on preparing our lovely year 10’s correctly.
Can I also thank our pastoral team for the endless support they give to your children. Without them life would be considerable tougher. Thank you for your patience and compassion!!

All it leaves me to say is I hope you have a wonderful break! Sleep well, eat well and revise well!! See you in the New Year!

Mrs Nichols
Middle School News
Year 11 – Miss Walker

On The year 11s have had a busy first half term. There has been real growth and positivity within the Year 11s and this was led by the reliable prefect team. A team who have carried out several responsibilities throughout the half term.

There has been sporting success with the U16’s netball team seeing victory week after week.

This Hinchingbrooke team continue to show grit, determination and resilience!

Our Bradley Mckenna was awarded Victor Ludorum, ‘Winner of Games’, for an inspirational level of commitment and participation to sporting excellence. Huge congratulations!
The Year 11 Football squad have been victorious in many of their English Schools FA games also. Captained by our very own prefect, Harvey Davis.

Amid the sporting success, there was also Ks4 Success Evening and Sixth Form evening. Events designed to keep parents and pupils informed as to how they can help support their child and guide them to confidently make the correct choices for themselves.

This event was closely followed by the Career’s Fayre, which saw a number of post 16 establishments and organisations promoting and showcasing themselves to the year 11s, this included exhibits from apprenticeships, police, rugby apprenticeships all the local colleges. The initial comments from the external participants were entirely complimentary regarding the conduct, politeness, engagement and levels of knowledge displayed by our students. The 'best careers event I have been to' was the comment from several professionals. Well done!

After an intense two weeks of trial Mock examinations, all year 11s now have their first set of Mock results. A True guide to where they are currently working at. Whilst sitting the mocks the year 11 cohort were remained very respectful of instructions and conducted themselves with pride!

The next steps see the year group finishing their post 16 applications and returning in January to hit the ground running again as we did in September!

From the Year 11 Pastoral Team: we wish all year 11s a happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all on January 7th!

Miss Walker
Upper School News

Director of Sixth Form – Mr Fordham

It has been exciting to see our Sixth Formers grow as both learners and people. Sometimes we have an event that really highlights how articulate and thoughtful they are, and one such moment was our recent General Election debate. We had the Labour and Conservative candidates in and organised a Question Time type session for the entire Sixth Form. The quality of questions was excellent, both in the main questions asked by students from the floor, and in the probing follow up ones. Teachers reported that the students were “buzzing” with comments and excitement throughout lessons that day. On Monday 9 December 2019 we had the Green party in, and on Thursday 12 December 2019 itself, we had a student husting with representatives from the parties and a vote, and we can announce to the world that the Sixth Form will be governed by the Labour Party, which won, albeit narrowly, from the Tories. We have heard that this is not 100% exactly what happened in the national poll.

This term has seen the launch of CAS24 within in which Year 12 students volunteer their time to help others, whether that be through academic or pastoral mentoring, acting as a Sixth Form or Subject Ambassador at the Sixth Form Open Evening or participating in House events. Amazingly, this early in the year we have had a number of students already complete their allocation and expect many more to follow suit in the coming months. Students have also been introduced to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) through which they can further develop the knowledge learnt in class or pursue avenues of interest not covered by their A-Level syllabus, with all students being expected to have completed two such courses by the July, it is fantastic to see so many students engaging in this type of independent learning. Most excitingly though, this term, has been the development of our super-curricular Futures Lectures Programme. This has seen Year 12 attend lectures from academics from a variety of universities covering subjects from English to Human Resources, Music to Economics, as well as an Accountancy lecture led by local company Ensors. We have also been lucky enough to have been the first school in the area to host the Commerce in the Classroom package offered by Futures First. With a further 15 lectures scheduled in the New Year, we hope there will be something for everyone.

Year 12 have had a fantastic start to Sixth Form and staff all over the school have been commenting on how well they have settled in to the more independent nature of Sixth Form study. Around 50 students were rewarded at October half term by being released from registered Private Study and we hope to add many more to that number over the next few weeks. Year 13 are busy preparing for their upcoming mock exams in January as well as deciding on their future pathways. We have already had over 60 UCAS applications sent off already and we have got our fingers crossed that students receive the offers they are hoping for.
STEM FACULTY
M Pendlebury – Assistant Principal

It has been a packed and busy term to date with lots of exciting events happening within the Faculty. The term started with two new departments joining STEM and I have really enjoyed the challenge of working with Maths and Social Sciences. We have lots of amazing staff within the faculty and thanks to their talents and range of experience the departments are going from strength to strength.

It has been pleasing to see the opportunities that the students have had outside of the classroom to build upon their learning. There are so many to talk about but to mention just a few; Science ran a University workshop with Year 9 where Newcastle University came in and delivered a lecture on renewable fuels and the pupils then created a travelling robot that was powered by water. Maths had a RAF Wing Commander deliver a lecture on how Maths is used in communications in the RAF. The Social Science department were very excited about the local MP candidates coming in to see our sixth form pupils and it was exciting to see some of our pupils contributing to this debate. Computer Science are running a Minecraft competition which the pupils have enjoyed, and Business have delivered lots of engaging talks as well as taking our Economists to Warwick University for a “Economics in action” day. I am very thankful to our committed staff for organising and running these extra-curricular events.

A highlight for myself in my role is always the opportunity to visit lessons across multiple subjects and see the excellent learning that is going on. On a daily basis; it is a joy to see the interactions between staff and pupils. The term ended with Year 11 trial exams and I look forward to working with staff and pupils to celebrate these results. Next term starts with the Year 13 trial exams. Both trial exam periods will provide a foundation for the pupils to build upon ahead of their exams in May/June.

Unfortunately, at this time we often have to say goodbye to some members of staff within the faculty and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Bocking well in his new school. We look forward to welcoming Mr Hopkins to the Maths department in January.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Science Department
Head of Science – Ms Olsen

It has been an exciting half-term for Science students at Hinchingbrooke School. Three Science events have taken place to allow students across the school to explore Science beyond the classroom and consider future careers in Science.

Year 12 and Year 13 students visited a research institute to explore the drug development process and the different roles played by the scientists who work there. The students were fascinated by the process and a number have even opted to apply for part-time work and voluntary work experience within the institute.

Year 9 students have been visited by a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths team from Newcastle University. They started with a ‘Chemistry of Colour’ lecture showing some incredible reactions (including explosions!) and went on to take part in ‘Fuels of the Future’ Engineering workshops throughout the day where they built and tested their own hydrogen car models.

Finally, volunteers from a range of year groups have been using a £300 donation from the Huntingdon branch of Dobbies garden centre to begin a Science garden on the Hinchingbrooke School site. When finished, the garden will be used to support the teaching of hands-on Science throughout the year, particularly to the younger students in Year 7 and Year 8. The garden has been hard work so far, but the volunteers have remained enthusiastic and positive throughout! “The donation from Dobbies will make a huge difference to our garden and it is fantastic to see a business contributing to the community in this way, I am looking forward to seeing how the garden develops and the students cannot wait to take their lessons outside!” Mr Pettit, Science teacher.

“It is great to see some real live applications of Science and we are so grateful for all of the hard work and time given by our visitors, it makes such a huge difference to the students to have the opportunity to engage with Science in this way” Mr Goulding, Principal.

After the event, one of our students remarked “The engineering event has really made me think about the type of cars and fuels I will be using in the future. I have never thought about engineering as a career before, but it seems really exciting”
‘Phoning home: RAF deployed communications’

Tuesday 26 November 2019

Wg Cdr I Hollings BEng MSc MA CEng MIET RAF | Officer Commanding

All sixth form Maths students were invited to attend a SEM talk given by Wing Commander Ian Hollings, who is based at RAF Wyton. They learned that Maths from the classroom has a valuable use in calculations to find satellites, essential when you have to determine how you will transmit data whilst deployed somewhere in the world with no wifi!

Students were subsequently given a task to try out a basic version of what the team led by Wing Commander Ian Collings has to do before all of their missions.

