



Hinchingsbrooke School

Inspiring excellence
Fulfilling potential



Inspiring excellence - Fulfilling potential

Hinchingsbrooke Herald Summer Term 2015

Key Dates –page 4
450th Anniversary News - page 5

School News

Lower School page 7
Middle School page 8
Upper School page 9

Directorate News

Creativity & Performance - page 11
Hunts Schools Sports Partnership - page 12
Enterprise & Enquiry-page 20
Global Citizenship - page 28
Spotlight on Clubs-page 38
Key Contact Information - page 39

Issue 6

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents

As another school year draws to a close and we all look forward to a well-deserved break, it has been a time for reflection within school, when we ask ourselves what has gone well and what still needs to improve. Much of the planning for next year has been done, certainly at whole school level, and the School development Plan for 2015-2016 has been written. There remains much detail to work through of course, and I anticipate that we will be just as busy next year as we have been this.

So what has changed? I suppose the overriding impression I have is that we are now more collective in our responses to a whole range of things, speaking more with one voice and more professional in our approach in several areas. The quest for consistency in everything we do remains a priority, but I feel that the school has moved a considerable distance along this particular road this year. By way of an example, I have just returned from a Fire Drill, which was pretty near perfect in its execution. I observed virtually all the staff playing their part and ensuring they help to uphold the standards that we expect of our students in this situation, in terms of silence and the appropriate attitude towards this essential practice. It was so very much better than the last time we had a practice. A member of staff happened to have a visitor in school at the time of the practice and she later sent me the following by email: *"When the Fire Drill was called, she accompanied me through the crowd of students down to the field where she expressed her delight at how well the whole school had been organised so quickly and quietly. In her parting words, she was 'totally impressed' with the behaviour of the school."*

I asked the staff recently what they thought had been the main successes this year and what improvements had made the most difference. I was very encouraged by the wide variety of things that they cited, from behaviour and the new uniform, to marking and

assessment. Staff say they have much more information now about teaching and learning and they have much more feedback and data about their marking and what the students say about their experiences. They appreciate that their own professional development has been much more tailored to their needs and requests, with bespoke workshops being arranged and opportunities for them to observe and learn from each other. Student leadership has grown this year too, both in depth and breadth. The School Council structures and the opportunities for students to be subject and/or House ambassadors, to join for example an Eco committee, or be involved in the appointments process for staff, are all welcome developments.

I was pleased to learn from the final parent forum of the year that you feel that communication has improved enormously and is now very good. Several examples of staff going out of their way to communicate quickly and efficiently and, on occasions, at all times of the day. You have also told us that the reports, which we changed after feedback from parents, are also now much better and certainly much more accurate.

The staff has worked extremely hard and very creatively in coping with the many changes that the school is having to deal with. The changes to GCSEs and A levels, the changes in assessment and reporting as a result of levels disappearing and the changes to the measures being used by the government to assess attainment and progress, have all created a huge workload. With the phasing in it means that staff will be having to use different systems for different year groups and it will be some years before all of these become fully embedded. In order to support this area of work the school has invested in something called "Doddle" so lookout for it this next year. It provides over 16,000 resources for staff to allocate to students for homework and assessments and a lot more besides.

Some of our staff will be moving on, either for personal reasons or, in many cases, because they have achieved promotion and we thank them all for their contributions to Hinchingsbrooke School and wish them well for the future. Whilst not wishing to diminish anyone else's contribution I feel I must single out Mrs Gill Miller who, since her appointment to Hinchingsbrooke as a Maths teacher in 1995, has become something of a legend, certainly amongst the Sixth Form. Mrs Miller quickly secured promotion through a post of responsibility in Maths, followed by the leadership of initial teacher training in the school, to become a Year 12 co-coordinator in 1998. The rest, as they say, is history. Countless generations of students, and for that matter staff, have benefitted from her kindness, professionalism and advice. I am delighted that, even though she is retiring from her post in the Sixth Form, she will be continuing part-time as a teacher of Maths. To all our leavers, we wish them well and thank them for their contribution to the school.

Once again we have been able to secure some high profile visitors to the school. For the Year 6 Sports festival the students were inspired by Lesley Owusu, the former British and European 600 yard record holder who registered the fastest time in history in 2001 and who later went on to take silver in the 4x400m relay at the Commonwealth games in 2002. Students found her inspirational.

The literary giant, author of 'Wolf Hall' and 'Bring up the bodies', and patron of our 450th celebrations, Hilary Mantel, came and gave a fascinating talk in Hinchingsbrooke House earlier in the year at our anniversary weekend.

Most recently, the Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House were able to secure Michael Wood, the TV historian, to come and talk about his work in bringing history alive. He based the talk around excerpts from three different series he made for television and gave us a tantalizing preview of the series on which he is currently working 'The story of China'.

The school has set up a new approach to keeping in touch with former staff and pupils and will be launching the 'HAA' (Hinchingsbrooke Alumni Association) which will incorporate the OHA (Old Huntingdonians Association) in October of this year.

Our 450th anniversary celebrations have all gone very well so far and the students' final PD day of the year was no exception. The morning was spent in lessons and assemblies learning about our heritage and wondering about the next 450 years. Lunch was a VE style (or Jubilee style) community affair with lines of trestle tables on the field. Quite a spectacle not to mention a feat of organisation. The team work and team spirit in evidence was heart-warming. Whilst I am sure the students would probably rather have had burgers than sandwiches, the sense of community and the traditional sports day games which followed hopefully made up for any disappointment.

The work on our new Sports Hall is progressing well and remains almost on schedule. We should be looking forward to its use from next February or March if progress continues as planned. We are hoping to have a significant visitor come and unveil a plaque to commemorate our 450th anniversary in October. This will eventually be located in the Sports Hall as this is a significant new building and amenity in our anniversary year.

So many other successful trips and events have taken place this year and this term that I cannot mention them all. Some are regular highlights – the Art and Design technology exhibitions, Glastonbrooke, Picnic at the House and the shows, both musical and dance shows.

All good signs of a lively and vibrant school. We feel we are ending the year on a high, having made significant progress in many areas. We will not be complacent on our return however, as there are further improvements still to be made. Before that journey begins again however, I very much hope that everyone - staff, students and parents - all have a restful and safe break. Thursday 3rd September is a staff training day, so term begins for year 7 and year 12 on Friday 4th and for everyone else on Monday 7th September.

Kind regards

Andrew Goulding

Principal

PS Cambridgeshire is one of the lowest funded authorities in the Country as I have reported in the past, and I am very pleased to say that our local MP, Jonathan Djanogly, is leading a campaign for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire Schools. **Please support this** by signing the petition which can be found at www.jonathandjanogly.com If you would like any further information about this campaign please contact the constituency office 01480 437840 or by emailing Jonathan directly at jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk

Key Dates

Term & Holiday Dates

Summer Term Closes – Wednesday 22 July

Staff Training Day – Thursday 3 September

Autumn Term Opens – Friday 4 September (Years 7 & 12)

Autumn Term Opens – Monday 7 September (All students)

Half Term – 26 October – 2 November (inclusive)

