

# Hockerill News

Issue 12, Summer Term 2008



## News from the Principal



My final newsletter piece as Principal!

I have had a fabulous career in education. I genuinely stumbled into it when my PhD grant ran out and I suddenly had to find a source of income. I have loved every job I have had but this has unquestionably been the best. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to lead Hockerill through such an exciting period and

thank my two Chairs of Governors Gary Griffiths and Carole Pluckrose-Oliver for having faith in me and providing the opportunity. I thank staff, parents, students, governors, patrons and friends for all their support and encouragement, both personally and for "our project". And last and most importantly my wife - you can't do an all-consuming job like this without the sort of understanding and unconditional support she has always provided for me.

The staff, students and network here are now stronger than ever and you have an experienced, talented and like-minded new Principal at the helm for the next phase of the College's development. I am sure Hockerill's future will be ever brighter and ever more successful.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank staff, parents, governors and friends of the College for their extraordinary generosity with my leaving gifts. Very many thanks to all those who have taken the time to write to me - whilst I have managed to control the very powerful emotional surge associated with my retirement I came closest to tears when a Year 7 girl gave me a hand written letter of thanks as I came out of the staff room after our final staff briefing. At times like that you are reminded precisely why you chose to make teaching your career!

I would like to sign off with a short poem:

### *Dreams*

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

*Langston Hughes*

As you all prepare to go away for your summer holidays, spare a thought for all those whose holiday won't be as relaxing. Yes I'm thinking about all those shell-shocked students who have just finished their public examinations. It's going to be a long hot summer for them too; but will they be smiling when the results come through?

We try to pretend there is no pressure but with the track record being so impressive at Hockerill, will the class of '08 match up to the best of the previous years' results?

Only time will tell, so keep an eye on the press in early July (IB results) and mid August (GCE and GCSE results) to see how those care-worn Hockerill students have done.

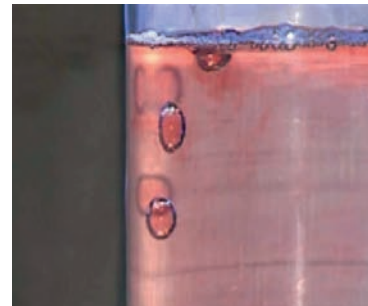
**G Roberts**

## Year 12 Cross Curricular week

Cross curricular week began with the group 4 science project, we were given a highly complex scientific area to investigate in our group and to obtain some conclusions, and the topic was ...bubbles. Creating the longest lasting bubble, highest bouncing bubble, anti-bubbles and our speciality cappuccino foam - to name a few of our tasks. It was an opportunity for people who weren't confident in leadership or scientific roles to practice their leadership and presentation skills in a scientific environment.

The Group 4 presentations took place on Wednesday afternoon.

It's amazing what you can do with bubbles!



An action packed talk by Ross Renton from the University of Hertfordshire, on University applications and preparing us for the dreaded summary of our life on UCAS online took place on Thursday. Here we are expected to blow our own trumpet, yet be modest, and boast our academic and extra-curricular skills conveying ourselves as perfect. (which of course we had no trouble with).

Mrs. Chalmers managed to save the best until last, by giving us a really informative and helpful talk on our Extended Essay on Friday. She showed us the tricks of the trade when it came to writing mammoth essays, with a bibliography of at least seventeen references and forty hours of writing up being the expected requirement. We hope all the myths about the Extended Essay being character building are true, otherwise... there goes the summer of our lives.

Over all, we all feel Cross Curricular week was a relaxed way of beginning to deal with the multitude of decisions we are about to face.

**Mimi Plange and Tanya Cubric Year12**

## Extra-Curricular Science

In May a group of year 8 students represented Hockerill in the Salters Chemistry competition. We arrived at the University of Greenwich in Chatham with about 30 seconds to spare, courtesy of road works at various places. The students were given two tasks. In the morning they acted as forensic scientists linking powders found at the scene of a crime with those found on the suspects. In the afternoon they got really messy making bouncing putty balls, but lost in the 'bounce off'. Many thanks to Alex Babb, Hannah Keddie, Ed Rowbottom and Bethany Brookhouse, and to Mrs Dee for accompanying us. During the Summer holidays Iain Hayden from year 12 will be working at GlaxoSmithKline in Harlow. He was lucky enough to be picked for the Nuffield Bursary scheme, which offers work placements of about four weeks to potential science students. He will be writing about his experiences in the September newsletter.