Senior Maths Challenge 2019

All Sixth Form maths students were entered for this challenge. It is a 90-minute competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, manipulation skills and good mathematical techniques to solve obscure problems. These questions certainly made our students think! The results are now in and we are very pleased to share that Jamie Benge got ‘Best in Year 12’ and James Norman got ‘Best in Year 13’. Ten of our students were awarded silver and a further 29 bronze. Special mention goes to Jamie Benge, Christian Pinder, James Norman and Christopher Salmon, who excelled and were awarded gold certificates, and were invited to go through to the following round called the Senior Kangaroo.
Applying Statistics to animal welfare

Tuesday 8 October 2019

All Year 10 students were invited to listen to Mrs Hayley Heley, the Community Engagement Officer, from our very own local Woodgreen Animal Charity. By the end of the presentation students could appreciate how important the role of good statistics plays for the charity managing their finances and making important decisions to look after unwanted animals and care for mistreated animals. Students were able to appreciate the fine balance between spending for advertisements to increase revenue and saving for good causes and to improve the provision they offer.

Up to 100 students were then invited back for a hands-on workshop to perform some calculations that pet owners should make before purchasing their pets. Students were surprised at the total cost of owning pets, especially certain breeds of dogs!
Computer Science Department

Head of Computer Science – Mr Bowen

KS3 students have been learning about Digital Graphics and Website development and at key points they've been learning to Code with Tynker.

Tynker is a highly accessible coding platform that has been funded by the schools Foundation this year. We have 26 classes setup and students have written around 10,000 lines of code between them. We are hoping to continue the initiative next academic year as students love to create, work independently and see results quickly whilst we are able track their grasp of key concepts.

Students continue to engage with the after-school Computing Club and the recent Minecraft competition “Future City Challenge”. Students encounter a variety of problems that reflect construction challenges in cities today and must create solutions using the popular Minecraft platform.

In KS4, coding is at the core of their syllabus and they learn how to build robustness into their design, code and test practices so their programs do not fail. Year 10 students have recently completed a set of intermediate coding challenges with coded solutions. Year 9 students have started to complete some initial coding challenges as well as practice using design techniques such as Flowcharts, Pseudocode and UML.

Students are also encouraged to develop their programming skills at home in C#, JavaScript and Python using the REPL platform.

Finally, we recently joined the social media Twitter revolution @hbkCompSci. Find us, follow us. We tweet about Coding, student efforts and other exciting technologies being used at the school and the broader technological community – following Google, Amazon, Microsoft and others.
Social Sciences Department
Head of Social Sciences – Miss Dearnaley

“The Social Science department in Hinchingbrooke have been wrapped up in the election campaign this term”

A number of representatives from the key national parties met Year 12 and Year 13 students to discuss their key policies. The level of engagement among the students was excellent, and the representatives were asked a number of searching questions relating to a range of topics from trustworthiness and Brexit, to more local issues such as the changes to the A14! Certainly, the questions asked, and the responsiveness of the students would be worthy of any Question Time audience! Students found the session valuable and informative, with more sessions like this requested.

As we write the country awaits the results of the General election and with this in mind the school held its own ‘General Election’ on 12 December 2019. With sixth form students listening to hustings from Year 13 Politics students representing the different parties and taking questions from the floor (with Mr Mclean and Mr Fordham doing a good job of impersonating Jonathon Dimbleby and Fiona Bruce). The rest of the school have also been able to discuss the election process in tutor time. Students will have their own ballot sheets and we wait to see whether the whole school result mirrors that of the local area, or indeed the rest of the country!

Alongside this event Sixth Formers have also been very generous when contributing to the Sixth Form Christmas boxes – The Social Science office has been awash with gifts which will be boxed and wrapped - ready for Mr Gwynne, Miss Findlay and Health and Social Care students to deliver to a number of local charities.'
Business Studies Department
Head of Business Studies – Ms Haines

Team Business have welcomed the opportunity to introduce two new courses, Economics and Financial Studies, to Sixth Form this term and both have been very well received by students.

Economics has been very well received by our new Year 12 cohort. With 24 students electing to study the subject, it is the most popular of the three courses currently on offer within the department.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the University of Warwick for an 'Economics in Action' enrichment day. Sessions included asking questions regarding the validity of GDP as a measure of economic growth, how the labour market responds to supply and demand, and how the government can combat climate change featured. However, we all agreed that the highlights were Anna Bird from the Behavioural Economics Insight Team, who explored the use of behavioural economics in making government policy, and the opportunity to meet up with former HBK Maths teacher and trader at Lehman Brothers, Bobby Seagull, who spoke first-hand about his experience of the financial crash.

A great day was had by all; the photo shows our students giving the event the thumbs up. We were grateful to Dr Thaana Ghalia, Lecturer in Economics from the University of Northampton, who ran an interactive session on Game Theory with our students. Dr Ghalia explained how, at the new Northampton campus, classes are taught in groups of 24 which gives a very different student experience to lectures to 300+.

In Financial Studies, students have been learning a very different way of studying. The London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) provides extensive on-line support for students, who are equipped with free text books, on line study texts, key terms guides, extension activities and topic quizzes. Exams are modular, with Year 12 January and May exams contributing to the final Year 13 outcomes. Students are currently becoming very familiar with the characters of their pre-release case study for January; Carl, a university student who, unwisely, decided to take out a loan to buy a motor bike, and Ralph, soon to be a university student looking to purchase insurance for his belongings whilst away from home. Students are enjoying the practical nature of this course. The best comment I've received about it so far asked me 'Miss, how do people know this stuff if they don't study Financial Studies? It's so important!'

The As equivalent Certificate in Financial Studies is available to Year 12 as the first year of a two-year course, they go on to study the Diploma in Financial Studies in Year 13, and to Year 13 students as a stand-alone, one-year course, looking to boost their UCAS points or for enrichment.
CREATIVITY & PERFORMANCE FACULTY

Mr Pinder – Assistant Principal

It has been a busy, exciting and productive term for the new Creativity and Performance Faculty. The Creativity and Performance Faculty was formed from the Arts Faculty with the addition of Design Technology and Food & Catering from the start of September. I have been very impressed with the wide range of work completed in Design Technology and with the wealth of equipment available for students to work with. On my visits to the Food and Catering department I have always seen engaged students working on cooking up some delicious recipes – last week it was shortbread or chicken/mushroom risotto when I visited. These are really great life skills which will benefit our students for years to come.

At the start of September, we welcomed Mr Chilton to our PE team. He has already taken the Year 7 football team to the 5th round of the ESFA Cup – congratulations to all involved. Another sporting event worthy of a mention is the superb participation in the inter-house cross country event. Despite very wet conditions and a last-minute change to the route due to flooding, over 800 students took part. It was great to see the smiles from the students as they achieved their goals.

I am delighted to welcome Miss Davidson back to the school from January. Miss Davidson taught in school last year when covering a maternity leave and it is great to see her return to the DT and Art department. I would also like to congratulate Mr Reed, who has been appointed Head of Art following the internal promotion of Ms Lombard prior to the Summer break. The Art department have been running the Year 11 mock exams this week and I came across one of the biggest pieces of work I have seen. One student is making a seat from a massive electrical cable reel. Very impressive indeed!

The autumn concert was a brilliant success and it was great to see a string group performing for the first time in several years. The winter concert was another really lovely event – a concert, including carols for the first half, followed by a performance of the Snowman. Earlier in the day we hosted over 300 students from local primary schools – all of these students had the opportunity to see the Snowman performed live too.

Our Drama team put together a play for the first time in several years too. The Witches by Roald Dahl was organised, cast and rehearsed ready for performance in just 7 school weeks. It was an excellent event – well done to all involved.

Please do read through the department pages which follow as they really do showcase the wonderful experiences our students can be part of. IndepenDance, the Little Shop of Horrors, Glastonbrooke Unplugged and the Easter music concert are just some of the highlights planned for next term. Please do try and support our students and staff by attending as many events as you can, whether Art, Drama, Music, Dance or PE – your support is really appreciated.

Best wishes for a restful Christmas.
Art Department

Head of Art – Mr Reed

Year 12 Trip to London Galleries

Always a fun trip to start the September term off, a full-on day of art with some really amazing exhibitions! The three classes split up and visited the gallery best suited to their subject.