Staff Training Day – Monday 2 November

Autumn Term Closes – Friday 18 December

Spring Term Opens – Monday 4 January 2016

Parents' Evenings Autumn Term

Year 6 Information Evening – 6 October 2015

Year 7 Meet the Tutors Evening – 29 September 2015

Year 8&9 Internet Safety Evening – 24 September 2015

Year 9 Parents Evening – 10 December 2015

Year 10 KS4 Success Evening – 17 September 2015

Year 11 Targeted Success Evening – 20 October 2015

Year 12 Parents' Evening – 9 September 2015

Year 13 Parents' Evening – 10 November 2015

Parents' Evenings Spring Term

Year 8 Options' Evening – 23 February 2016

Year 8 Parents' Evening – 2 March 2016

Year 12 Parents' Evening – 13 January 2016

Year 11 Parents' Evening – 4 February 2016

Post 18 Options Evening – 3 March 2016

Parents' Evenings Summer Term

Year 6 Taster Evening – 6 July 2016

Year 7 – 28 April 2015

Year 10 – 28 June 2016

Parent Forums

Thursday 15 October 2015

Monday 14 December 2015

Thursday 11 February 2016

Wednesday 23 March 2016

Wednesday 25 May 2016

Thursday 14 July 2016

A great read about the school and local history



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

Contact: 01480-375700



450TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2015 - NEXT EVENT

FOUNDATION OF HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS
ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER 2015 AT 7PM IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

In 2015 Hinchingsbrooke School, previously Huntingdon Grammar School, has reached the landmark of 450 years of continuous existence in the town. In order to celebrate this anniversary, a programme of events are in place in this anniversary year. Over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May Hinchingsbrooke House was open to visitors. There were exhibitions of current students' art and design and technology work, as well as some wonderful sketches from a former pupil of our class of 1938/39 at Hinchingsbrooke. The student who was due to go to art college, but then went off to war as a pilot and was killed in action. His work was held by his teacher for many years and has only recently come to light and formed a major part of the exhibition at the weekend.

The Brampton Flower club also provided a stunning array of floral arrangements some of which were designed around artefacts from the different departments in school. For example the science arrangement reflected the glass flasks and scientific equipment it displayed, whilst cherubs from Hinchingsbrooke House garden were beautifully adorned with roses and a stunning floral arrangement. The PE department arrangement had a 1930s PE tunic as part of the display. Before the weekend, students representing different Houses in school took part in their own floristry competition. They were very enthusiastic and their wonderful creations were also on display at the weekend. The arrangers did a wonderful job and a silent auction raised some funds for the 450th celebration pot.



Sixth form students also provided tours of the historic Hinchingsbrooke House and served tea and cake at the end of the tours.

On Saturday evening Dame Hilary Mantel DBE, FRSL, who has twice been awarded the Booker Prize gave a gripping lecture in Hinchingsbrooke House. The House is the home of one of her characters, Richard Cromwell, nephew to Thomas, the central character of her novels. She said there was something magical about speaking in Hinchingsbrooke House on the 450th anniversary of Huntingdon Grammar School, May 2, 1565. Hilary Mantel is the patron for the 450th anniversary events. The evening was enjoyed by all and certainly helped to bring to life the characters of the books.

As part of the celebrations a revised and illustrated history of the school has been commissioned and is now available from Hinchingsbrooke School. If you would like to buy a copy please contact school on 01480-375700 or email communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Lower School Years 7 & 8

Head of Lower School - Mrs Tandy

It has been another exciting term for Lower School with a range of activities taking place. Sports Day was particularly thrilling and it was fantastic to see so many students doing their bit for their house despite the hot temperatures. Year 7s have also been engaged in an intervention programme where all students signed up for a range of sessions from expressing themselves through dance through to personal fitness and health. These sessions were very well received and the students liked having the opportunity to try out something a bit different.

The transition process for Year 6 has involved Year 7 students returning to their old primary school to speak to Year 6s about their experiences and to answer any questions the Year 6s have about life at Hinchingsbrooke.

Taster Days were a tremendous success and we are very excited about the new intake starting in September. As we gear up for Year 6 to move up to Hinchingsbrooke we have also been preparing our current Year 7s and 8s for next year also. As part of this process students have been meeting with their new Heads of Year and Student Support Officers to ensure a smooth start in September.



Year 6



As the end of term draws to a close I would personally like to thank all of the Lower School tutors and Lower School team for all their hard work and dedication this year. I would also like to thank the students for all of their many achievements, which I look forward to recognising in our forthcoming Celebration Assembly. I wish all of you a pleasant summer.

Middle School News

Year 9 - Mr Williams

Year 9 have had an intense term full of exciting new developments. At the forefront of everyone's mind was the final run before students officially started their GCSEs. The year group have selected their options and are now prepared for the beginning of a new journey once they return for the summer.

Year 9 have travelled far and wide with the school, having been to Belgium, Sicily and Malaga. On all occasions the year group acquitted themselves admirably and their behaviour and conduct was a credit to the school and themselves. All trips provided students with an opportunity to apply their learning in the classroom to varied and different locations and situations.

The year group now prepare for the excitement of the end of year celebration event. Prizes will be awarded in each subject for the most impressive student, as well as to the Top 10 achievers and progress makers in the year. The Harris foundation will also be awarding one boy and one girl who have achieved the most progress since the start of Year 7. It promises to be an exciting event, with parents attending as well as students and tutors.

Year 10 - Mr Milner

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students have certainly been kept busy over the last term. They began the term by preparing themselves for life at work. First they secured an interview with their prospective employer with a phone conversation. Something many students found to be the most daunting aspect of the whole work experience process. I must mention at this stage the tireless work of Mrs Tanton-Smith in organising the entire process, from setting up the placements, to auditing the employers and then placing the students. The Year 10 tutors also did a fantastic job encouraging, cajoling and in a few cases forcing students to contact their employers.

In the majority of cases, the interviews served to enhance the students' confidence and prepare them for the 2 weeks of work. So, Monday May 11th arrived and students trooped off to work, with smiles or possibly grimaces on their faces. For many this would be the first time they would experience the world of work and it was something which served to both terrify and excite them in equal measure. Mrs Tanton-Smith provided the staff with daily updates on the students' progress, something of a highlight for many. Often these accounts mixed gallows humour with genuine pride about the students' exploits.

Some examples of comments that were received from the varying employers included:

- ▶ proved to be an excellent member of the team
- ▶ has been hard-working and reliable,
- ▶ is enthusiastic and cheerful
- ▶ Confident and worked well
- ▶ good people skills
- ▶ the best work experience students the employer had ever had
- ▶ Always punctual and willing to help, a pleasure to work with

Comments from the students included:

- ▶ this experience has been amazing
- ▶ I wish I could do it all over again!
- ▶ I learnt a lot of valuable skills
- ▶ I think I gained punctuality skills
- ▶ I went out of my comfort zone and felt really good afterwards
- ▶ It's very different from being in a classroom; I'm realising that teachers put it on a plate at school, and at work you have to be a lot more resourceful

Overall the students conducted themselves very professionally and represented the school, the year group and most importantly themselves tremendously well. It would be unfair on both those students not mentioned and indeed those mentioned, for me to expand on specific cases, safe to say that all students had 'a work experience'.

Prefects

Upon the arrival of the students back at school following half term and having conquered the world of work, students began applying for the prestigious position of prefect. In total, we received a phenomenal 112 applications many of which were absolutely exceptional. This was to prove one of the most difficult selection processes for the panel of Mrs Woolhouse (Prefect Manager), Mrs Meadows (Year 10 Student Support Officer) and myself. The interviews took place on Monday June 15th and the students all did themselves proud. I am sure that for many this was equally, if not more, daunting than their work experience. The whole process reminded me (as if it were necessary) what fantastic people our students are. It really instilled a sense of hope that the future is very bright indeed with these young people forming the next generation for our country. As with any selection process there would be disappointment, but we hope that having this within the safe and supportive environment of school will act as a positive learning experience. My

congratulations again goes to the 30 students selected as prefects. I am confident they will leave a really positive legacy and contribute a huge amount to Hinchingsbrooke School.



