

ISSUE 17 • APRIL • 2010

HOCKERILL

N E W S





Simon Dennis

Dear Parents

We are coming to the end of a long but successful Lent term. The snow in the early part of the term did cause some disruption but thanks to the hard work and commitment of a lot of staff we were able to remain open. The weather also caused considerable disruption to our sports fixtures. However we still managed to enjoy considerable sporting success (Pages 7 & 8). Particular mention must be made of the U15 Rugby team who became County Champions by beating Nicholas Brakespear School. This was a real achievement as were all the sporting successes we enjoyed throughout the term. Special mention should also be made to the staff who support all the teams and parents who stand on the sideline supporting the teams.

The gloom of January was lifted by the news that Hockerill has been successful in becoming an accredited Middle Years Programme College. This is a real achievement as there are only five state schools in the UK who are part of this programme. Special thanks to Mr Pollard and Mr Roberts for all their hard work in achieving this level of recognition. If you wish to learn more about the Middle Years Programme please refer to our website www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk.

Lent term also saw the builders arrive to commence work on our fifth boarding house. This house is due to open in September 2010 as a boarding house for 70 girls aged

11-16. After a competition with the girls who will be living in the new boarding house it was decided to call the new building Winchester House. We look forward to its completion and boarding here at Hockerill continuing to grow and flourish.

The annual Easter Boarders' Dinner took place at the end of term with guest speaker Jason Cowley (Editor of the New Statesman). The evening was excellent and we were all entertained by some fascinating stories from Mr Cowley. Mrs Livingstone and her team provided an excellent meal to complement the new refectory. The evening finished with the Boarders enjoying the dodgem cars located in the College car park.

We are extremely grateful to all the parents who completed the questionnaire from Kirkland Rowell Marketing. You gave Hockerill "an excellent overall performance" score. This is, of course, very motivational to staff, but just as important is to note and improve those things which you are less satisfied with. We will be working hard to address some of these concerns.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who contribute to the Hockerill Development Fund and those parents who have recently signed up. The money raised is used for the benefit of the students. Recent projects include a new multi-media graphics suite and PE equipment. The Library is currently being refurbished and should be ready for the start of the Summer term.

Finally it is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Mr Alastair Clarke and Mr Mike Ullmann are both seriously ill. They and their families are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

S Dennis

Bilingual teaching Conference

For the last three years the Specialist Schools Trust have asked Hockerill to host a national conference for schools who want to begin bilingual teaching, a real tribute to the reputation that the College has the field. On March 5th representatives of twenty five schools came to observe lessons and listen to experts in the field talk about teaching through the medium of a foreign language. In the absence of Mr Ullmann, Mr Geissler led the day for Hockerill. The delegates had the opportunity to ask experienced bilingual teachers about the methods they use in the classroom and the day was judged by them as a great success.

C Smith

The Drama Showcase!

On the 20th of January Junior and Senior Drama club displayed their talents in a showcase that involved 80 students. During the first section of the show Junior Drama club performed Oscar Wilde's hilarious play *The Canterville Ghost*, directed by Mrs Davies von Mering. This is the story of a ghost who is having difficulty scaring people. Three casts shared the roles in this play, which ensured that all the younger students had the chance to exhibit their talents. Particularly impressive performances were given by Owen Crawford (Yr 8), Ciara Waterfield (Yr 7) and Annie Lozano (Yr 7).

In the final section of the Showcase Senior Drama club gave a dramatic interpretation of Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*, directed by myself. These poems adapt and modernise our favourite fairy stories and give them a new humorous twist. Great fun was had by the cast and the audience and particularly notable performances were given by Tobias Hodges (Yr 13), Zoe Hughes (Yr 12) Bronte Smith (Yr 9) and Maddy Belton (Yr 9).

Thank you for supporting the Drama department.

V Marsh



Charity: Help for Haiti

One evening, instead of watching the Simpsons, Mr Jacobs made us watch the 6.00 o'clock news. We watched the devastation that had occurred in Haiti. As a result the boarding house launched a fundraising campaign to help the people of Haiti. Mrs Jacobs co-ordinated the project with Jack Marsh and Salvatore Wye (year 8), in charge of looking after how much money was raised, as well as doing their bit to make some money themselves.