So, the Contemporary art classes trekked over to the Design Museum to see the Stanley Kubrick exhibition, looking at the creative design process of film making where they got to relive iconic scenes from The Shining, Eyes Wide Shut, A Clockwork Orange, Full Metal Jacket, 2001: A Space Odyssey.

The Fine Artists went over to the National Portrait Gallery to see the BP Portrait Award, a show of the most prestigious portrait painting from around the world. Followed by the major new retrospective of the artist Cindy Sherman’s work, spanning from the mid-1970s to the present day, showing around 150 artworks where the artist manipulates and explores the tension between façade and identity.

And the Photographers headed off to the Photographer’s Gallery to see two shows; the TPG New Talent a selected exhibition of varied photography from the experimental to the documentary, and Urban Impulses: Latin American Photography From 1959 To 2016 a show of over 200 diverse images showing fascinating ways of documenting identities and presences and tropes of mass media.

The three groups then reunited to see a blockbuster, unmissable exhibition of Olafur Eliasson at Tate Modern. Full of captivating installations that really make you become aware of your senses, these artworks were all about experiencing and encountering. This included walking through a 39-metre-long corridor filled with coloured fog, you could barely see your hand in front of your face and the air was tinged with a food sweetener, so it tasted sugary! Other rooms were filled with kaleidoscopic artworks, coloured reflections and shadows, darkened rooms with mist/rain falling from the ceiling and lights that shone creating rainbows. The show also addressed serious issues of climate change and awareness of nature with a wall made of moss and a photographic series of melting glaciers in Iceland. It really was an unforgettable experience!
Fine Art & Photography groups, outside Tate

Olafur Eliasson Exhibition at Tate

Stanley Kubrick Exhibition at the Design
Year 10 Trips to Tate Modern

Three trips over three days, with just over 80 year 10 students - this was a busy week for the Art department!

Heading to London is always very exciting for the students, especially those that have never been before, and not only do they get to see the amazing gallery spaces and artworks, but also the sights and sounds of the city.

The Fine Art and Mixed Media groups visited the Tate Modern, and the Pottery and Textile classes went to the V&A. It is always a fantastic opportunity to take them to see the most relevant artworks and artists for their coursework projects, and it always really puts it into perspective for the students.

Those that visited the V&A got to see the unrivalled Ceramics collection, its dazzling Jewellery rooms, the Fashion collection spanning five centuries of fashion, as well as exploring the innovative designs in the Furniture collections and the amazing resources of the Theatre & Set Design.

The Fine Artists and Mixed Media groups explored the Tate Modern, hunting for artworks and artists that relate to their coursework project title Light & Dark.
Design Technology Department

Head of DT – Mrs Stokes

There’s been lots of great work in DT recently – with a hive of activity with all years working well on their projects.

Year 7 have been finishing headphone wraps; Year 8 have been making ‘grabbers’; Year 9, clocks; Year 10, lamps and Year 12 are building skills in many areas. Year 11 and 13 are busy working on their coursework projects with some amazing modelling taking place.
Food Department

Head of Food – Mrs South

It has been a busy first term for the Hospitality and Catering department.

We’ve enjoyed seeing our new Year 7 classes progress. They’re already on the way to becoming very competent cooks with recipes having gone home and praise received already from both students and parents alike.

Learning to cook is a fantastic skill for students to have as it helps build both their confidence and independence – and parents get to benefit too by getting to taste their child’s work! It’s always nice to get feedback from parents and carers, including this from the parent of a current year 8 – “I’ve been meaning to email since before half term to say I’m so happy you teach cooking to the students! My son brought home some gorgeous macaroni cheese for us to try – but what I love most is how independent it is making him.”

At the other end of the spectrum we have been busy with our Year 11 classes coming to the final countdown with their coursework with three years of dedicated hard work starting to pay off. The Year 11 classes have recently finished their final Internal practical assessment. This is a busy time for them where they work independently for an extended period of time showing the skill set they have developed preparing a two course meal for a chosen clientele.

Please take time to look at the photos demonstrating the high quality work submitted from our Year 11 classes.
The Physical Education Department
Head of PE – Mr Turnbull

It’s been an exciting first term in the Hinchingbrooke PE Department...

- With Miss Stevens’ Year 11 Girls finishing their fifth year in the district as Unbeaten Netball Champions, leaving the challenge of their legacy to remain unbeaten throughout the year.
- Mr Jago’s Year 10 Boys exceeded expectations in the NatWest Trophy in rugby, with a workman-like performance in the 4th round, losing narrowly.
- Mr Chilton’s Year 7 football squad go into the FA cup fifth round full of confidence #MOT.
- There was an amazing turnout for the interhouse cross country: 802 runners, over half of the school, raising £1,337.60 for Race for Life Cancer Research UK.
- Sophie Bambridge and Bradley McKenna received their Victor and Victrix Ludorum Trophies from the summer 2019 Sports Day, both outstanding prospects.
- HBK TA Nikki Field received her award for Huntingdonshire most promising cricket coach.

And after an exciting first term, there are lots of things to look forward to in 2020 – with the annual Ski Trip to Folgaria; the 10th anniversary Netball tour to Holland; and the 2020 Sports Awards - so start thinking about your nominations now!

Rounding up the 2019 Autumn/Winter Term are a series of Tweets, below.

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Wow, our very own Nikki Field receiving her award for Huntingdonshire’s most Diverse and Inspiring Coach, presented by Chris Woakes England Cricket World Cup Winner. #HBKproud #startingHBKcricketacademyinthesummer
**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Nov 19**

Victorious 31-12 v Kings Peterborough. In the county cup the year 9 boys playing like the old days.

@whereisheyougal @gunleyesnestkenny @CleethorpesMens @GibbersStokesBarndoorMilk @1 to name but a few who have graced the hallowed HBK turf @HBKproud #AOT

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**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Nov 17**

First training session for the new @HBKPE_HeaderNetball Academy squad! ⚽️

Eleanor Drinkwater wins the first #2 training trophy for being front on court and never giving up. 🏆 @Netball_Squad

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**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Nov 9**

Miss Stevens Year 11 squad signing off as District Champions 2019 for the last time. Unbeaten for five years #WhistleRecord #HBKproud #TheSegalSquad

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**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Oct 16**

Our talented Hinchinbrooke athletes showing ‘a clean pair of heels’ today at the District X Country championships, organised by our own sports council team with routes round Hinchinbrooke country park. #HBKproud #AgrantDayrunning

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**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Oct 16**

The year 11 football squad, victorious over Parkside Academy in the FA cup, Harvey led the team to a 3-2 victory. Man of the Match, an outstanding performance supported by the midfield general Jack #Roaring #HBKproud #MMP

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**HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports - Oct 16**

Introducing our 2019 Victoria and Victor Ludorum Sophie Bambridge and Bradley Mussa, outstanding athletes following in the footsteps of @caroventer @CaroVent @dianehammond_1st @HBKproud #SchoolYear #lookoutfor2020sawardsannouncements
HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports · Nov 21
Very very tough game today. Unfortunately we came 2nd. That’s the end of our cup run in the national vase. 7-5 loss to NSB. I couldn’t be prouder of the boys performance and the men they have become. Great examples of our school values. #MrJagoandHBKproud

HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports · Nov 27
Congratulations to our year 10 Netball squad, 2019 District Champions #gasleaksdoesntstopchampions #MssStevensgoingaboveandbeyondagainforhergirls #HBKproud #bringontheregionals

HBK PE&Sports @HBKPE_Sports · Dec 3
The Year 7 boys march on to the 5th round of the FA Cup this evening, coming out 5-4 winners in a hard-fought, end-to-end classic against The Deepings! The dream is well and truly alive! #RoadtoWembley #MOT #HBKproud
Dance Department
Head of Dance – Mrs Trewin

This term, all classes are underway with their pieces for the show in March - IndepenDance11. The show dates are Tuesday 17 March and Wed 18 March 2020.

The students' show pieces will all form work towards the students' coursework in Dance.

We look forward to our write up in the Spring Herald to showcase more about IndepenDance 11 and our amazing Dance students.