Upper School News

Director - Mr Fordham

Sixth Form News

The Sixth Form Summer Ball happened on July 3rd. It was a glorious evening – in terms of weather, music, atmosphere, and the students looked stunning in their suits and gowns. The students and other guests arrived to the sound of the 17 piece swing band creating a sophisticated but fun and upbeat tone to the Ball opening, and most of the attendees wanted to spend a considerable length of time loitering in the majestic setting of the Gate House by the Apostles' Lawn whilst the photographer took highly stylised shots. Once inside the House the photo booth was hugely popular, the 'pick and mix' sweet bar provided a fair amount of energy for dancing in the marquee, whilst the Jazz band in the Inner Hall set a mature and slightly more mellow mood in the House. The House itself was a beautiful backdrop for the evening, enhanced by the balloons and flowers that the Summer Ball committee had artistically arranged themselves. There was croquet, giant Jenga, a coconut shy, and a casino. The teachers commented on how charming and warm the students were, and the students were even more effusive about what a pleasure it was to see the teachers in such a relaxed frame of mind. It really was a beautiful and memorable evening.



Some students from Hinchingsbrooke Sixth Form who went on to University have contacted us with their degree results. We would like to congratulate Marwan Hassan who achieved a first class honours in Economics from York, Joseph Diviney with a first class honours in History from Sheffield and Alistair Hannah with a 2:1 in History from Magdalene College, Cambridge.

One hundred and forty students (a considerable increase on 2014) from our Year 13 are already holding places at university for September – we wish them all the best for results day on 13th August! Our Year 12s have been to the UCAS fair at Anglia Ruskin University where all the higher education institutions in the country are invited to set up stalls and offer activities to explain to students what they offer. The students found the event a huge help in terms of getting guidance on their next steps after sixth form, and are now in the process either of writing Personal Statements in tutorial with a view to doing their UCAS application in the Autumn, or considering other options when they reach the end of Year 13.

At the other end of the learner's journey, we had an Induction Programme for our up and coming Year 12s. On Friday 10th July organised a 'Getting to know you' day where they had the opportunity to meet Sixth Form tutors, the Sixth Form management team, some Senior Students and other members of the new Year 12. The programme included tours of the House and grounds, a walk in the country park, afternoon tea with cake followed by activities in the grounds. The inflatable obstacle course did tend to excite many of the students, and teachers, the most.

Then on Monday 13th they had induction lessons in each of their subjects, giving them an opportunity to meet with subject teachers who introduced their courses and gave them some summer reading and transition work to ensure a confident start to their life in the Sixth Form in September.

Directorate of Performance and Creativity

Mr Cooke - Vice Principal

As the end of the school year has been rapidly approaching the buzz of activity has not been dwindling, in fact the complete opposite, it gets even busier! All the departments in the Performance and Creativity Directorate cram so much into the summer term that there is always something exciting happening.

The Hunts School Sports Partnership (HSSP) have organised a Sports Day for our feeder primary schools, which provides an excellent opportunity for our students to demonstrate and hone their talents as young Sports Leaders; as well as give a wonderful experience to many Year 6 children. Please read all about it in the report that follows. Thank you to Sue Ager and her team for the superb work that they do with a large number of primary schools in the local area. Hinchingsbrooke School are really grateful for all the leadership opportunities that are subsequently provided for our students, in addition to the strong bonds between our schools that are formed.

Our Sports Day proved to be a significant highlight of the summer term with many school records being broken. Over a thousand students took part over the course of the day and scores of 6th formers (House Ambassadors) worked hard to ensure that the competitors in their House had the maximum encouragement that could be mustered. A visiting PE teacher from another school was overheard commenting that he had never seen such an impressive School Sports Day event.

The events and activities have continued right through to the last full week of term. A short period of rain during Picnic in the House was not enough to deter the crowds from watching the continual show of dance and music pieces that the students have rehearsed so hard for. It was a great evening, as always, with so many students playing an active role. Then Glastonbrooke took place the following evening and enjoyed fine weather, which was in sharp contrast to last year. Again, it was great to see so many talented students take up the opportunity to perform to a large, but very appreciative, crowd. So please read the report that follows from Mrs Cooke (no relation to me).

Thank you to all the staff that give many hours to ensure that Hinchingsbrooke School provides a plethora of extra-curricular opportunities. I am also particularly appreciative of the hard work that Joe Howells (our Performing Arts Technician) puts in behind the scenes to ensure that the events we host are a real success and of high quality.

I hope you also enjoy reading about the Year 10 BTEC Dance students, the Year 7 & 8 netballers, as well as finding out this year's winners of the Victrix Ludorum and Victor Ludorum.

I wish you all a pleasant, safe and relaxing summer holiday.

Mr Cooke
Vice Principal

From Sue Ager (HSSP):



Hunts School Sports Partnership (SSP)

The summer has culminated with several Sainsbury's School Games sports festivals taking place across the Partnership. Pupils from year 3 to year 11 have taken part in a range of tournaments including tennis, quick sticks hockey, athletics, golf, table tennis, archery, rounders, inclusive multisports events and netball qualifying to represent Hunts in the in the Sainsbury's School Games County event.





Sports Leadership

It has been a busy term with students undertaking leadership roles in several sporting events. They made a real impact as role models to primary aged pupils and really embraced the opportunity. Leadership opportunities support students to develop key skills such as communication, organisation, working in a team, making decisions and taking responsibility.



Headteacher Quote: "I just wanted to say thank you so much for lending us your lovely Sports Leaders today. They were wonderful! So polite, courteous and helpful - a real credit to the school. It was lovely to see the way in which they supported the younger pupils, demonstrating techniques and encouraging them to show the sports values to which we all subscribe. Your sports leaders even acted as mentors to our Year 5 sports leaders; this means that we now have a team ready to help on our family learning afternoon"

In September we will be recruiting into our Leadership Academy where students will have the opportunity to access even more sport specific training courses. Contact us for more information.

Lesley Owusu, 400m Athletics World Masters Champion, visits year 6 sports festival and meets Hinchingsbrooke School young leaders. Lesley met students and told them that they had to strive to be the best they could be and rise above adversity.



Hunts SSP working with Primary & Special schools

Hunts SSP continues to thrive and work with 68 primary, secondary & special schools from across the Hunts area. Our subscription service and team of Physical Education specialists (teachers) supports schools to deliver Ofsted's expected outcomes for the Sport Premium funding that primary and special schools receive. Our service includes a wide range of training opportunities as well as collapsed events to support schools. This term, we have run several Sports Science events in schools using specialist equipment.

For more information about our range of services go to www.huntsssp.org

From Mrs M Trewin (Head of Dance):

Hinchingbrooke Year 10 BTEC students in RED CROSS MAKE YOUR MOVE



On Friday 29 June 2015, teacher of Dance, Michelle Trewin took our 2 BTEC year 10 classes to compete in this year's Red Cross 'Make You Move' dance competition.

The event was held at the University of Bedfordshire and the premise was to choreograph a dance piece based around the work of the Red Cross.

One first Hinchingbrooke piece was about the 2010 Haitian Earthquake disaster and the second piece was about the work the Red Cross does toward assisting mental health patients.

There were 10 other schools/dance troupes participating, with the overall winner going on to a regional final. This heat was won by 'Pink Academy' – a specialist dance training troupe, so we always had our work cut out. The two Hinchingbrooke troupes did amazingly well and went on to display their pieces at Picnic at the House.

