

Hinchingbrooke School

Extra-curricular opportunities



“Something for Everyone ...”



What are extra-curricular opportunities?

Our basic pattern of daily lessons is enhanced by a whole range of exciting opportunities for students to extend their learning in different ways. These opportunities can include clubs, school productions, school trips, musical instrument lessons and interhouse competitions.

If you have any questions about our extra-curricular provision at Hinchingbrooke, please contact **Carole Olsen, the Extended Services Co-ordinator** at eco@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk or **01480 420529**.

Clubs

Hinchingbrooke has a huge range of activities to offer its students outside the timetabled school day. We have a long standing tradition of providing a fantastic and varied timetable of extracurricular clubs and in 2011 it was recognised by OFSTED when we were designated outstanding in this area.

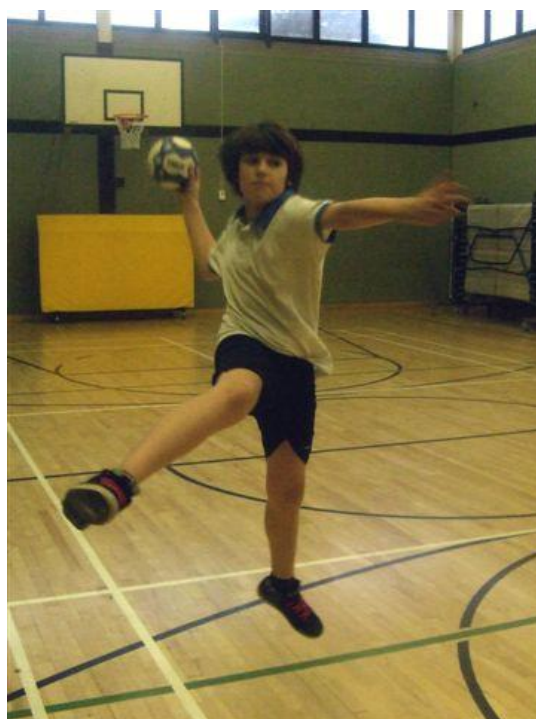
Each week we have over 60 clubs on offer, covering topics as varied as model-making, Egyptian dance, trampolining and philosophy. We know that extra-curricular participation is great for our students; it can improve their behaviour and academic performance, boost their confidence and provide them with opportunities to develop interests and friendships.

At the start of each term we distribute paper copies of the club timetable to all students; put the timetable on our website and display it on the extra-curricular noticeboards around school. We also hold an event called "Bell's Gone: What's On?" in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) where club leaders put up displays and are available to students for questions and to have a chat about the clubs they run. This is always well attended and is a nice way for students to see teachers in a less formal situation. Club leaders also promote their clubs in their lessons and are usually available at break and lunch times to answer any queries or students can just call in to see Carole Olsen.

Whilst the timetable is always being updated to incorporate new clubs and to ensure the information is as accurate as possible, there are a large number of clubs which are well-established and run all year round. Following is information on some of these clubs....

Handball Club

Handball is the fastest team ball game in the world and has been an Olympic sport since 1972. It is not well known in the UK although it is a professional sport in many countries around the world. Handball is a simple game that is easy to learn and can be played to a good standard fairly quickly. It is a 7 a-side game that involves running, jumping, catching and throwing, in which all players attack and defend. It is high scoring and exciting and you will be hooked very quickly. Give it a try. The club is run by Mr Brennan who has many years of experience as a handball player and coach.





Rhythms of Egypt

Egyptian Music Ensemble – this is a fantastic opportunity for young musicians who are grade 2 and above on any instrument to try something different. Using the influences of traditional Egyptian music, students learn aurally and it is a great opportunity to play with like-minded people.

Egyptian percussion – do you love rhythm and can't stop drumming on the table? Then this is the club for you. Learn to play a variety of Egyptian percussion instruments including the Egyptian Tabla drum with opportunities to play with the Egyptian Ensemble.