In the meantime, pictured here are our year 10's, who experienced an October workshop from a West End practitioner. In the workshop, the students created material in the musical theatre style relating to 'Annie' and the famous piece 'It's a Hard Knock Life'.

Year 10 class members:
Film & Media Studies Department
Head of Film & Media Studies – Mr Lloyd

In Film Studies, Year 13 have completed their short films and screenplays, with some really outstanding work on offer this year.

Ms Toone has also arranged for some exciting trips coming up, with the first being a visit to Industrial Light and Magic studios (ILM) and BlueZoo animation studios. ILM Studio are the studio who were responsible for the CGI and all the visual effects on Star Wars and Spiderman, and BlueZoo animation have an impressive portfolio, including many children's television programmes and commercials. The trip will consist of a studio tour, watching the studios’ showreels as well as a Q&A with professionals who work at the studios.

In Media Studies this term, students have been finishing off their music videos and constructing their promotional websites. The results are tremendous, with one student being head-hunted by a production company eager to screen his video on the BBC!
Music Department
Head of Music - Mr Cooke

In November we welcomed cellist Julian Metzger and flautist Lisa Nelsen to the Music department to run a workshop and masterclass for some of our young musicians. Well done to Year 12s Amy Gatward, Megan Perry, Christian Pinder and Year 7 Caitlin Barraclough who bravely volunteered to play and have their performances ‘critiqued’.

Annual Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert was again a sell-out performance with the PAC packed out for a memorable evening of music-making. The first half of the concert featured our school ensembles and the Hinchingbrooke Community Choir, with stunning solos from Year 7 students Caelan Kasese and Noah Harris, Year 8 Emily Jacques, Year 9 Ella Oldwood, Year 12 Hayden Gadenne and Year 13 Millie Oldwood. After the interval, the Hinchingbrooke School Orchestra, together with Year 13 Jess Stewart as narrator and the choirs, performed ‘The Snowman’. This magical show captured the hearts of the audience and the talent of our students was clear to see. We are so proud of all the performers – the orchestra includes students from Year 7-Year 13 and they worked so hard to get the performance ready. During the day, we performed The Snowman to 330 Primary School children from our feeder schools. Huge thanks to all involved in the concert, in particular our peripatetic teachers and our tech team, Mr Joe Howells and Year 10 Tom Askew.
The Hinchingbrooke Community Choir had a busy week in December! Not only did they all participate in the school Christmas Concert, the following evening was spent at Millfield Court retirement home, singing carols for the residents, and on Friday 13 they sang at Hinchingbrooke Hospital. Over £1,300 has been raised in aid of the Alzheimer’s Society, with thanks to Jane Coggin, Sophia Stanworth and Sue and Mark Harrington who have helped enormously. The Hinchingbrooke Community Choir is open to everyone and anyone! Please contact Mrs Cooke kzc@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk for more details.

Year 10 clarinetist, Lauren McMaw has been successful for the second year running in gaining a place in the National Youth Concert Band. Lauren studies music at the Royal Academy of Music Junior School every Saturday and is working towards Grade 8 on the clarinet and Grade 5 on the piano. Well done, Lauren!

Year 11 percussionist George Garnett, after his first place at both the Oundle and the Milton Keynes Young Musician competitions over the past couple of years, auditioned for the BBC Young Musician 2020 in November. We are incredibly proud of George and wish him all the best as we await the results!

Congratulations to all students who have taken and passed ABRSM and Trinity exams this term – there have been many, many successes from Prep Grades to Year 11 Joe Grimbaldestone’s achievement at Grade 7 piano.

Our fabulous, dedicated team of instrumental and vocal teachers have been working very hard this term delivering high-quality individual lessons on a wide range of instruments. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, please contact the Music department.

Our annual school production, ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ will be staged in February and the cast and band have been working very hard all term. Tickets on sale soon!
GLOBAL FACULTY
Mrs Solvar-Isida – Assistant Principal

As my first term at Hinchingbrooke draws to a close, it has been a privilege to get to know and work with the Global Faculty departments and I have been so impressed, not only by the range of topics being covered in lessons this term, but also by the energy and enthusiasm each teacher brings to their subjects.

Looking back to results across the Faculty from last Summer I was delighted that the faculty results at both GCSE and A-Level were higher than the whole school average -which is a testament to the quality of teaching taking place in those subjects. Special mentions to French, who achieved 100% 9-4 at GCSE; at A Level, English Literature achieved 93.1% A*-C, History 91%, Geography 85% and Spanish 83%. These are all phenomenal results, well above national average! Looking ahead to the 2020 exam season, each department has set challenging targets to ensure they keep striving to build on previous achievement and we wish our Year 10 RPE students all the best for their mock exams in January.

In the spirit of being the ‘Global’ faculty there have already been a number of trips this term including the joint HGTA (Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association) trip with St Peters to Gubbio, Italy and of course, the Geography trip to Malaysia, as well as enrichment opportunities in English with the Christmas Carol and Jekyll and Hyde workshops for years 10 and 11, as well as Professor Rowlie’s lecture to our English Sixth formers. The MFL department is also very blessed with three Foreign Language Assistants, who bring authenticity to the MFL lessons. With upcoming trips in the New Year to Russia (Moscow and St Petersburg) and the Year 11 Poetry Live trip, the faculty is certainly living up to its name!

As you will have seen through the website and social media, the school has done a lot for the centenary of the end of World War One this term. Miss Fender and the History department provided information about Remembrance and key figures from the war, as well as celebrating the ‘Hinchingbrooke old boys’ who died in the war. It is always a moving moment for both staff and students.

There is already so much to be proud of in the Global Faculty and I am excited to continue being a part of it next term. However, unfortunately, at this time, we often have to say goodbye to some members of staff within the faculty and I would like to take this opportunity to thank and bid Mrs Mooney and Mr Smith a warm farewell; we also pass on our best wishes to Mrs Moyes, who is going on maternity leave. Miss McDonald has been a fantastic recent addition to the English department, and we look forward to also welcoming Miss Galvin-Elliott to the English department and Miss Wells to the RPE department in January.

I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday!
English Department

Head of English – Miss Spikesley

It has been a proud term for the English Department. We are delighted to have received our 3rd Prince's trust award recognising dedication to subject engagement and we have whole heartedly introduced a range of extracurricular events this term to that end.

We were delighted to host two theatre companies who performed 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Jekyll and Hyde' respectively to our KS4 students supplementing their knowledge of the texts and reminding us all that texts come alive on stage. The productions were well received and were pleased to fill the PAC with each performance. Many thanks to Mrs Mooney for her organisation of such successful events.

We were also extremely proud of our Sixth Form Literature students across Year 12 and Year 13 when a published Shakespeare academic was invited to Hinchingbrooke for the first time. Professor Rowland Wymer is Emeritus Professor of Literature at Anglia Ruskin University having spent his career lecturing and teaching across the renaissance period. Our students spent the morning off timetable in the PAC experiencing world class lectures on Hamlet and Shakespeare's Tragedies. It was a pleasure to share our love of Literature across the Year groups and engage with an expert in the field.

We have also enjoyed reading the entries of the interhouse poetry competition from KS3 students and many of the pieces of work will be displayed in the English corridors. Whilst there can only be a few winners of the categories, we were delighted by the many entrants we received. Thanks to Ms Waters for leading on this wonderful competition.

We look forward to our next extracurricular event, Poetry live whereby students will, once again be able to engage with live performances of our texts.

A colossal thank you to all students and staff who make these events so enjoyable.
Literacy News

This term I am pleased to announce the successful completion of Hinchingbrooke’s first ever Poetry Inter House competition! To tie in with National Poetry Day, students were asked to write a poem about their own personal truth. All poems submitted went into the national competition- we are yet to hear back from them, so watch this space!

With hundreds of entries, there were a huge variety of truths, from ‘The True King of The Jungle’ (the spider of course!) to a rubber’s perspective on life and many poems covering a truth we are all dealing with- the decay of our planet. The standard was fantastic, and it was extremely difficult to narrow it down but, I finally managed to pick five overall winners in each year group and some which received special commendations. Students will be receiving their prizes in House Assemblies and the winning poems will be displayed in school.