Well done to the following students:

Piece 1: Emily Thompson, Lily Jones, Kyra Sharp, Charlie Bavester, Katie Buss, Harriet Powlson, Harriet De'ath Stevens, Danielle Cowell, Olivia Mercer, Olivia Drane, Molly Perkins, Georgia Whitfield



Piece 2: Ben Watson, Harriet Winterlich, Lauren Moore, Jasmine Thompson, Olivia Nye, Lucy Watts, Tyla Munday, Eloise Bell, Deanna McDonald, Izzy Reuter, Charlie Padgett, Jessica McAmley, Emily Morgan, Phoebe Knibbs, Caitlin Martin



From Mr J Turnbull (Head of PE)

Congratulations to:

Annie Smith – winner of Victrix Ludorum

Harry Edwards – winner of Victor Ludorum

Awarded for their contribution in Physical Education and Hinchingsbrooke School Sport, they join the former winners such as Hannah MacLeod, Darren Bent and Carla Humphrey.



Hinchingbrooke Year 8 Football tour 2015:

On Saturday 23rd May 2015 we all met at school at 5am and travelled on the minibus to Stansted Airport with our managers Mr Jago and Mr Hall.

Eventually we got through check in and security and boarded our plane to France, we looked smart in our new tour tracksuits provided by Brampton Park Golf Club. We arrived in Salon, a nice hotel with 6 to a room, sharing the facilities with our Twinning team from Hungary.



The next day we were ready for our 7.30am depart, driven by our chauffeur. We were playing at the Salon Stadium against the other Twinning teams from France...our nerves were building, luckily our captain Josh Batten gave us a good team talk.

Day one was over we had played 5 and lost one, were unlucky to lose that and put it down to poor continental refereeing. The evening was spent relaxing and pizza, early to bed ready for the next day.

7.30am we arrived at the stadium ready for the knockout stages, coaches Jago and Hall gave us all the confidence we needed and we got through the day undefeated, including an 8-0 battering of the French.

We played the home team Salon in the final in front of 3,000 local supporters. They were undefeated, but with our goal machine Laurence Hammond there was nothing to worry about, he banged in a hat-trick.

Player's player of the tournament: Josh Allan. Man of the tournament; Laurence Hammond.

We brought the Trophy back to Hinchingbrooke, victory was ours.



We would like to thank the Huntingdon Twinning Committee for the opportunity to travel to France and to Mr Jago and Mr Hall for giving up their half term.

Report by Josh Allan (Wylton)

Netball Academy - Liddington

On Friday 6 May at 1:30pm the year 7 & 8 netball academy left for a weekend trip to PGL Liddington in Swindon. The weekend was filled with fun adventure activities and exciting netball tournaments which resulted in great achievements and results. The weekend consisted of team building, conquering fears, working hard, having fun and learning a lot.

There were three teams including two year 7 and one year 8. All the teams did very well in the tournaments, the year 7 teams both came joint third and so did the year 8s, winning 8 out of 10 games and their best score being 17-1. All the teams got into the semi-finals and did their best throughout.



Not only did the academy do well in the

tournaments but

they also had great courage to conquer all the activities that they did including trapeze, giant zip wire, abseiling, climbing, giant swing and more. All these activities helped with team building in the squad. Hinchingsbrooke was also very proud to have one of their year 8 students, Melissa Magallanes, win the umpires award out of all the year 8s in the tournament. Not only did all the teams bring back medals but they also got given awards by the members of staff that went on the trip Miss Bloxham, Miss Crumpler and Mrs Stevens which we owe a big thank you to for making the trip possible, some awards were also voted for by the players.

Here are some quotes from the players that went on the trip 'I had an amazing time, I didn't really want to go home!', 'it was so good now I can't wait for next year', 'had the

best time ever!', and 'I loved every second of it!'

The trip was a great success and everyone had a great time, so bring on next year!



The Music Department have had another busy and highly successful term. Our GCSE and sixth form students worked hard in preparation for their final exams, including the completion of all their performances and compositions that is classed as coursework. The A Level Music Technology students put in hours of extra time in our recording studio perfecting their multi-track recordings. There were many examples of excellent work which really showed off the talent of our young musicians.

At the end of term the Music Department collaborated with the rest of the expressive arts to stage the annual Picnic at the House arts festival. Memorable performances from students from year 7 - 13 as soloists, bands and ensembles captivated our audiences. Naomi Longhurst, a year 13 leader, particularly shone by conducting the school orchestra and accompanying the ever-growing Hinchingsbrooke Community Choir.

The following evening the Music Department hosted the amazing and unique Glastonbrooke, which showcased the talents of various bands and acoustic acts. Mrs Nichols, Mr Howells and Calum Wotherspoon (year 12) organised the event which was very well attended by parents, staff and students alike. Congratulations to all of our super talented performers!

Mrs K Cooke

Directorate of Enterprise and Enquiry

Mr Walker -Vice Principal

This has been another busy term in the Directorate. In May each of our Year 10s took part in two weeks of work experience, with businesses across the globe and from an ever increasing range of employment sectors. As ever, this huge logistical challenge was very ably managed by Mrs Tanton-Smith and feedback from students was superb. The Maths and ICT teams have also been out and about – you can read about the Maths department's trip to Bletchley Park in the following pages, and the ICT team have been to Disneyland, the Gadget Show and to the 'Cam Jam' at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge. Thanks to Mrs Barrett and Mr Kilby for organising these events.

I write this on the day before the school will come together for our final Personal Development Day of the year. We are celebrating 450 years of education at Hinchingsbrooke School, and as part of the celebration this year, we are due to take time together as a whole school to reflect on the richness of our history and what it means (and has always meant) to be part of the Hinchingsbrooke community. Our 'Building Learning Power' prefects are once again providing excellent leadership for this event, and the whole thing is masterminded by Mr Winter and Miss Parker.

The recent solar eclipse meant that our Astronomy students were able to witness a key (and relatively rare) celestial phenomenon first hand, with the aid of their hand crafted eclipse viewers. Recent taster days and events for students currently in Year 5 and 6 have demonstrated very clearly how engaging and exciting the subjects are in Enterprise and Enquiry, and we look forward to welcoming a whole new cohort of students to the Directorate in September. I feel certain that every student will find something new and fascinating that they can really get their teeth into in this diverse learning environment.

I would like to thank everyone in the Directorate for their excellent work and support throughout this year.

Mr Walker ljw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk



It has been a busy term for the Computing department. Not only have we now completed exams and assessments, but we have hosted a wide range of extra-curricular events and activities.

We have implemented so much over the year with new topics now covered in Key stage 3 as well as new courses being run for the first time. In all year groups, students have not only been learning how to use the computer systems, but also how to develop their own programs. Students have been making their own computer games and developing computing solutions to real world scenarios.

Digital badges

This year we have launched a new digital badge system which we will expand to all areas of the department next term. We have awarded recognition badges to those students that have put in the extra effort into their studies or used their skills to help out in the Computing Department.