The House raised £900 towards the disaster, which for the smallest boarding house is a remarkable achievement. Alex McKinnon lead the way with a 30 mile charity cycle ride and raised an amazing £400. Alex said "I felt I had to do something; it would'nt have felt right leaving everyone else to make the money. Charlie Bratt, Charles Kerr and David Patient have organised a number of cake sales this year, which have helped charities such as Help for Heroes and the Haiti appeal. The money raised from these sales has been over £200.

Jack Marsh and Salvatore Wye raised lots of money for the Haiti scheme by sending an appeal for help around the College. Day students and staff showed their generosity by giving their loose change. With extra help from Ladi Adagun and Finn Grant they turned this plan into a great success by donating their lunchtime to continue collecting.

Ifede Osiyemi and Brandon Bowden arranged a table tennis tournament for the boys. With the normal crowding in the games room without a tournament you can imagine how busy the evening was. A knockout formation was decided upon and the eventual winner was Fernando Ageo (year 7).

Everybody in the boarding house made a contribution in some way. Pocket money was spending, loose change was freed from bottles and computer games were sold.

Mr Jacobs thought that raising £100 would have been good. He is very proud that the boarding community came together to help another community on the other side of world.

Canterbury Boys Choir

When the time came for the Annual Boarding Concert, Canterbury House decided to show their cultural nature with the formation of the first ever boys choir in Canterbury. Mr Jacobs was roped into joining as well. A wide range of boys from years 7, 8 and 9 were carefully prepared over a few weeks by the ever patient Mr Bond with help from Alvo von Cossel and Paul Gordon. The boys learned the French song "Vois sur dans chemin" from the film La Choriste. They all enjoyed doing it, and when they gave their performance they did not look out of place amongst talented and brilliant musicians. We hope the choir will go from strength to strength in the next few years. The following students were the founder members of the choir: Michael O'Brien, Jason Tsang, Kelvin Tsang, Felix von Cossel, Thomas Jeffrey, Stewart Ross, Miles Oderinde, James Sterling, Arnold Butszin, Alisdair Fox, Sam Ainsworth, Jason Boniwell.

Canterbury Boys Sporting achievements

We are lucky enough to have a wide array of talent in the boarding house and the College. This year the Year 8 boys have arguably been the most successful, with a rugby district Cup Final win, a football district semi final and a forthcoming football plate final appearance.

The Year 9 boys reached the rugby district semi finals, the basketball finals and in football they were pipped at the post in the round robin stage.

The year 7 boys have to play against tough local competition and have shown they have great potential for the future.

The following boarding boys have all represented the College at sport.

Max Ivic, Louis Boyce, Will Darling, Felix von Cossel, Christopher Wenham, Kofo Olaniyan, Michael O'Brien, Jem Kadri, Miles Oderinde, Fernando Ageo, Sam Ainsworth, Alex McKinnon, Zac Hopkins, Jack Marsh, Finn Grant, Ifede Osiyemi, Edward Palmer, Brandon Bowden, Ladi Adagun, Charlie Bratt, Lucien Topolski, James Sterling, Jonah Lovell, Daniel Vernon, Tom Makin and James Budd.

This list sums up the enthusiasm Canterbury Boys have for sport.

The boarding houses are all proud of their contribution to the sporting side of the College and are very grateful to all the PE staff who spend so much time encouraging them.

A McKinnon & A Ward-Booth

Senior Basketball

The senior basketball team has had a great season this year.

The squad is probably the strongest we have had and we have a good chance to win the District final on the 31st March.

The seniors finished second in their group in the regional competition winning two games and losing out to a team who were National Champions in their age group two years ago.

The team has won all four games in the district competition to qualify for the final. The players are playing with a lot of pace and determination this year but what is good to see is that the level of control they have developed in their game. Their distribution and movement of the ball is becoming excellent and exciting to watch.

J Catchpole



Meeting Walter Weg at the Synagogue



Preparation work in College

Holocaust Memorial Day 2010

On Wednesday 3rd February 2010 all Year 9 students went to the Northwood Synagogue in Northwood for Holocaust Memorial Day. When we arrived at the Synagogue we were greeted by Rabbi Goldstein and led into the main hall. After a short introduction we were then split into smaller groups and led to various rooms for different workshops. The students were able to discuss and hear about life for Jewish people in Germany during 1939-1945 under Hitler's regime. I accompanied one of the groups and was very impressed by their input and the questions they asked. The leader of the workshop also commented on their vast level of knowledge and understanding of the Jewish faith as well as their overall understanding of historical events. After a short refreshment break we heard a very moving and emotive account from a Holocaust survivor called Walter Weg. He talked about his experiences, of being a young Jewish boy in Germany during this period. He was able to recall the events of Kristallnacht very clearly. At the end of his account students were able to ask questions and many did. Once again our students asked very poignant questions and were keen to ask Walter about how he felt about various issues. A candle was lit at the end of the session in memory of all those killed in the holocaust.