As well as writing inspirational poetry, a calm is evident in the mornings across key stage three as students are enjoying reading for pleasure in their morning registrations. I hope no year tens have a chip on their shoulder from learning about idioms and year nines are looking out for those red herrings in their studies of Sherlock Holmes! I am sure year eleven will be putting their vocabulary booklets to good use in the writing of their personal statements. Finally, I hope that all students are becoming increasingly confident in using the language of kindness and respect!

Furthermore, just had results back from the National Young Writer’s Poetry Competition. We have got 65 students who are having the poems published – names to be announced in assembly and students will receive their own free copy of the book. Well done to all!

Gabriella Waters
English Teacher
Another year, another cohort of Year 7 enrolled onto Accelerated Reader.

Many of you might be familiar with AR from your child’s primary school days and fondly remember finding out how many quizzes your child had taken or how many words they had read. Maybe your child was an AR millionaire? Currently we have 335 children, mainly from Year 7 who are being encouraged to read and take book quizzes on a regular basis.

So why do we encourage reading and the quizzing on Accelerated Reader? With the new style GCSE requiring a higher reading age and many of the papers containing a heavier reading content, it is even more critical for all our children to establish a secure reading age to enable them to tackle the requirements of the exams as well as equipping them for life.

Some examples of outstanding effort and commitment so far has been shown by Sam Brasher, Orezi Onibere, Zhi Cheng Xu and Leela Gogna who have all become word millionaires before the first term has even finished.

7XEn2 have an impressive 159 books read at the time of writing.

7P2 is the form which has read the most books, 118 so far...

So, the gauntlet has been thrown!

Something else we are fortunate to offer at HBK is Lexonik, this is a sound-based programme which supports many students across all year groups. The aim is to raise attainment and improve reading, spelling and vocabulary through six one-hour lessons. This is our second year of offering this programme and we are lucky enough to have two trained members of staff at HBK who run the scheme with consistently strong results.

As a parent, I cannot stress enough how important reading is, no matter at what level. The key is to read, read and read more! Even strong readers need to ensure they do not allow their exposure to vocabulary, genre, fluency and comprehension to tail off just because they are older.

I discovered a quote whilst reading with my own children when they were very young and I still use today,

‘The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.’

Dr Seuss.

Happy reading!

Mrs Williams
Literacy Intervention Co-ordinator
Modern Foreign Languages Department

Head of MFL – Mrs Roberts

It's been a very busy term in MFL, with lots of fantastic, creative and fun lessons going on in French, Spanish and German. We have been delighted with our new Year 7 classes, who are making great progress thanks to their enthusiastic and hard-working approach. In our last few lessons we are having a Christmas tree competition, with each Year 7 and 8 class creating a tree with a Spanish, German or French theme. Our classrooms are looking very festive as a result!

Further up the school, we are really pleased to see our GCSE numbers increasing once again, with seven languages classes in Year 9 starting the course this September. We have been really impressed with their commitment to their language studies and the interest and engagement they have shown so far.

The trial Listening, Reading and Writing GCSE exams went well, and we are now getting ready for the trial Speaking exams that will begin on 13 January 2020. We have been pleased with how hard our Year 11’s have been working in preparation for these, and we wish them the very best! In October we had a Languages Careers Event for all our Year 11’s, with external speakers coming in to tell the students how important languages are in the workplace. A highlight was the opera singing in French, German and Italian!

Wishing you all Joyeux Noel, Feliz Navidad and Frohe Weihnachten from all the MFL team!
French Trip 2019
Château du Broutel, Normandy

On a passé un super weekend en France en juillet! Our 38 students were an absolute delight, eager to try out and develop their language skills, experience French culture and have a fantastic time. Our trip began on the Friday morning when we travelled to France by coach and ferry under sunny skies and translating road signs as we went along. We arrived at the chateau early evening and were greeted with the breath-taking view of the stunning chateau. Students then settled into their rooms, had their dinner and took part in a French quiz, run by the animateurs at the chateau.

We were up bright and early on Saturday morning, with great weather again, to get to the snail farm. After a
detailed and enlightening presentation from the farmer about the life of a snail, we then went outside to say *bonjour* to the snails, before trying a snail cooked in garlic, snail paté and some homemade jam (not made of snails). We were impressed by the students’ willingness to try the snails, and some declared the delicious!

We then got back onto the coach and headed to Berck-sur-mer, a seaside resort where we had *une glace* before chilling out on the vast, sandy beach. This was followed by a visit to Amiens, with a look in the huge, gothic cathedral and some shopping time. In the evening we enjoyed a campfire in the beautiful chateau grounds.

On Sunday the chef at the chateau taught us how to make authentic French mayonnaise, and then the students worked in teams to have a go. Mr Steed and I were lucky enough to judge the mayonnaise competition, and although they were all good, Ariana’s team won. After that we did some language activities in a large, typical French market, and then went to a goat farm, where we learned about how the farm works and how goats’ cheese is made, before trying some of the different cheeses made there.

Sunday was July 14, the fete nationale in France, and we were lucky enough to be able to go and watch the annual fireworks display in the village near the chateau – an unforgettable experience for our students and a fabulous way to spend our last evening.

Our last day was Monday, and we stopped at a *boulangerie* on the way to a ferry, to find out about making baguettes, and to try croissant making with the very strict *boulanger* – we think it was an act, but we’re not completely sure. Armed with lots of delicious bread and pastries we got back on the coach and headed off to the ferry and home.

Highlights for me: hearing the students trying out their French; the fantastic behaviour of the students; the volleyball skills of the Year 10 girls; Isaac’s
knowledge of old pop music; working with the lovely Mrs Dow and Mr Steed; sunny evenings in the chateau grounds... the list could go on. A huge thank you to the students, parents and staff of Hinchingbrooke for supporting this wonderful trip.

Mrs Alison Roberts, Head of MFL

KS3 Xmas Tree Competition! The winners were 7YSp2 and 8XFr2
Spotlight on the MFL
Foreign Language Assistants

1 October 2019 saw the arrival of Pablo, Wenke and Anna, our brand-new Foreign Language Assistants, who work with students one-to-one or in small groups to help them improve their speaking skills, and to pass on some understanding of French, Spanish and German culture. They have made a fantastic start and have been able to put our students at ease and boost their confidence, as well as improving their conversation. The MFL teachers really appreciate their hard work with our students (and the steady supply of cake and biscuits they provide in the Base).

I interviewed the assistants to find out a little bit more about them! Here is what they said...

**Q1 Where are you from, and what is it like?**

**Pablo**: I live in a small town near Valencia, in Spain. The weather is warmer then here, and it only rains about ten days a year, so a bit different to the UK! It's surrounded by mountains which keep the clouds away. In fact, drought can be a problem!

**Wenke**: I am from Kiel, which is the biggest city in Northern Germany. It's on the Baltic Sea and is very windy and colder than here, but it's lovely to be able to go to the beach in the summer.
Q2 Are you a student in your home country?

Pablo: Yes, I was studying Spanish Language and Literature. I have done a Masters in Linguistics and am now doing an on-line Masters to become a teacher.

Wenke: I finished my studies a few months ago. I was studying English and Biology to become a teacher, and now have my Masters in Education.

Q3 How have you found your first term at Hinchingbrooke?

Pablo: I have really enjoyed it. It's great to be with the other assistants, as we can share our experiences.

Wenke: It's been really nice, and I am very thankful for having a good start. I have found staff and students very supportive. I was surprised by how big the school is and impressed by the history of Hinchingbrooke House!

Q4 What is the best thing about being a Language Assistant?

Pablo: Working with young people for the first time and developing my teaching skills. I enjoy the challenge of thinking of ways to make Spanish easier to learn and more fun.

Wenke: I enjoy the cultural exchange: telling the students about my home town and about Germany and finding out about UK culture and education.

Q5 How does school in the UK compare to school in your home country?

Pablo: The biggest difference is the distance between students and teachers here. In Spain we call teachers by their first name, not "Miss" or "Sir". Also, there is no uniform in Spanish schools, and I think the uniform makes the students look younger than Spanish students.