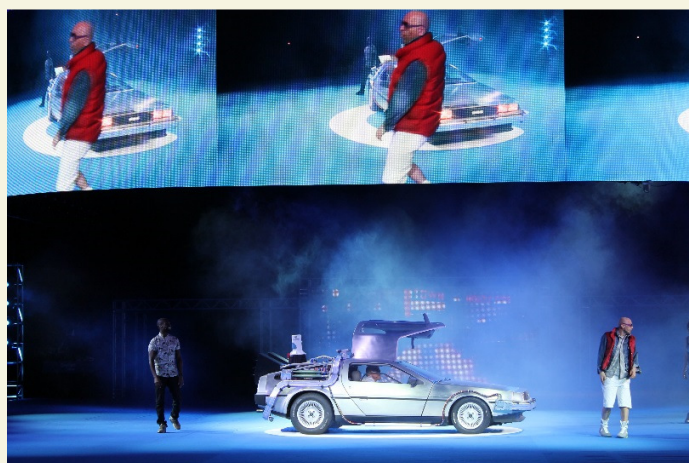
Recognition badge award winners: Jack Brown, Maciej Tomczak, Sebastian Billings, Lochlainn Partis-Marsh, Emilio Toca, Patrick Brayne, Joshua Gibson, Daniel Crooks, Mark Beckett, Zaak Fisher, Owen Heaton, Tyla Munday, Aaron Brighton, Bethany Hogg, Jacob O'Neill, Isabel Williams, Ollie Baxter, Kwame Asare Asiamah, Amy Brocklebank, Alex King, Alex White, Lauren Elmore, Corey Green, Rhona Wickson, Jacob Reynolds, Oliver Smith, Lilia Hodge, Philip Springer, Shalom Chinnappa, Kerryn Feehily, Vladislavs Nedaskovskis, Charlotte Pearce, Ansu Ajith, Andrew Clemens, Georgia Long, Thomas Smith, Elliott Stafford, Nick Watts, Paul Crouch, Ania Morrissey Verastegui, Elsa Paoluzi Cusani, Amy Gatward, Courtney Greer, William Pitts, Marcus Beatt, Taya Harding, Hayden Latore, Jamie Marshall, Craig Nyamarebvu, Amelia Oliver, Nathan Piper, Megan Walsh

We have also started to award our first extra-curricular awards with badges awarded for completing training and assessments (see below)

Gadget Show Live

We took a coach of students to the Gadget Show Live at the NEC Birmingham in the Easter holidays. The show was full to the brim of the latest gadgets in consumer technology. It brought to life the prime time Channel 5 TV show, Gadget Show Live gave students the chance to see, try and buy the very best in cutting edge technology.

All of the presenters were there and we attended a live show in the super theatre which contained many live performances and activities. We witnessed live music, movie special effects filming and got to see Jason Bradbury's new Delorean Back to the Future car.



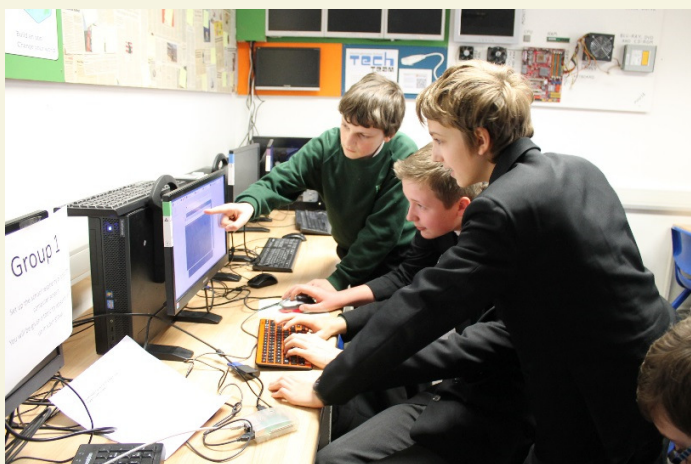
The rest of the show contained a range of stools and stands demonstrating new technology that our students were allowed to explore. Many enabled students to use the technology by playing computer games, trying out a Segway, riding a flight simulator, soldering a new gadget and even having a driving lesson in a real car.



Lots of the students came away with new toys and gifts and all enjoyed the day.

Raspberry Pi club

The Raspberry Pi club have been busy this term, building up their skills in installing and setting up the small Raspberry Pi computers. We have been learning how to program in Python, how to make music with Sonic Pi, how to program Minecraft, and how to control real-world objects like LEDs, Motors and switches with code.



Students have been working on a number of training programs and we have awarded our first digital badges.



Congratulations to Radoslaw Wojcik, Luca Ramoutar, Isabel Williams, Lauren Stewart, Harry Keates and Jacob O'Neill for completing their basic training assessments.

Cambridge Raspberry Jam & Centre of Computer history

We took 15 members of the Raspberry Pi club to the CamJam event in Cambridge. This event takes place at the Institute of astronomy in Cambridge and consists of a number of talks, stalls, demonstrations and workshops that are all based around the raspberry Pi.



It was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Raspberry Pi and to get some hands on experience looking at what can be done with the device, right near where it was originally developed.

Students enjoyed looking at the projects that other schools and individuals have developed with the Raspberry Pi. Many of the students came away with add-ons for their own Raspberry Pi

computer. The talks were interesting and demonstrated the different applications of the Raspberry Pi.

All of the students came away with ideas and are all keen to use what they have learnt at our Raspberry Pi clubs. We will definitely be going again and a huge thanks to the organisers for putting on the event.

After the CamJam event, we drove round to the Centre of Computer history in Cambridge. The Cambridge Centre for Computer History offers a wide range of interactive exhibits that the students can use that teach the history of computing, from old desktop computers to arcade game machines. Students are able to use and play on most of the exhibits and were playing games on old devices like the spectrum and Commodore 64. There were newer devices like the Oculus Rift, which gave students a glimpse of Virtual reality and how it is moving forward.



A great place to visit and students learnt a lot from the demonstrations and definitely a place to visit again.

Mathematics Department

July 2nd saw the inaugural Maths department trip to Bletchley Park, home of British codebreakers during World War II. 52 Year 9 students left Hinchingsbrooke on the uneventful journey to Milton Keynes. Why mention the journey? Keep reading...



The day started with a workshop on codes and ciphers. This included anecdotes about how the codebreakers of Bletchley, including the great Alan Turing, carried out their vital work. It is estimated that this work they did solving the German enigma encrypted codes shortened the war by two years. The students became codebreakers themselves, solving a variety of ciphers and codes. They were also able to actually have a go on an Enigma machine. These are valued at £200,000 and were well-guarded, but the experience sends a tingle down your spine, following in footsteps of the women and men who worked at Bletchley.



A short guided tour of the museum followed. The site has been greatly renovated in the last two years and there was an opportunity to visit the mansion, the huts where the majority of the work was done, the Polish Memorial and some of the recreation facilities that were there. The mansion now houses an exhibition based on the film *"The Imitation Game"* starring the rather wonderful Benedict Cumberbatch!! Again, the guide told many interesting stories of events which took place and the people who worked there.



After lunch there was time for the students to explore the site further on their own. They were able to see the exhibitions and interactive resources in the huts including more mathematical problem solving. I noticed a massive increase in visitor numbers this year and this is testament to how important publicity generated by a film or other source is for such an important, but smaller, historical site and how the revenue generated is used to improve the overall experience.

The return journey started well and we were making good time until the coach ran out of steam at the Black Cat roundabout!! The students' behaviour was impeccable as we were joined by a friendly pair of police officers and lined up to the honking of horns along the embankment in the sunshine. But fear not, we were about to be rescued by a replacement coach until we realised that it was too small!!! Even mathematicians can't make 56 go into 54, but the problem was solved when Mr Bennett and Mrs Barratt waved the coach off and recreated the Cadbury's Flake Advert as they waded through a field of wheat to await their rescue by Mrs Reed in her trusty wagon!