U14 Netball Academy

The netball academy consists of a group of girls who are selected following a trial. If successful they attend extra coaching sessions and the academy runs alongside the school netball club which is open to all abilities. The academy trains all year long and has the opportunity to represent the school not only in local tournaments but on external weekend tours. The academy is a feeder team for our local club link - Hawks Netball Club based at RAF Wyton and we liaise closely with the lead coach from there holding Year 7 trials in January to coincide with the formation of their junior team for the new season. The netball academy is led by Mrs Stevens who is a Level 2 qualified netball coach and umpire and who has many years experience both as a player and a coach and is a former selector for the Northern Ireland National Squad.



HBK TV

This is a new club for Hinchingsbrooke with an aim to produce a regular news broadcast about the school, the students and their achievements. The club will run during lunchtime and after school and anyone is welcome, provided they apply! If you're interested in the media, would like to be on or off the camera then come along, we would love to see you!

Current episodes can be viewed on our website: www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net



Hinchingbrooke United

The aim of every school is to create a happy, healthy environment where students feel comfortable, and Hinchingbrooke is no different. We look to achieve the kind of working environment which reflects the needs of the students, and this is where Hinchingbrooke United come in. We are the voice of the students, working on projects suggested and supported by the students. Years 7 to 13 work together to make a difference to this school.



Hinchingbrooke United as we know it now is the product of two year's hard work. Students have improved energy efficiency in school and are actively involved in school affairs with a dedication that we hope will continue in future years. Led by the legend that is Miss R Hart, the students are able to work on ideas for the school which they think would benefit their fellow students and present some of them to senior management for approval. Obviously, not every idea can be put into action, but already Hinchingbrooke United has made a difference to the school - one which we are sure will last - in the form of the recycling bins. The students are able to work on various aspects of the school by way of three 'voices': the blue voice, the green voice and the red voice. Our blue voice students focus on the learning experience. The green voice is all about the environment of the school. The red voice studies behaviour within school.



Thus, the Hinchingbrooke United members have quite sophisticated responsibilities placed upon them, and we make sure that all the students involved will not abuse this. Particularly where teacher observations are concerned, we look for sensible students who will carry out duties with a due sense of maturity, representing Hinchingbrooke United in a thoughtful manner. We are proud of all the members of the group, for both their enthusiasm and dedication, and each meeting brings more exciting possibilities to our agenda. Now that we have been fully established within the school, we look forward to the progression of our upcoming projects and hopefully getting every student interested in their learning environment. It's your Hinchingbrooke!

Other clubs on offer at Hinchbrooke include:

- Philosophy Club
- Film Club
- Theatre Club
- Comedy Club
- Photography Club
- Model making and Gaming
- Environmental Club
- Cheerleading
- Science Club
- Cookery club
- Arabic Club
- Foreign Spelling Bee

Sport Clubs

We pride ourselves in the range of sport clubs on offer to our students. They are able to take part both recreationally and competitively in rugby, football, netball, hockey, athletics, swimming, cricket and rounders. Fixtures for Year 7 girls are on Wednesdays and for boys on Thursdays; however other opportunities may arise on different days during the week.

Musical instrument lessons

Music lessons are also on offer at Hinchbrooke, and these are delivered by Cambridgeshire Music. For more information please contact Mrs Mummery in the Music Dept on ehm@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk or look at www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.

Year 7 Residential

To celebrate the transition from primary school and their achievements during their first year at Hinchbrooke, we take our Year 7 students away for two nights as a whole group. This trip has been running for seven years and has usually taken place at Grafham Water. However this year, to increase the sense of adventure, we are taking the students to Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire. While on their stay they have some amazing experiences, really working as a team to complete challenges and taking part in activities they may never have experienced before such as abseiling, kayaking and raft building. This is a real highlight of the school year and something for all the Year 7 students to look forward to.



Mr Hobley said about the 2010 visit, "I am extremely pleased with how the trip went. The students have enjoyed the activities undertaken and I am very grateful to all those members of staff that have given up their time to make the event a tremendous success. "

School productions

We are very lucky at Hinchingsbrooke to have active and inspiring Music and Drama Departments. We have several productions through the year offering opportunities for all students to experience the hard work and commitment needed to perform on stage as well as the emotions felt when performing in front of their peers and loved ones. We have fantastic facilities including a dance studio and the Performing Arts Centre, giving students a truly professional experience.