Wenke: I think there are more opportunities in British schools for students to do extra activities like projects and clubs. I have also noticed that PE is more detailed here and there is more study of theory, which is interesting.

Q6 What are your plans for Christmas and the future?

Pablo: I am going to Spain to spend Christmas with my family and friends. In the future I hope to do a four-year PhD in Valencia, on the History of the Spanish Language.

Wenke: At Christmas I am flying home to Germany to see my friends and family and to eat a lot of biscuits! In August next year I will start one and a half years of teacher training, and then will look for a job teaching.
History Department
Head of History – Mr Leigh

As we approach Christmas, I am moved to reflect on what an excellent set of pupils we have studying History this year in all of our Year Groups. Year 8, 10 and 12 are making good progress through their courses. Year 7 have showed that they can go over and above in great number with more than 100 competing in our design a castle competition. The volume of creativity was impressive, but so too was the level of historical accuracy in so many cases. Year 9 have started their GCSE courses and a small group were selected to go to Gubbio to take part in a twinning trip with an historical focus. At the other end of the spectrum Year 11 have approached their mocks well and will reap the rewards of the practice this provides. Meanwhile in Year 13 pupils are crafting their Non-Examined assessment pieces and many have successfully applied for Visa’s so they can continue their research to support these in Russia in February 2020. I am also extremely proud of our staff who make all this possible and who continuously review the curriculum to make sure Hinchingbrooke Pupils get the best possible experience of the past. Well done and a Merry Christmas to you all.

James Leigh

Year 7 Castle Competition
Our annual competition received over 80 entries of castles this year! Some amazing examples and clearly lots of hard work and effort has been dedicated to these projects.
I am pleased to announce the winner of the castle competition goes to Felix Thomas-Morgan of 7P1.
“An amazing and memorable experience”
In late September this year, twelve students from Hinchingbrooke School and St Peter’s School travelled to Gubbio - our friends and twinning partners in Northern Italy - to join their celebrations at their annual Medieval Festival. Students took part in a range of activities, including but not limited to medieval dance, calligraphy workshops and even firing replica crossbows. It was a fantastic five-day adventure made possible by the hard work and commitment of the Twinning Association, alongside the generous support given by the local council. For many of these students, it was their first trip abroad and their first chance to make connections with people and cultures from across Europe. Friendships were made, phone numbers were swapped, and a lot of laughs were had along the way.

We began with an early morning flight on Wednesday. Bags safely in the hold and seat belts signs turned off, the students immediately began mixing and playing UNO! When we arrived in Italy, we were greeted by our now good friend and long-term partner of the twinning association Ubaldo. We were taken to our accommodation, one of many converted monastics buildings on the outskirts of central Gubbio.

**Day One** consisted of many meet and great opportunities as students from Wertheim and Szentendrei arrived throughout the day, whilst the local students from Gubbio joined us for dinner later in the evening, hosted in the Crypt of Saint Anthony.

**Day Two** began early with students all meeting to begin their medieval dance training at the local college. The students were fantastic despite their initial nerves. They were taught a number of traditional dances that they were set to perform in the town square later in the trip. After our dance session, we travelled into the higher reaches of the town where we were given a tour by the local students, explaining the history of Gubbio and its people. We also had our official welcome from the Mayor of Gubbio, followed by some group photo
opportunities. Miss Macnamara, a veteran of the Gubbio Twinning trip having attended before as a student, was then stolen away for an interview by the local news station! That night, we dined in style at a local pizzeria.

**Day Three** began with each group for students delivering their presentations on women in the medieval period. All the presentations were well received and had a variety of styles. Our students spoke with great confidence and were a credit to the school and the town. Following this, we returned to the school to practice our medieval dance routines and put on our original costumes! They were, in the words of one student, “ridiculously itchy”, but they did make the students look the part! The dance took place in the town square, but not before students had the chance to wander around the medieval stalls picking up gifts and trinkets for loved ones back home.

**Day Four** gave the students an opportunity to explore the town and the medieval festival activities. Some of the more popular stalls with the students were the bow and arrow firing, the medieval biscuit stall and the calligraphy classes.

We then discovered that there was a medieval armoury in one of the many hidden corners of the town. Within minutes, students were fully armoured in gambesons and chain mail, wielding weapons with considerable gusto. That evening, we all met in the Crypt of Saint Ubaldo for our final meal as a group. The hospitality shown by the people of Gubbio was second to none throughout the trip.

By 10pm plates were empty, and it was time to say goodbye to our new Italian friends. Many tears were shed and promises of future get togethers made!

An early morning rise to catch our flight home was followed by further tears and goodbyes from our Hungarian and German friends. Overall, our trip to Gubbio was a fantastic and incredibly enjoyable trip. The students have returned to school with a renewed enthusiasm for their learning, hoping to one day return and re-unite with their friends across Europe. Once again, we owe thanks to all of the hard work put in by the Twinning Association and the local councils, without whom this wonderful experience could never have taken place!
Geography Department
Head of Geography – Mr Evans

Geographical Association’s Secondary Geography Quality Mark
The year started with the fantastic news that we had been awarded the Geographical Association’s Secondary Geography Quality Mark for 2019-2022. This is an excellent achievement for the department, as:

“The Geography Quality Marks are prestigious awards which recognise and promote quality and progress in geography leadership, curriculum development and learning and teaching in schools”.

We were delighted that Alan Parkinson, Junior Vice President of the GA, presented us with the award in the Rose Garden.

Out and about with Geography
#HBKGeogontour

GCSE Fieldwork
The Autumn term is always a busy one for fieldwork. Year 10 students undertook local fieldwork in Huntingdon, looking at cultural diversity and then comparing to St Neots. Year 11 students went into the Country Park to investigate small scale changes in biodiversity. Both investigations will assist the students in their GCSE Geography exams at the end of the course.
Malaysia
During the October half term GCSE and A’ level Geographers were joined by some A’ level Biology students for our first ever fieldtrip to Malaysia. After a very long flight we arrived at our hotel, right in the centre of Kuala Lumpur. The following morning it was off to the tropical rainforest, staying in lodges in the Taman Negara National Park. Our first night in the rainforest involved a night hike, experiencing the sounds and, via ultra violet light, the sights of the rainforest; spiders, scorpions and snakes! The next morning involved a trek through the rainforest, learning from our local guides about the flora and fauna we had studied in the classroom. Just before lunch we had the amazing experience of a canopy walk, walking through the most biodiverse part of the rainforest 40 metres above ground. The afternoon saw us on a boat ride up the Tahan River to the rapids at Lata Berkoh, where students enjoyed a cooling dip in the river. The following day we left the rainforest and headed up into the Cameron Highlands, visiting a tea plantation and a local market. An early start the following morning, took us back to Kuala Lumpur to tour around the rapidly developing city. This tour included a visit to the Batu Caves and an elevator ride to the top of the iconic Petronas Towers. The whole experience was amazing, supporting the work that has been done in school. Next October...New York City.
**RPE Department**

**Head of RPE – Miss Newman**

In their first term of Year 7, students have looked at places of worship/religious significance in their local area including Hinchingbrooke House, Ely Cathedral, Cambridge Eco Mosque and the Bedford Gurdwara. Students hugely impressed with their homework task where they were asked to produce a guide for a place of worship with some doing video tours! They have also gone onto looking at some Old Testament characters in the Bible such as Abraham, Moses, Ruth and Esther. Students were asked to produce presentations detailing which characters they felt inspired them and what we can learn from them today. It has been fantastic to see so many having the confidence to present this to their peers.

Year 8 have been exploring where their morality and values come from and how this differs for those who are religious and those of no faith. They have studied the ethical theory of utilitarianism as well as a humanist perspective. We have also been looking at how religion helps to ensure equality in society. Students have studied influential figures such as Martin Luther King and Gandhi as well as religious responses to homosexuality and gender inequality. This has tied in well with some of the Fortnightly Foci this term by highlighting the need to stand up for the rights of all human beings.