Gene Technology in A-Level Biology

During the summer term our year 12 Biology students embarked on a rare opportunity to use high quality, industry standard gene technology equipment. This has supported them in developing the skills and knowledge not only to pass A-Level exams but also to use in the world of molecular research. Here are the thoughts of two of our students: Melissa and James.

Miss Z Patrick

For part of the OCR Biology A2 syllabus, the final weeks of year 12 have been spent learning about genomes and gene technologies. We have looked at Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), the Human Genome Project and the possibilities and ethical debates surrounding the manipulation of genes. However, in my opinion, the most interesting area we have looked at has been the genetic engineering. While the science and potential applications of this are interesting on their own, the real attraction lies in the opportunity we have to experiment with the process and have a go at inserting genes into bacteria ourselves.

Founded in 1980, Amgen is an American multinational biopharmaceutical company. As of 2011, a subsection of Amgen has been offering schools in our area the chance to use research-grade equipment and supplies, so that we are able to learn, via practical methods, about the processes used in genetic engineering.

The Amgen Biotech Experience has distribution sites in Cambridge University, Brunel University and Norwich. They also work in Ireland and Puerto Rico, as well as across the United States. This has allowed them to provide equipment to be used by around 60,000 students per year.¹

Karen Stephens, the Course leader for the Amgen Biotech Experience, says that "The Amgen Biotech Experience is an amazing opportunity for students to participate in hands-on molecular genetics – it is a model for successful interaction between a company and educational establishments, and for sharing valuable resources and subject and career information between schools."²

Through this program, we have been provided with the equipment needed to take the gene, rfp, responsible for fluorescence in a type of sea anemone, place this inside a plasmid (a circular molecule of DNA), and use the plasmid to 'upload' the gene into E. coli bacteria.

While the product of this is not particularly useful, the ability to do so does have applications. Remaining with the fluorescent theme, researchers in Japan used a gene for green fluorescence, gfp, in jellyfish and inserted it into mice. This allowed the researchers to study development of foetal mice while still within the dark of the womb. They also noted the potential for the use of fluorescent genes in cancer research to allow for the tracking and studying of tumours.³

¹ <https://www.amgenbiotechexperience.com/about>

² http://www.amgen.co.uk/Cambridge_School_Brings_Nobel.html

³ <http://discovermagazine.com/1997/dec/glowinggreenrode1307>

While the use of expensive pipettes and micro-centrifuges makes the experience fun, the real benefit lies in the up to date information and techniques that don't leave you wondering what improvements have been made since the renaissance.

Melissa Diviney

20 years ago the majority of forensics used to today would be unfeasible, if not impossible. PCR (polymerase chain reaction) would not have existed to copy DNA fragments, creating sufficient evidence in court, or be used medically for disease diagnosis. We would also not be able to use the recombination of genes in which bacteria have specific genes inserted into them. This process allows us to edit nutrient levels in crops, make insulin and enables us – or more specifically HBK Biology students to make bacteria florescent! It was thanks to Amgen that we were provided with such equipment to do so.

Amgen aid human drug development and run programmes lending equipment to schools with the aim of inspiring "biotechnology entrepreneurialism and innovation." The equipment including pipettes, vortexes and centrifuges are rival to those used in universities and research labs.

A recent experiment that we completed used a high class process called Gel Electrophoresis. DNA was firstly pipetted into an agarose gel, the gel (which luckily we didn't drop) was then added to the tank with an electric current passed through it. The negatively charged DNA flowed through the gel to the positive end. This separated the DNA as larger fragments were unable to move as far through the gel. The UV machine then showed us where each sort of DNA moved, hence it could be identified.

It is important that we consider how the procedure is useful in the world of Biology. In the case of Gel Electrophoresis, matching DNA fragments (DNA fingerprinting) provides evidence for many cases in the court of law. It has also created advances in phylogeny, the study of evolutionary history, to see how closely related species are. Overall the Amgen experience has been massively beneficial in giving students insight into biological procedures and helping academically for our A-Level exams where knowledge of gene technologies is essential.

James Armstrong



Image 1: Results of gel electrophoresis



Image 2: Pipetting in action

Numeracy and Literacy Summer School Intervention Programme 2015

This year at Hinchingsbrooke School we have developed an exciting intervention programme to support the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September, in order to raise achievement, confidence and enjoyment in numeracy and literacy.

Our mission at Hinchingsbrooke is to inspire excellence and to enable every student to fulfil their potential. This programme was based on these core principles. Research has shown that improved numeracy and literacy skills will **raise attainment** across all curriculum subjects which will lead to more **engaged and successful pupils**. This will of course impact on the pathways which will be open to our students later on in life.

Twenty of our future students and their parents from our feeder primary schools joined us on **the 4th June in Hinchingsbrooke House Library** for an information and launch event explaining this programme.

All twenty students enthusiastically signed up to this exciting initiative looking forward to improving their numeracy and literacy skills with themes and topics that they would not have come across in their primary schools.

Spread out over six days over the last six weeks of the school year the students discovered how to climb Mount Everest, how to survive like Bear Grylls and also how to design their own 'space invaders' from the original arcade game.

The programme was designed to be conceptual and involve a range of kinaesthetic activities. We also used our own Numeracy and Literacy Ambassadors to offer our students valuable leadership opportunities.

The feedback and response was incredible and we will be consulting with our feeder primary schools to make this a permanent event on our school calendar and to have an even greater impact in years to come.

At Hinchingsbrooke School:

"We want every student at Hinchingsbrooke School to reach a level of Numeracy and Literacy that allows them to follow the career or further educational pathway of their choice when they leave. The level of Numeracy and Literacy they obtain must enable them to realise their full potential in their personal and social life too."

"We want it to be unacceptable for poor Numeracy and Literacy to hold back individuals at any point in their life both at school and beyond."



Directorate of Global Citizenship -

Miss Nightingale

As the year comes to a close I am able to look back over what has been a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable year in the Global Citizenship Directorate. In the last term we have had numerous local, national and international trips ranging from Hunstanton to Malaga. A huge thank you from me to the staff for giving up their time (and undoubtedly sleep, their holidays and quite possibly their sanity!) to ensure that these fantastic opportunities are extended to the students. A thank you also to the students themselves for never letting the school down and for making us proud when we take them beyond the school gates.

We, in the Global Citizenship Directorate, will be saying goodbye to a number of valued teaching staff in July. These include Mrs Page, Mrs Eddlestone, Mrs Ousely, Mr Watson, Mrs Janjevak and Mrs Sheppard. Some are moving on to well-deserved promotions and others to equally well deserved retirement. We wish them all the best in their new adventures, whatever these may be. We are also saying farewell to Mrs Ogbechie – although just for a year while she takes maternity leave – I hope she manages to get lots of sleep before the arrival of the baby. We have a range of fantastic new staff joining us in September, and I look forward to welcoming them into our directorate and the exciting times that lay ahead.

It has been a hectic year in which there have been a myriad of highlights. There have been major steps forward in Literacy – first under the care of Mr Chambers, then Mrs Page and Miss Spikesley. Every student in Years 7-10 (and even the new Year 7 for next year) have completed a reading test, which will then help all staff meet needs. In addition we have now set up a range of interventions to help students who have reading needs. These interventions are bespoke, meeting the individual needs of each student. We have also had 20 students from our feeder primary schools in every week during the last half term completing a Literacy and Numeracy programme. They have taken part in a range of kinaesthetic days such as Bear Grylls Survival and Climbing the Himalayas to improve their basic skills.

There has also been a continuing focus on teaching and learning in the form of both improving the marking of work and in terms of ensuring that all lessons meet the needs of our learners. This will be an ongoing focus, but one which is already starting to pay dividends.