**S Chalmers**



## Speech Day

The sun shone, elegantly dressed guests and VIPs, including past Heads, the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford and the Rwandan and Bulgarian ambassadors, filled the Marquee on Thames lawn for Dr Guthrie's last Speech Day. Chair of Governors Carole Pluckrose Oliver reflected on Dr Guthrie's past 12 years as Principal. Dr Guthrie spoke of the last academic year and his feelings as he retired and received a 3 minute standing ovation from the audience. Following a moving rendition of Faure's Pavane from the Choir (with the words specially adapted by Mr Ullmann and Miss Mestre), the guest of honour Helen Bamber OBE was introduced by head boy, Konrad Laker, and gave an emotional speech and commented on the "magic" she felt in the Marquee that day. After prize-giving from Helen Bamber and the presentation to IB Graduands from Sir John Sorrell, Head Girl Constanze Benecke thanked Helen Bamber.

After thanks and farewells the morning was rounded off with two beautiful songs from the Hockerill Choir *Friends will be Friends* and *Proud*. A morning to remember by all those present.



## Hampers and Champers

A fitting end to a great year. Following an emotional speech day, guests had a chance to relax and let their hair down at Hampers and Champers. Our fabulous musicians put on a wonderful set of hits. The audience showed their appreciation by dancing and singing along, and helped to raise money for the College at the same time. The final figure is not yet available but this event will have raised between £6000 and £7000 for the Development Fund. Many, many thanks to all those who supported us



## Work Related Learning

The Careers Department organise a work related learning two day event during cross curricular week. The positive feedback from the students each year, and this was no exception, make the huge amount of work that goes into organising it, worthwhile.

Students take part in very realistic 'mock' interviews with external interviewers from very diverse backgrounds. In advance of the day they had already completed a CV which had been critiqued by our Link Governor. In the 'Be-Real' game students are allocated a role and job and then have to complete a series of tasks including budgeting. This experience combines well with the Soul Traders Enterprise Workshops, led very successfully again by Michael Martin to give our students skills, such as financial planning, which they can use throughout the rest of their lives. Mr Hemsley-Smith from our CCF organised command task sessions to improve team building and leadership on Thames lawn which were very well received. Two Connexions advisors spoke to students about their future educational choices and also demonstrated relevant websites. We know from student feedback that all involved gained a great deal from the two days. We would like to express our very grateful thanks to those who gave of their time to come and assist us:- A large number of parents and a grandparent; Sean Dixon & Karen Cameron from FedEx; Amanda Root from World Duty Free, Stansted who sent several of her managers for the 5th year running. Mrs Rachel Lawson our link governor and all staff who helped the days run well.

**P Hopkins & B Shellard**

# Geography Fieldwork.

During June this year, Year 12 and Year 10 Geographers took part in fieldwork. Year 12 students visited France and Year 10 travelled to the Jurassic Coast of Dorset, a particularly attractive part of the English coastline that is now a World Heritage site. Despite the weather being less than perfect, both groups very much enjoyed the trips and, more importantly, collected plenty of data that will allow them to write up their coursework to a high standard in September.

Sites visited were Dungeness, Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe, the sand dunes of the Opal Coast and the spectacular Etretat. We also visited Dungeness on the way to Dover. In Dorset, we visited the spectacular landforms at Old Harry's Rocks, Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and Studland Bay, where we received an interesting guided tour from a National Trust volunteer, who advised us on the best ways to deal with adders and unexploded bombs.

As ever, all students behaved well and worked hard. They contributed hugely to the success of the trips. Special thanks go to the several members of the academic staff from outside the Geography Department, who were prepared to give up their precious weekends to ensure that the trips could go ahead.