Year 9 have made a positive start to their GCSE. They began by studying the Religion and Life unit of the AQA Religious Studies course. This encompasses issues such as creation of the world and humans, the environment, abortion and euthanasia. It has been great to see the enthusiasm of students in debating such ethical and moral issues. We have also gone onto the Christianity Beliefs unit exploring the life of Jesus and the influence this has on Christians. We were delighted to welcome volunteers from Godmanchester Baptist Church who did Q&A sessions with all classes. The students came up with some insightful questions in order to understand first-hand a faith perspective on everything we have studied so far. Year 10 are taking the GCSE this year and so have been focusing on revising for their upcoming mock exams on Wednesday 8th and 15th January. They have studied Buddhism for the first time and started to grasp the concept and philosophy of a religion without a God. They have also studied religious responses to Peace and Conflict such as war, nuclear weapons and pacifism. Please see details below of the revision guides we recommend if you don’t already have one:

Our Year 12 students have also made a fantastic start to their Eduqas Religious Studies A Level course. They have been really engaged in the ethical theories of Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics as well as the arguments for the existence of God and issues surrounding the gender of God.

Year 13 continue to work towards their A Level exam at the end of the year. We have been studying ethical language and modern developments of Natural Law as well as religious experience and the Charismatic Movement. They are a dedicated group who have an excellent work ethic. We wish them the best of luck in their January mocks.
Extra-Curricular Activities

STREET DANCE CLUB

REHEARSALS FOR SHOW PIECE

STARTING TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY
3.30-4.30 IN STUDIO Y8+ ONLY
Trip to Institute of Manufacturing based in Cambridge, where they held the Bouygues Minecraft Competition. Some of our Year 10’s had entered their project, here’s a brief overview of what happened...

“We have been spending the last month building a city working together as a team. The whole experience has been very valuable to all of us. Building in Minecraft, making a model and putting together a presentation over the past month has been very fun, and the trip to Cambridge to present it was a bit nerve wracking, but overall a great time for all of us. We got to see the construction company working on the new Physics building for University of Cambridge as well as the original plans for it in advanced modelling software. Overall, we are really pleased we got this opportunity to take part and even better we have made it through to the finals!”
PSHCE Department
Ms Palmer
Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

This year has seen the launch of a new PSHCE programme for all students. We are doing this in advance of the subject becoming a statutory part of school curriculum from September 2020. Each student in years 7-11 has one hour of dedicated PSHCE time on their timetable. The lessons are planned and taught by myself or the relevant Head of Year. Each half term has a theme across the school with each year group having a different emphasis and age-appropriate work. These themes often tie with the Fortnightly Focus and also with some of the tutor time activities.

The first half term theme has been ‘Ethos and Community’: year 7s spent time on induction, HBK.com and getting to know each other. Year 8 studied democracy in the UK. Year 9 looked at the law and young people. Year 10 focused on human rights and Year 11 on global issues and rights. Some Year 8 classes were very enthusiastic about choosing their representatives and voting for who they thought would be the best leaders. Year 11 students found the lesson about the rights of LGBT people in various countries around the world interesting and in some cases shocking.

The second half term’s theme has been ‘Health and Wellbeing’. Year 7 looked at resilience and coping at school: where to get help, how to be a good friend and links to mental health. The year 8 unit of work on drugs and alcohol covered knowledge of substances, finding out about the risks involved and consequences of using or abusing them. Year 9 classes have followed a course about Mental Health from the PSHE Association: this addressed negative thoughts, coping with change, recognising when someone is struggling and sources of guidance and help. Year 10 students have considered the consequences of risky behaviour for example, drug and alcohol use, on mental and physical health. They have discussed how best to help a friend: students had a go at the recovery position – very practical. Finally, year 11 have looked at being responsible for their own health choices: what conditions they may need to be aware of in the future. The learned about vaccinations and the anti-vax movement. They also considered their views about organ donation particularly as English law changes to ‘opt-out’ from Spring 2020.

It has been exciting introducing students to our new themes and developing the resources for a PSHCE curriculum for 2020. Lessons are planned to be interactive, discussion based and allow time for questions and debate. Our aim is to help students to have knowledge and skills to keep them healthy and safe, and to prepare them for the adult world.

Miss B Palmer
PSHCE Coordinator
HSSP News
Partnership Manager – Doug Finlayson

The Hunts School Sports Partnership (SSP) works with schools across Huntingdonshire through a subscription service to support schools to develop and maintain high quality physical education – giving children the skills, knowledge and confidence to take part in a range of sporting activities. Based at Hinchingbrooke School, you can find out more by logging on at: www.Huntsssp.org.

This year, we have welcomed a new member of staff – Anna Litchfield – who is covering maternity leave.

And - we have planned a record number of competitions... 31 fun-filled events – for all primary schools in our area.

**Autumn Term**

We kicked off the year with our Annual Partnership Day, our yearly networking event where Primary School PE coordinators in our area can receive updates, network and share good practice from around our Partnership. This year the delegates took part in more workshops from the Hunts FA, Cricket East, Huntingdon Gymnastics Club, Speedstacks UK, Youth Sports Trust, Teach Active and the Daily Mile (Living Sport).
Panathlon Festival

On Thursday 3 October 2019 we joined forces with Panathlon to hold a KS1 & 2 Multi-skills Festival. We had 24 children from 4 local schools who took part in a range of fun and inclusive sports activities. The festival was a great success and there were lots of happy faces around the hall. Congratulations to Kimbolton Primary Academy who went away as overall winners. Many thanks to St Ivo Academy for hosting the event our new Year 9 St Ivo Leaders from our Hunts SSP Leadership Academy who interacted with the children brilliantly.

Wonderful Westfield make it three in a row!

Westfield Junior School successfully defended their title at the Hunts School Sports Partnerships Year 5&6 Girls Football competition which took place on Wednesday 9th October at One Leisure St Ives.

The competition, now in its second year, gives more girls the opportunity to experience and enjoy football.

The event was supported by Year 9 Sports Leaders from Hinchingbrooke School who took on refereeing and scoring responsibilities. Good luck to Westfield and Alconbury who now progress through to the English Schools FA county finals as district representatives.
Brilliant Brampton and Super Somersham successful at Primary School Tag Rugby Competition

The Hunts School Sports Partnership hosted its annual Large Primary Schools Tag Rugby competition for Year 5/6 children on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at Hinchingbrooke School.

The event consisted of an A Team and a B Team competition with 12 schools, 20 teams & 192 children competing across 52 games.

Congratulations to Brampton Village Primary School who won the A Team event, just popping Westfield Junior School in an extremely close final. The Round House Primary Academy took third place.

In the B Team competition, Somersham Primary came out on top, with Buckden CofE Primary Academy in second and Westfield Junior School, third.

The competition also saw the introduction of the ‘Spirit of the Games’ Award which was awarded to Godmanchester Community Academy. The award looks to recognise key values such as fair play, sportsmanship, respect and determination.

Awesome Alconbury and Bury claim Small Schools Tag Rugby titles

Over 200 pupils took to the pitch for the annual Hunts School Sports Partnership Small Primary Schools Tag Rugby event recently.

20 teams from 14 schools competed across ‘A’ and ‘B’ events at Hinchingbrooke School.

Alconbury CofE Primary School celebrated victory in the ‘A’ competition, defeating Wyton on the Hill Primary School in another close final. Middlefield Primary Academy took third place. Bury CofE Primary School triumphed in the ‘B’ team tournament with Holywell CofE Primary School the runners-up. Spaldwick Community Primary School were third in that section. Eynesbury CofE Primary School won the ‘Spirit of the Games’ award.
Key Stage 1 children given the opportunity to showcase their cricketing skills

Key Stage 1 children from schools across Huntingdonshire have been given the opportunity to showcase their cricketing skills at 3 Rapid Fire Cricket festivals held at Hinchingbrooke School, St Ivo Academy and Longsands Academy. The events are organised by the Hunts School Sports Partnership in conjunction with Cricket East and funded by the Chance to Shine charity.

The festivals aimed to give children their first positive experience of cricket and for some their first inter school event whilst also encouraging more children to try something new. Across the three festivals, 11 primary schools, 155 year 1 or 2 children and 34 Year 9 sports leaders were engaged.
St John’s Win First Primary School Futsal Competition

We ran our first ever Year 5/6 Mixed Futsal Competition in conjunction with the Hunts FA on Wednesday 27 November 2019. The competition was held at Ernulf Academy welcomed 50 children from 6 primary schools with matches played in a round-robin format.