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

Finally I would like to say a personal thank you to all of you for your continuing support. Together we can make a difference. I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday when it finally arrives.

Hinchingbrooke Debating Society



“Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument”

Having honed their oratory skills over the past two terms, the year ten debating team finally got the chance to showcase their skills by performing in front of years 7, 8, 9. Our task was to model a formal Parliamentary debate and the Auditorium was transformed for one afternoon into the House of Commons complete with Chairman, two key speakers and one summater from each team; the remaining members of the team supported as backbenchers. Students commanded the floor to discuss topical motions such as *This House Would remove welfare payments from drug addicts* and *This House Would enforce life bans for sports people convicted of racist abuse*; all motions that have been explored by MPs over recent months.

Twenty two members of the society took it in turns to assume various roles ensuring a lively (and sometimes heated!) debate. We were also impressed by contributions from ‘the floor’ as many members of our audience offered points of information to challenge our ‘MPs’ on their policies. The debate concluded with our Presiding officer putting the motion to vote, and, in true Parliamentary fashion, the audience decided whether the motion should be passed.

We hope that this will be the start of many more debates and that the audience enjoyed the experience as much as we did!

Sarah Spikeley



Scorching Sports Day



1st July 2015 - HBK TV Reporters

Hinchingsbrooke's annual sports day began today in spectacular fashion this morning, with Year 7, 8 and 9 competing. With temperatures starting this morning at a sunny 25 degrees c, students are being encouraged to keep hydrated and to use the shade-offering gazebos for extra relief. However, these glorious temperatures did not affect the enthusiasm of Hinchingsbrooke's brilliant students. In the first event, Year 8 girls' hurdles Emily Saul came first representing Montagu House.

As the morning progressed, students participated in the 1500m with House leaders and 6th Formers running alongside the students to offer encouragement. In the Year 8 boys' hurdles events, Jamie Franklin won, with Dan Nash and Tom King-Venables in joint second.

The medals kept on coming for students from across the houses, in the 800m race for Year 7 girls: in 1st place was Havana Miller for Cromwell, in 2nd places was Mia Leech for Montagu and in 3rd place was Martyna Bas representing Wylton. Our researchers went out to talk to staff.

Ms Andrews commented "It's a fantastic day, plenty of sunshine and everyone is enjoying themselves and there is so much team work!"

With temperatures expected to peak at a scorching 32 degrees c, this afternoon, we hope the students' enthusiasm continues!



Year 8 girls competing in the hurdles race.

The final event of the morning was the 4 X 100m, which was eagerly anticipated by spectators.

By 12.15pm all Lower School events had finished and students had certainly represented themselves, and their Houses, very well. It was now left to Middle School to take over.

The first results of the afternoon were in the hurdles for Year 9 girls; Caitlin Jarman, Yasmine Skinner and Francesca Moore came 1st – 3rd respectively. This was closely followed by the Year 10 girls' hurdles; Josephine Llanaez, Holly Lawman and Hazel Petch (1st – 3rd). Also in Year 10, Poppy Leech, Demi Fox and Alice Maylor received medals for the 300m (1st – 3rd) with Poppy achieving a speedy 54.16 seconds.

In Year 9, shot put podium winners were James Dean, Ethan Rushton and Jacob Parker.

The final result of the day were as follows (Lower School:)

Place	House
1 st	Montagu
2 nd	Vesey
3 rd	Wylton
4 th	Cromwell
5 th	Pepys



James Dean (1st), Ethan Rushton (2nd) and Jacob Parker(3rd) accepting their medals for Year 9 boys' shot put.

Middle School results:

Place	House
1 st	Vesey
2 nd	Pepys
3 rd	Montagu
4 th	Cromwell
5 th	N/A No Wylton in Year10

Hinchingbrooke School truly offers a spectacular setting for Sports Day. With a range of sporting facilities and pitches, a huge number of events are able to take place at any one time. This year, the school celebrates its 450th anniversary and our students today have truly made memories to add to our school's incredible history.

Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival: Awards Ceremony 2015

This event took place at the Huntingdon Cineworld in the deluxe auditorium on Friday 26th June and offered our students the opportunity to watch their films on the big screen. There was stiff competition coming from St Ivo and Sawtry but Hinchingbrooke had some unexpected wins: due to an administrative error, our students managed to come first and third in the **KS4 films** category, which was a surprise for our **KS5** students!



Winners: 282 filmmakers Sabrina Hunt (left) and Kristine Flores.

Still, the two plaques are nice and we have been promised corrected ones that state Year 12. The sixth formers also loved playing year 11 for a morning. Hinchingbrooke's winner was the psychological thriller **282** with the nightmarish **Trapped** coming a respectable third. The winning films and other school productions shown at the event can be accessed at http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.co.uk/FilmStudies/Student_Films.html or <http://filmstarz.mediacore.tv/library/2015-secondary-submissions>. Be warned though, the ceremony compare Simon Leher, suggested that the films were so scary that the entire audience

had 'done a small wee' during the screening. The overall winner was a psychedelic entry from Spring Common Special School called *Green Death*.



Trapped film crew Emma Cole, Ashton Matthews and Josh Craig with Simon Leher, who may have just 'done a small wee'.

Winner: 282 by Sabrina Hunt, Kristine Flores and Hannah Brace

The judges particularly praised the film for its 'clever and tight script', editing, soundtrack and performance: "the ending was superb. Really, really good... Intelligent filmmaking."

Third: *Trapped* by Josh Craig, Ashton Matthews and Emma Cole

This was judged to be innovative in its use of cinematography and lighting, with a bold edit in a 360° shot and "very good sense of atmosphere"

Other Hinchingsbrooke Films screened at the awards

Ferrari: A brisk, comic fantasy praised by the judges for its cinematography and "fine acting".

Procrastination Poltergeist: a ghostly possession crammed with ideas and "clever, fast editing".

Deadly Reflection: a revenge story praised for a "stupendously gory murder at the end".

Numeracy and Literacy Summer School Intervention Programme 2015

This year Hinchingsbrooke School has developed an exciting intervention programme to support the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September, in order to raise achievement, confidence and enjoyment in numeracy and literacy.

Our mission at Hinchingsbrooke is to inspire excellence and to enable every student to fulfil their potential. This programme was based on these core principles. Research has shown that improved numeracy and literacy skills will **raise attainment** across all curriculum subjects which will lead to more **engaged and successful pupils**. This will of course impact on the pathways which will be open to our students later on in life.

Twenty of our future students and their parents from our feeder primary schools joined us on **the 4th June in Hinchingsbrooke House Library** for an information and launch event explaining this programme.

All twenty students excitedly signed up to this exciting initiative looking forward to improving their numeracy and literacy skills with themes and topics that they would not have come across in their primary schools.

Spread out over six days over the last six weeks of the school year the students discovered amongst a few things how to climb Mount Everest, how to survive like Bear Grylls and also how to design their own 'space invaders' from the original arcade game.

As you can see from the above the school used lots of conceptual Numeracy and Literacy through the use of kinaesthetic activities. We also used our own Numeracy and Literacy Ambassadors which gave our students valuable leadership opportunities.

The feedback and response was incredible and we will be consulting with our feeder primary schools to make this a permanent event on our school calendar and to have an even greater impact next year.

At Hinchingsbrooke School:

"We want every student at Hinchingsbrooke School to reach a level of Numeracy and Literacy that allows them to follow the career or further educational pathway of their choice when they leave. The level of Numeracy and Literacy they obtain must enable them to realise their full potential in their personal and social life too."