**A Marshall**

## Year 10 Historians' Visit to East End of London

On Friday 20 June our Year 10 historians visited the East End of London to find out about the Whitechapel murders and Victorian medicine. We had a very informative guided tour where we visited the site of the murders and heard the gruesome details about what happened to the victims. We learnt about the poverty-stricken lives of the women who were targeted, why the police found it so difficult to catch the murderer and the different theories about his (her?) identity. By the end of our tour we understood a lot more about the lives of people in the East End of London in the 1880's, but we were no closer to identifying Jack the Ripper. All the information we learned will be put to good use when we complete our coursework on the murders in the autumn term of Year 11.

We also learnt about the practice of medicine from the 18th to the 20th Centuries when we visited the Royal London Hospital, the location for Casualty 1908 which was recently screened by the BBC. We went to the Hospital Museum and studied cauterising irons (used to seal wounds by burning them closed), old surgical instruments, and old dental equipment. All felt very grateful for modern medicine and the invention of anaesthetics!

**A Capener**

## Year 9 Camping Trip

The Gosfield Lake Resort hosted the Year 9 camping trip in May, when 92 students marched through the gates armed with sleeping bags, torches and an enthusiasm that manifested itself through exuberant chatter for most of the afternoon...and the evening...and most of the night! The resort is situated in the heart of rural Essex and, beneath the shadow of a stately home, provides the ideal setting for a taste of life under canvas.

The sharp drop in overnight temperatures surprised even experienced campers, and a cacophony of dawn mating calls (from the adjacent nature reserve one hastens to add) coupled with inevitable pilgrimages to the toilet block meant some youngsters were clearly deprived of sleep as the local rooster flexed his vocal chords to announce the arrival of dawn.

Fuelled by the culinary expertise of Mr and Mrs Whiteley, the morning banter soon lifted spirits and the sun's radiance brought a smile to even the bleariest of faces. Teenagers recover rapidly and it was no surprise that once tents and sleeping bags were packed, all were ready and raring for the long march to Dunmow. The 'Fritch Way' is a disused railway line providing a trail through some of the county's finest countryside. Some chose to run, some to stroll; others neglected to take heed of the map and took detours beyond the call of duty. Thankfully, all made their destination in one piece and, kissed by the sun's rays, an array of cheerful faces arrived in the College car park enriched by their adventure. For some, one night out under canvas will have confirmed reservations about the whole camping experience. For others, more intrepid expeditions currently await.



## Race for Life

On a rainy morning on Sunday 1st June nine members of staff took part in the Cancer Research UK 'Race for Life'. A vision in pink, we joined the ranks of 4000 fellow fundraisers for the aerobic warm up. This prepared us for the gruelling 5K run (or walk...) through the mud and long grass of Jesus Green in Cambridge. We all completed in good time and raised approximately £300. A big thank you to Miss Scott for organising our participation and outfits! Well done to everyone in our Hockerill community who took part in a 'Race for Life' this summer.



# Language College

Most of the after-school primary classes continue to run into the summer term. We shall continue to offer primary classes and support staff in most Bishop's Stortford primary schools in September which will mean that, if we include those which are still offered support and training opportunities, we shall continue to operate in 14 schools in the next academic year. There is an interesting and comprehensive training programme available for our Primary class trainers and of course teachers.

Our three master classes continue to be very successful. All 13 members of the secondary French class went on a 4-day study visit to La Coûme over the May Day period. The German class went on a similar trip to Basel. These were unqualified successes which helped greatly to nurture the excellent partnership work being carried out with St Mary's and Herts and Essex. In September we shall be continuing with four new master classes - one primary and three secondary - French, German and Spanish.

The two-week exchange with a week's work experience in Aix-en-Provence was an excellent experience as always and the three-day trip to Paris for Year 7 was a huge success with students making impressive progress in French and learning a whole gamut of French songs. Our third exchange with Valladolid, with increased numbers, went like clockwork. This continues to be a very strong partnership.

In March we welcomed groups from Tokyo and Liège in consecutive weeks and in April the group from Valladolid was here. These were highly successful due to the welcome from the Hockerill families, the excellent organisation of the exchange leaders and the unending co-operation of Hockerill staff to cope with an endless stream of visitors into their classrooms. The Liège visit was of particular significance as 50 students came across of which 28 did another very successful week's work experience in the local area.