Congratulations to St John’s CofE Primary School who finished in 1st place and will now represent Huntingdonshire at the regional finals in the Spring term.

Wonderful Westfield win first Year 5/6 Girls Futsal competition

Westfield Junior School came out on top at the Hunts School Sports Partnership’s first Year 5/6 Girls Futsal competition at Ernulf Academy on Wednesday 11 December 2019. The event was supported by Gary Marheineke from Hunts FA and Year 10 Sports Leaders from Ernulf Academy. The final primary school competition of the year saw the St Ives school beat off competition from five other local primary schools. Champions Westfield will go on to represent Hunts in the regional finals in Nottingham next year.
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

We have had a fantastic response again this year from our new year 9 students across four secondary schools in our area, Hinchingbrooke School, St Ivo Academy, Longsands Academy and Ernulf Academy with over 100 new members joining. Throughout the year they will be applying their skills by helping out at over 31 competitions and attending numerous workshops and courses.

They have shown their leadership skills already this year at a few of our competitions as you can see in the pictures below;
Careers Education and IAG
Head of CEIAG – Mr O’Shaughnessy

Sixth Form Business/Careers Breakfast – Friday 8 November 2019

Our Year 13 CTech Business and CEIAG Team organised a highly successful Business Breakfast for all Year 12 and 13 students. It involved a variety of businesses ranging from Solicitors, Accountants, Design Consultants, Universities, Colleges, Public Services, Construction related, Retail to Sports Clubs. The aim of the event was for students to gain a fuller understanding of a variety of possible career pathways – we were delighted so many local businesses were willing to give up their time to assist the students in making more informed decisions. The turnout was spectacular, and students’ feedback was very positive. The contributors from the businesses thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they got the opportunity to talk to students and offer them advice. We look forward to offering the same opportunity to next year’s Sixth Form and all the contributors expressed their willingness to participate again.

Careers Fair – Friday 8 November 2019

Then we continued the ‘Careers Fair’ for all Year 11 students. The aim of the event was to assist the students in more informed choices post Year 11.

The first half of the event involved keynote speakers from a variety of potential pathways offering guidance and advice from their experiences - The RAF speaking about life in the armed forces and beyond, PRC discussing apprenticeships, Simon Leader from Cambridge RFC presenting options for a career in Sport and CRC detailing college life. We were delighted to welcome the Year 13 Head Girl and Head Boy explaining what makes a successful transition into Sixth Form life at Hinchingbrooke.
In the second half, the students were given an opportunity to speak with representatives from a variety of local businesses, educators and apprenticeship providers on a one to one or small group basis, following up from the information gained. Giving the students the opportunity to explore their options in detail therefore helping them make a better decision.

All Year 11 students were given the opportunity to participate and several visiting organisations complemented them on their conduct, politeness and the quality of their questions. Undoubtedly a major success.

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**Year 12 Students Enjoying a Presentation from The University of Northampton**

The Business Education Department were delighted to welcome Thaana Ghalia, an Economics lecturer and researcher from the University of Northampton to discuss pathways into higher education and possible career pathways. Thaana offered the students an insight into University life at Northampton especially in the Economics dept, explaining the way the subject is studied and thought while also covering the most recent developments in this fascinating field. The students then took part in a series of learning activities around 'Game Theory' and a Q & A based on their course so far. Thaana really enjoyed the session complementing the students on their levels of engagement, enthusiasm and subject knowledge.
The Edge Careers Fair – Alconbury Weald – 5 December 2019

The CEIAG Team were delighted to take several Year 9 and 10 students to this event held over three separate venues in the Alconbury Weald site. There were local businesses, employers and apprenticeship providers present offering student’s advice and guidance on the future options up to them. One venue concentrated on Health, Care and possible careers working with animals, where the next venue allowed students to consider the various colleges and university options available locally. In the very impressive looking iMET centre there were a wide range of local engineering, design, construction and retail organisations again offering students an insight into their career pathways. An excellent event thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Morrison's in Schools Programme

We were delighted to welcome Thorunn Byrne, HR Manager with Morrison's into our Year 9 lesson today. Thorunn took the students through a 'Preparation For Work' module from the point of view of a local employer. We looked at CVs and Cover Letters for job roles appropriate to the students. The feedback from the students is very positive and we look forward to future sessions on 'Interview Technique' in the New Year. Thorunn and her colleagues will be working with students from Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form to help make them more world of work ready.
Work Experience
Vocational Education Co-ordinator – Alison Tanton-Smith

Next June will see our Year 10s go out of school for two weeks on work experience – a really exciting time for all of them and a chance to shine in a role they really enjoy.

Alison Tanton-Smith, Vocational Education Co-ordinator, said: “Work experience is such a fantastic opportunity for students. It gives them the chance to experience working in the field of their choice and learn new skills as well as build on their confidence, independence and interpersonal skills.”

We would encourage students to start talking to employers as soon as possible to guarantee themselves a placement they really want and can start to get excited about.

Although work experience forms do not need to be returned to school until 1 April 2020 at the latest, we would encourage students to secure their placement now and return their forms as soon as possible.

Work experience forms can be found on the link below. https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=2323&type=pdf. Please return the form to tutors or Alison Tanton-Smith at: ATS@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Attached below are photos from past years.
**SPECIAL REPORT**

Tom, who currently is in Year 10 helps Joe Howells with all aspects of Sound and lighting for all the events organised at HBK. He has been doing this now for over 4 years and thoroughly enjoys it. His favourite aspect of the role is meeting new people and being in control of productions, and he likes to be fully relied upon and takes his responsibilities seriously. He makes himself available to help with every event across the school, from setting up the stage for Yoga sessions to full on concerts!

Tom’s mother had passed away, for which, if you have every experienced loss of a loved one you will know the devastating pain that comes with that and what mental strength is needed to carry on with day to day life, but it is possible to find way forward.

For Tom, being a young person he has struggled emotionally, as anyone would, but he finds his passion for getting involved in back stage running’s of a School production a great help. With the support of Joe Howells, and his father and sister, he had found a new energy and focus in Sound and Lighting and who knows where that might lead.

Tom does say ‘If I have a bad day and find life gets on top of me, I focus on what makes me happy and this helps me. I see Joe as a mentor as well as somebody I know I can talk to’.
Tom’s favourite event he has been involved with so far is setting up the staging and sound for the band Jamiroquai.

You do a tremendous job Tom in helping and volunteering your time to make these concerts and events at HBK a success.

A special thank you to you and Joe Howells for sharing your story.
Hinchingbrooke Alumni Association
HAA Vice President – Mr Wheeley

The Old Huntingdonians’ Association (founded 1933) exists to provide former students and staff of Huntingdon Grammar School (1565 - 1970) and Hinchingbrooke School (since 1970) with the opportunity to keep in touch with each other and with the school today.

In 2015 the OHA incorporated into the Hinchingbrooke Alumni Association (HAA).

If you are a former student of Hinchingbrooke please register with FutureFirst at:

https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/hinchingbrooke

Friday evenings at 7.30pm in the Performing Arts Centre, Hinchingbrooke School

2020

January 31    Emily Nebel, Violin. Christine Zerafa, Piano. Richard Zhang, Solo piano
February 28   The Fitzwilliam Quartet with, Piano
March 27      Marina Nadiradze and Grace Mo, Piano duo

Tickets available at:

Hinchingbrooke Performing Arts Centre
Huntingdon at 7.30 pm

Box Office 01480 375678 (9am to 3pm)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hinchingbrookepac
Please send any comments or enquiries to:-

The Communications Team
communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Lower School Contacts:
Lower School Administrator - lowerschool@hinchingbrookeschool.net
Tel: 01480 420522
Year 7 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext. 5204
Year 8 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext. 5826

Middle School Contacts:
Middle School Administrator - middleschool@hinchingbrookeschool.net
Tel: 01480 420506
Year 9 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5202
Year 10 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5205
Year 11 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext. 5827

Upper School Administrator: upperschool@hinchingbrookeschool.net
Tel: 01480 420539

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