"We want it to be unacceptable for poor Numeracy and Literacy to hold back individuals at any point in their life both at school and after school."



Geography Sicily Trip (Year 9)



Below is an account of the Sicily trip from two of the students...

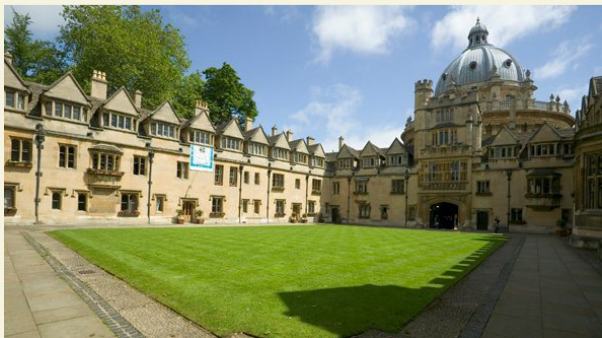
We arrived midday on the Sunday and were greet by our guide Nicola. She showed us around the town of Taormina which has an impressive theatre with a stunning view of the coastline. We then travelled to the hotel and went down to the beach for a dip in the sea. The next day we went to Mount Etna. To travel up the volcano we took a cable car and then got a ride in a 4 x 4 jeep. It was pretty cold as we were so high up but the view was absolutely incredible. On the third day we woke up early to catch the ferry to the Aeolian Islands. We first travelled to Lipari; the sea water was so clear you could see the bottom! After we toured the first islands we travelled over to Volcano, a smaller island not far from Lipari.. Here we visited the black sand beach; the sand was so hot that it burnt our feet however, the water soon cooled them down. We then walked to the main attraction, the mud baths. They were very relaxing but smelt like rotten egg! The weather was boiling but we cooled off with some tasty gelato before getting back on the ferry to return to Sicily. On the last day we visited Alcantara Gorge which was formed when water rapidly cooled lava flowing from Mt Etna. This created some amazing basalt columns and we had fun splashing around the freezing river. Overall it was an amazing trip and we wish we could go back!

Marcus Read and James Hamilton

Sixth Form Trip to Oxford University

On 26th June potential Oxbridge applicants visited Oxford University to see what it could hold for them. The day began with a sample seminar on 'How have humans developed?' in which students were asked to use evidence to theorise about the evolutionary process. This was followed by a tour of Brasenose College conducted by current students, exploring the accommodation and other facilities on offer. Shortly after this our students met an ex-Hinchingbrooke student, Lucy Gaughan, who is now reading History at Magdalene College. Lucy answered questions and showed students around her college which was bustling with activity due to preparations for their Summer Ball. Following lunch in the Great Hall at Brasenose students explored the city and a range of colleges and facilities.

Mr T Wheeley



Old Court, Brasenose College, Oxford

Social Science

In March this year 25 of our year 12 students attended a Brain Day in Hinchingsbrooke sixth Form. They were selected on the basis of their application to us as to why they should attend, from biology and psychology classes. It was an extremely interesting and thought provoking day, given by Dr Guy Sutton who is a mesmeric speaker due to his vast knowledge, experience and enthusiasm.

This was a One-Day Tutorial in Forensic Psychology & Psychopathology, which included offender profiling, dissection of a sheep's brain and the issue of depression in today's society amongst other topics. Guy Sutton's primary areas of interest are the genetics of neurodevelopment and neuropathology and the interactive nature of genetic, biological and behavioural factors in chronic disease processes.

In addition to his role as Director of MBI, he is Honorary Lecturer at the University of Nottingham Medical School, where he contributes to teaching medical students at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Previous academic appointments have been held at Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan and Cambridge Universities.

He has been a visiting researcher to universities in the United States and has conducted research projects and data analysis for various organisations, including the Department of Health and the Medical Research Council. He has presented research findings at international conferences and talked about the theoretical and clinical aspects of his research on television and radio.

Dr Sutton has several years' experience in public and private sector work and is an associate tutor for a number of educational trusts and organisations, including Villiers Park Educational Trust, Cambridge. He has developed courses and modules for the National Academy of Gifted & Talented Youth and the Global University Alliance.

Students were totally engaged throughout the day and waited to speak to Guy after each session. It was an inspirational day.





Are you a past Hinchingsbrooke Student? Then why not sign up on our growing Alumni network? This enables past students to just keep in touch and/or offer their time, experience, expertise and involvement, for the benefit of current students. You could offer extremely relevant and up to date careers and progression insights, as well as provide other opportunities to benefit the school; for example acting as sponsors or student mentors. We would love to hear from you!

Anyone wanting to learn more about 'Future First' should go to the following home page link: <http://futurefirst.org.uk/> Better still, if you are, or know of, a past Hinchingsbrooke student who would like to give something back to their old school (and more importantly, its students), please 'sign up' via the following link: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-search> . Alternatively, go to the Hinchingsbrooke School's web site, and use the link to do so at the top of the home page.

Educational Visits and Extra-Curricular Activities.

As the summer term draws to a close and we take a look back over the last year, it is safe to say that it has been a great year for educational visits and extracurricular activities at Hinchingsbrooke School.

We have seen over 30 clubs on offer each week, covering areas as varied as Model-making, Egyptian Dance, Raspberry Pi and Pop Choir to name but a few! Our Raspberry Pi club, new to HBK at the end of the autumn term, is now very well established, helped by a donation of Raspberry Pi computers from a member of the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Club members have attended a Raspberry Pi Jamboree (CamJam) event at the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy where they met like-minded people and developed their programming skills.



On July 9th, members of our HBK Rhythms of Egypt club attended the Music for Youth National festival in Birmingham. The Festival is a massive celebration of youth music-making, bringing together young musicians from across the UK to perform in some of Birmingham's top venues. Mrs Hall, a parent who heads up the club for us said, "We had a fab day at music for youth. The children were all amazing! We were awarded the top prize for our session of best technique and playing and the judges were especially impressed with the percussion." Well done to those students who took part.

Next year we are very excited to launch a new Zumba club. Zumba is a fun and effective dance based club, using interval training combining fast and slow rhythms for an effective workout. Students will forget that they are exercising with the simple moves to dance music. Best of all you don't need any previous dance experience! Miss Andrews from the History department will be



leading the club and will be available at our Bells gone: What's on? event for students to come along and sign up.

Club leaders are available for students to find out more information and sign up to the clubs they would like to try out in the first term. The event is always well attended, is open to all year groups and is an opportunity for students to see teachers in a less formal situation. Club leaders also promote their clubs in lessons and are usually available at break and lunch times to answer any queries or students can just call in to see Miss Bloxham in the Pepys Building.

The extra-curricular club timetable for the autumn term will be published to all parents and students in the first full week of term in September. It will also be displayed in form rooms and available at www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/Timetable

Hinchingbrooke Herald Summer Term 2015

Hinchingbrooke School
Brampton Road
Huntingdon
PE29 3BN
01480 375700
www.hinchingbrookeschool.net

Please send any comments or enquiries to:-

Communications @ HBK
communications@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Lower School administrator -

Year 7 Student Support Officer

Year 8 Student Support Officer -

lowerschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk Tel: 01480 420522 (All)

Middle School Administrator

middleschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk Tel: 01480 420506

Year 9 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5827

Year 10 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext.5826

Year 11 Student Support Officer - Tel: 01480 375700 ext. 5205

Upper School Administrator

upperschool@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk Tel: 01480 420539

For details of contacts in school please follow the link below:-

<http://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/contactus/?pid=2>