The number of individuals and groups of teachers who visited the Faculty in the last six weeks of term is quite unprecedented. We are now taking bookings for September.

We are now just completing the busiest period of the year with the visit from our friends in Iasi, and the array of exchange and trip opportunities open to Year 8. As well as our students going on four different language experiences in Year 8 we welcomed our exchange groups from Dagneux and Münster and incorporated them into our Cross-Curricular Week for the third time in June when the whole college benefited from a week of enrichment outside the normal curriculum.

At the end of June 4 members of staff and 12 students will go out to Gisenyi (Rwanda) on our second visit to our partner school. This promises to be a fantastic experience and the group has had a full year of preparatory meetings. Thanks to the generosity of the Hockerill community we have been able to fund the refurbishment of the refectory and the resurfacing of the football, basketball, handball and volleyball courts and also to fund a truly worthy literacy project in Gisenyi. Furthermore parents, staff, individual students, boarding houses and classes are now sponsoring the fees of 66 students to attend school in Gisenyi.

The Global Curriculum is now a major feature of Faculty discussion and continues to lead us into some interesting initiatives. We continue to be heavily involved in The Longest Story in the World project and a group of around 25 Year 7 students participated in workshops and performances on this global event in June. There was also a Year 7 day devoted to the International Community during Cross-Curricular week.

Outside the immediate Language College remit but of equal significance is the continuation of the highly successful adult language classes under the Hockerill College banner from September 2008. Classes will be offered in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, English as a Foreign Language (a great success this year) and, hopefully, Arabic and Mandarin.

We shall try and catch our breath in the summer!

**M Ullmann**

## Year 8 Bilingual Trip La Traverse

Our year 8 Bilingual 2 class est allée to the normally sleepy village of Le Bessat dans La Loire region of France, where they spent eight days immersing themselves in French culture and being a focus for the curiosity of tout le monde in the village whenever they were "en ville". Everywhere they went, local people were charmed and bemused in equal measure by the constant babble of our twenty-nine intrepid explorers, who, although not from round ici, were unmistakably conversing en français as they provided a welcome boost to the local economy. From plunging 700 metres underground at 80 km an hour into the depth of a mine shaft (actually it was the second floor of Le Musée de la Mine, just seven metres underground), to scaling the summit of an extinct volcano Le Puy de Dome, this was an assault on the senses to be rivalled only by the shopping assault launched on St Etienne le jour d'après.

**T McPhilemy**



## Art



This has been a very busy and successful term for the Art Department. We have enjoyed two successful exhibitions, the IB Visual Art and the GCSE Art and Design exhibition. Indeed, when the results are published, we hope to see the best set of results for GCSE Art and Design ever! There is a chance that more than 50% of the

students will gain a grade A or A\*. We have our fingers and legs crossed. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Art Department staff and the students who put in massive amounts of time and effort into their studies. Many of you have bright careers in front of you within the wonderful world of Art and Design - remember to invite us to your degree shows! Planning for next year is well under way and changes are being made. The new year 7's can look forward to working in 'pink pig' hardback A4 sketchbooks and the amount of trips that students can look forward to continues to rise. The new year 10's can look forward to a day (18th November) at Curwen Print Studio producing mono and intaglio prints. Finally, a reminder that Art kits (featuring everything a student needs for success at GCSE and IB level) can be purchased from the Art department. Students should see Mr James for a letter.

**J James**



## Year 9 - Work Shadowing Day

On the first day of Cross Curricular week the Careers Department organised for all of our Year 9 students to be out of College shadowing somebody 'at work'.

Usually this is a parent, a family member or friend. We had six students this year whose parents were unable to find them placements, so grateful thanks go to Jane Anderson of Margaret Kay's florists - again! Pearsons of North Street, and Mrs Burns of Summercroft School. The students did some superb work shadowing in many, many different workplaces. We know it is not easy having somebody following you about all day, so our grateful thanks to you all.