Ocean World

In 2011 the Music Department organised a whole year extravaganza called Ocean World for Year 7. This was the first time Hinchingsbrooke had organised such an event and it was hoped it would introduce the world of music and performing to a new audience and bring the whole year together; challenging them to work together and grow in confidence as they found their feet in their new school.



With dramatic, powerful and poignant songs "Ocean World" was an excellent vehicle to bring our young people in Year 7 together to experience the power and joy of being part of a massive choir. For some it was a challenge to understand that it is 'cool' to sing, for others a wonderful opportunity to sing all the time, and for those of us working with the 300 students, a real pleasure to watch them all grow in confidence and begin to understand the power of the human voice.



We were delighted that the performances went so well, getting better and better each evening.

The final words are with parents who wrote to us with their feedback:

"Ocean World not only sent out its ecological message but also the vision of 'music for all' including everyone, regardless of ability or background."

"There were some very talented and gutsy soloists, but the big choir came across as an equally powerful force, who was clearly motivated".

"The boys are under an immense amount of peer pressure to conform to their immature stereotype image of masculinity. I'm glad that my son had the opportunity to take part I know he enjoyed it. He sang his heart out and has been singing the songs absentmindedly around the house for weeks. The whole performance was very moving. The soloists brave and some very gifted".

"Thank you again, it's extra-curricular activities like this that make school memorable and part of character building. Well Done!"

IndepenDANCE

This year will be the third outing for our dance extravaganza "IndepenDANCE". It showcases work from all years, all abilities and both genders. There is a huge variety of dance genres and music - truly something for everyone. Last year over 140 dancers took part in the production and the dances on show were from extra-curricular clubs at school, work from lesson time and dance exam work from Key Stage 4. It was an all encompassing performance, which included many students who have never performed on stage before. Most importantly the production generates so much enthusiasm from the children - they grow in confidence as they work together rehearsing to deliver the best performance they can. The PE department has



received many parental compliments on the hard work and high energy levels generated by the students for the show. The Dance Department is led by Michelle Trewin, who - as an ex-student from Hinchingsbrooke herself - was keen to re-establish Dance Productions as a regular feature on the school calendar.

What role do clubs play in school life?

While clubs are not a new thing in most school programmes, studies into the benefits of participation have only recently been looked at. These studies are highlighting that the benefits are wide-ranging and include academic achievement, personal development and social integration. The important contribution they make to the development of our students was recognised by OFSTED last year when our extra-curricular provision was classified as "outstanding". Comments from their report include:

- "students make an outstanding contribution to school and community life"
- "they make the most of the many opportunities that are available to them, gaining maturity and broadening their horizons"
- "they develop well as individuals both socially and personally"
- "the many opportunities for them to take on leadership roles or get involved, help considerably in students' broader skill development".

Diary Dates



The Hinchingsbrooke School Association (HSA) committee members are volunteer parents, grandparents and carers of Hinchingsbrooke School children who raise funds for projects that will benefit the school's students. In addition, the Association arranges events to raise the awareness of the HSA members (all parents, guardians and carers of Hinchingsbrooke students are automatically HSA members) of the educational opportunities open to the students. One of these events focuses on extra-curricular opportunities and is open to all parents, new and existing. It will be held on **14th June 2012**.

Last year we ran **taster sessions** for Year 6 students prior to them starting Hinchingsbrooke in September. They were invited to come and join in a number of clubs with current Hinchingsbrooke students. This was a real success and parents and students alike, commented on how it helped the children acclimatise to the new surroundings and gain confidence in an informal setting. These sessions will be repeated this year and will run during the last half term of the school year. Letters will be sent to the primary schools for distribution in the **latter half of May** and these should be completed and returned to Hinchingsbrooke School by the end of May.

Once the new school year starts, club timetables will be distributed to all students and at the beginning of each term we will hold "Bell's Gone: What's On?" in the PAC during lunch break to allow students to come and find out about many of the clubs on offer. The dates for this event are:

- Friday 7th September 2012
- Wednesday 9th January 2013
- Wednesday 17th April 2013

If you have any further queries about our extra-curricular provision at Hinchingsbrooke, please contact Carole Olsen, the Extended Services Co-ordinator at eco@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk or 01480 420529 or go to the extra-curricular section of our website www.hinchingsbrooke.net