However, the students only do this one day in Year 9 so if any of you feel that you would be able to take a student in Year 9 next year who we are unable to place we would love to hear from you!

**P Hopkins & B Shellard**

## Highlights of 2007 - 2008 from the English Department

This academic year has seen a variety of exciting, fun, challenging and interesting events take place within the English Department. Students have participated in external competitions, including the 'Henrietta Branford Writing Competition' and we are eagerly awaiting the results for this. The Collins Favourite Word Competition was a great success with many students entering it, indeed, congratulations are due to Conor Rohan (Year 9) who was selected from 1000 nationwide entries and chosen as one of 10 runners up.

During May, Year 10 students were invited to participate in a public speaking competition, delivering a speech on a topic of their own choice. The standard was very high and it was difficult to choose a winner... in the end the award went to Nye Renouf for his thoughtful, original speech and excellent use of language.

Students from Year 11 got the chance to hear and see the actual poets themselves whose poetry they have been studying for the GCSE exams during the 'Poetry Live!'

event at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. Also this year, students from Year 9 participated in a special Shakespeare workshop on 'The Tempest', this included directing and acting and a few impromptu performances! Students derived a great amount of pleasure and humour from the whole 'Caliban experience'.

Back in March, external LAMDA examiners visited the college to assess students on performance pieces of poetry and prose: the majority of Year 7 took part in this and with great success, including Hannah Babb, Laura Warbrick, Max Dalton, Madeleine Belton, Noah Havers, Rory Scott and William Stenhouse who all were awarded Distinctions. Finally, I.B students from Year 12 and 13 were the envy of many a Ewan McGregor fan when they went to see him and Chiwetel Ejiofor perform in the Donmar theatre's production of Othello - we were very lucky to get the tickets, so thanks to Mrs Davies-von Mering for helping us.

**C Ayres**

## Trenches Trip

The annual pilgrimage to the WWI battlefields and cemeteries in Flanders took place at the end of Activities Week. Year 9 students had prepared for the trip by visiting the Imperial War Museum. They explored changing attitudes to the war from initial euphoria to disenchantment and despair; they investigated the experiences of soldiers at the Front through a remarkable range of memorabilia and exhibits - one interesting example was the Bierstein presented by the German team to the English captain in the famous football match at Christmas 1914. All agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and helped us to get the most out of the visit to Ypres.

Students brought equipment for every eventuality; Louise Sanderson's bright orange umbrella looked very fetching in the Yorkshire Trench when it started to rain - but no one's spirits were dampened, not even by the 4.30am start! Mr Dinwiddy placed a remembrance cross on the grave of his great, great uncle in the achingly beautiful cemetery at Lijssenthoek. At Tyne Cot, the largest of the Commonwealth cemeteries in the world, everyone was overwhelmed by the enormity of the sacrifice. Following the Last Post at the Menin Gate, a wreath was laid on behalf of Hockerill staff and students by Connie Pope, Harrison Holmes and Edwin Aldridge.

**R Davies**



# The retirement of Dr Robert Guthrie

2008 marks a very significant event in the history of Hockerill's development, that is the retirement of Dr Robert (Bob) Guthrie who has been our Principal for the past twelve years.

I have had the privilege of being Dr Guthrie's Vice Principal for ten years and without a moment's hesitation I can truly say that they have been the very best ten years of my almost thirty years in education. I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about Bob Guthrie because without his vision, sheer determination and outstanding leadership, Hockerill College would probably not be in existence. There would have been no Hockerill Sixth Form, no IB Diploma and the lives of the many young people and staff who have been in his care would have taken a very different direction.

The wheels of educational progress (and sometimes I think it's regress) are always turning. A year never seems to go by without some turn or lurch in the educational wheel. Currently, one of the main preoccupations of Government and educationists is school leadership - and there is good reason for this because of the Headship recruitment crisis.

A great deal has been written about school leadership over the last ten years or so but what makes a really first class school leader? What does a school leader do in their leadership role? I share with you the latest wisdom. The core tasks of a school leadership have been recognised as:

1. Building vision and setting direction
2. Understanding and developing people
3. Redesigning the organisation - both the physical environment and the culture and ethos of a school
4. Managing teaching and learning

I think that all of you will agree that Bob Guthrie has gone about all these tasks with huge energy, enthusiasm and his trademark 'can do' attitude - but what else would you expect from a remarkable teacher of Physics, a top class sportsman who has been capped for playing rugby for England and a man whose name sits very comfortably in "Who's

Who" alongside Kate Moss and Samantha, 'Miss Money Penny', Bond.

So, we know what the core tasks of a leader are but what about the personality that is needed to be a school leader - what are the personal traits of a school leader? Those researching school leadership at the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) have agreed that the most successful school leaders are open minded and ready to learn from others. They are also flexible rather than dogmatic in their thinking within a system of core values, persistent (e.g. in their pursuit of high expectations of staff motivation, commitment, learning and achievement for all) resilient and optimistic.

Pursuit of high expectations... commitment.... resilient....optimistic.  
Ring any bells about someone we all know?

However, given all that has been written about school leadership, I find the following comment from Michael Fullan, a very well respected writer on school leadership, one that resonates well for me when I think about Bob Guthrie. Fullan says, 'a headteacher should be judged on how many effective leaders they leave behind.'

For me, Fullan has got it right because really successful leadership is about much more than the person doing the leading and what they personally achieve in that role - it is about what they leave behind in terms of sustainable leadership. I would also add that it is about many intangibles - how their spirit lives on in the fabric of a place and how their spirit, wisdom and love have touched and influenced the lives of those they have led.

Bob Guthrie should be rightly proud that he leaves behind a tremendous legacy in the fabric that is Hockerill College but more importantly, he leaves behind a powerful human legacy in the many students and staff he has nurtured during his career. He leaves behind some very, very effective leaders of the future.

I know you will join me and all our staff at Hockerill in wishing 'Dr Bob' and his wife a very happy retirement.

**Dr V Worsnop**

## We did it!!! But what did we do?

At the beginning of the summer term, Hockerill played host to Andrew Mitchell who was here as a representative of the International Baccalaureate Organisation. Mr Mitchell's brief was twofold: firstly he was here to train our teachers with reference to the MYP Areas of Interaction and Assessment; and secondly he was here to ascertain whether we were ready to move forward on the MYP journey towards full MYP status. I am pleased to say that his visit was a resounding success, not only did he interview teachers and students, but he also spoke to a number of parents and a few of his comments, taken from his report to the IB are noted below:

"The atmosphere and ethos of the school is excellent".

"The displayed student work is current, high quality and attractively presented. School information pertaining to the MYP is noticeable in the majority of classrooms and is professionally presented".

"The staff are welcoming, enthusiastic, and committed to the education of their students".

"There is a good basic knowledge about the programme and a willingness to extend this knowledge".

Mr Mitchell's recommendation was that we have made excellent progress in terms of using the MYP as the basis of our curriculum structure and that we should seek formal status in February 2009. So congratulations go to everyone, not only to the teachers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the MYP so successful, but also to the students who have embraced the new programme which such enthusiasm, we are in a great position to take this exciting curriculum to the next level. We did it!!

This is my last MYP article for Hockerill, as I am moving on to a school in Jordan, where I will be developing yet another MYP Curriculum. Mr Pollard will be taking over the reins here and I wish him all the best as the College moves forward on its MYP journey. I would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all my colleagues and of course to the students for everything they have done to promote the MYP here. Coordinating such a programme has been a fantastic experience, I have many memories to take away and I wish Hockerill all the best in the future.

**D Sinclair**

## Annual round-up



Over the years, Hockerill has become a serious contender in every tournament we enter. This year we have entered 26 district tournaments. In 22 competitions we progressed to the semi-finals

and beyond and ended up with 6 of our teams being crowned district champions.

- The 1st XV Rugby Team showed a colossal commitment to teamwork and camaraderie. They achieved an unbeaten season scoring 121 points with only 20 conceded.
- The U16 Basketball Team were crowned district champions for the 4th year in succession.
- The U15 Hockey Team became district champions and narrowly lost in the final of the county cup to Queenswood.
- The U14 Football team have been in the district finals 3 years in a row and won the championship in Year 7 and 9.
- The U13 Rugby Team managed an unbeaten season scoring 179 points with 41 against. They also came 2nd in the emerging rugby county finals.

What's new for September 2009? In line with the government PESSCL strategy, where every school in the country should be striving to provide a minimum of 2 hours quality, curriculum based PE per week, we will be introducing an extra hour of PE per cycle at Key Stage 4. 30 students will have the chance to participate in the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in sports leadership which is a nationally recognised qualification. The other 90 students will follow a rotation of shorter units that all lead to externally recognised certificates (First Aid, Sports Nutrition, RFL, Athletics and SAQ).

Thanks to all staff, players and parental support for another fantastic sporting year. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday.

**The PE Department!**

## Sainsbury vouchers

The P.E department would like to thank everyone who donated Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers this year. Initiatives such as this allow us to purchase new resources for both PE lessons and extra curricular activities so your support is very much appreciated. This year a total of 10,495 vouchers were collected and they have been used to buy a range of equipment including new sprint starting blocks and paraspaced chutes.

## Sports Dinner 26th April

Another year of Hockerill sporting success and achievement was celebrated at the annual sports dinner. The guest speaker, Daniel Topolski, captivated the 350 strong audience with renditions from his coaching and rowing experiences over the last 30 years with tips on overcoming adversity and excelling when the odds are stacked against you.



The new 'exceptional performer' colours were awarded along with the individual sportsman trophies as follows: Melanie Abegglen & Kelly McCarthy (Hockey), Eleanor Davies & Helen von Cossel (Netball), Alex Ballard (Rounders & Athletics), George Birchenough & Constantin Zimmek (Rugby), Oliver Thorpe & Charles Stapleton (Football), Harrison Hall & Javier San Roman (Basketball), Daniel Ogbonnaya (Athletics).

A special presentation of a signed and framed Sir Alex Ferguson photograph was given to Dr Guthrie in grateful recognition of his continuous support to the PE Department and all the sporting activities that have occurred during his time at the College.

The evening was rounded off by a year 11 dance spectacular and disco, thoroughly enjoyed by both adults and students.

## The District Athletics Championships

With the boarders heading home on the last day of term, only a handful of day students were eligible to compete at the annual District Athletics Championships held in Ware. Given the dearth of athletes available, the results from those who attended were remarkable and reflect the depth of talent contained within our ranks.

Results from the District Athletics Championships 2008:

	Year 7	Year 8*	Year 9	Year 10 / 11
<b>100m</b>	4th P Walton	1st T Ogbonnaya		
<b>200m</b>	3rd P Walton	3rd M Frankcom		
<b>800m</b>		3rd J Humphreys	2nd K Baldwin	
<b>1500m</b>	2nd O Pettengell	1st J Humphreys	2nd K Baldwin	2nd L Mistry
<b>Long Jump</b>	1st O Pettengell			
<b>High Jump</b>		9th E Fisk		
<b>Javelin</b>		1st E McNaughton		
<b>Shot Put</b>		1st E McNaughton		1st A Ballard
<b>Discus</b>		1st E Rowbottom		
<b>4x100 Relay</b>		1st T Ogbonnaya C White M Frankcom E McNaughton		

\*The Year 8 Boys team was overall category winners.

## Athletics

The second annual Invitation Athletics League took place on Hockerill fields over three evenings during May and June. The competition comprised four local schools and was open to athletes in Years 7, 8 and 9. In the girls category, Hockerill led for much of the way with fine individual performances. However, mistakes in the relays cost our girls the title, with Herts and Essex pipping us in the last two races. In the boys category, the Year 8's were especially impressive, pulling off a number of wins, but this was not enough to stop The Bishops' Stortford High School walking away with the shield.

The final standings were:

School	Totals	Position	School	Totals	Position
Birchwood*	128.5	4th	Birchwood*	126	4th
HAEC	231	2nd	HAEC	242.5	2nd
TBSHS	238	1st	H&E	245	1st
SWCHS	218.5	3rd	SWCHS	192.5	3rd

\*Birchwood absent from the last match