Once we had thanked Walter for his moving account we were able to ask more questions face to face before departing for our journey home.

I would like to thank all the staff and students for their contributions during the day. It was a very valuable experience for us all.

N Ashlee-McCrae

Interact

We would like to congratulate the following on their appointments as Officers of Interact:-

- President:** Rose-Anne Roy-Chowdury
- Vice-Presidents:** Luke Pettengell and Silvia Fernandez-Hernando
- Secretary:** Stephanie Drew
- Treasurer:** Jessica McCarthy
- Sports Officer:** Ken Odrich
- Crisis Officer:** Alex Funnell
- PR Officer:** Letaru Dralega

Many thanks to the outgoing Officers for all their hard work and commitment:-

Mimi Plange, Jane von Rabenau, Jacob Ferguson-Lobo, Dominika Macikova, Harold Craston James Yates, James Rowbottom.

We would like to congratulate the two students who have been offered places at Oxford University – Martin Schmidbaur & Tiffany Yates.

J Chalmers

Ten days in Liege

The Liege exchange has long been a favourite in the Hockerill trips and exchanges calendar. Every year it is over-subscribed and the work experience opportunities are very much appreciated by the students



who get a chance to really improve on their language skills. Belgium in February is never at its warmest but this year the weather gods did their worst. In temperatures more usually seen in Siberia the intrepid explorers stoically toured Liege and Brussels, the snow fell like.....well, snow and the show went on. Back at Hockerill HQ we were getting calls where the only thing said was 'it's so cold' and in the background you could hear the sound of chattering teeth. Local opinion was that it was the most snow seen in the centre of Liege in living memory. I went to join staff on the final Sunday to help escort the group back. The train journey from Cologne to Liege was reminiscent of a scene from Dr Zhivago. The trains pulling in to the station were covered in icicles and I experienced a certain amount of schadenfreude at the growing list of cancelled trains late arrivals and frustrated travellers. Yes this does happen outside the UK!! (my glee quickly dispersed when I had to stand most of the way to Liege!)

Our colleagues and the families in Liege did a great job in making sure that there was as little disruption as possible to the programme. As is usually the case, the students had a wonderful time and at the time of writing we are welcoming the students and staff back to the UK and hoping for some decent weather !!

C Smith

What's on in the Science Faculty?

Year 8 win Salters' Chemistry competition again!

On Wednesday 17th March I took four year 8 students to the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at Cambridge University- Ella Hurley, Jimmy Ball, Tom Evans and Chloe Langan. In the morning they worked on the Salters' challenge -a Forensic Science task, using basic chemical techniques to find out "who done it". They worked very competently on this task, but did not win this section as the team had done last year. However in the Cambridge University challenge in the afternoon they came out on top, beating over twenty other schools. They were commended for "using their team work and co-operation to solve a task that they had never met before, both competently and accurately". This means that over the last two years, Hockerill students have won both parts of the competition. The day ended with a most enjoyable lecture involving a great deal of flames and explosions, which was enjoyed by all.

Year 12 and work experience

Several students have applied through the Nuffield Bursary scheme for work placements in industry during their summer holidays. If successful these should help them in their university choices and also with the research for their Extended Essay. Two students, Jack Rowbottom and Nathan Streitberger have been selected for engineering taster courses in Huddersfield and Edinburgh respectively. We shall hear about their experiences later in the year.

Ellen Dewhurst was selected out of many applicants for a work experience at Glaxo SmithKline in Harlow during the February half term. Here is what she had to say about it:

I was given the opportunity to spend five days with the Scientists in Biological Reagents and Assay Development. I worked beside Molecular Biologists, and other scientists that specialised in Protein Purification, Cellular Culture and Microbial Fermentation. I was working in a group of three other girls, from schools in Upminster, Kent and Devon. During the week I spent the majority of my time in the labs at GSK doing multiple experiments that had been specially designed for us as models of the type of work that the Employees there do on a daily basis. We were able to replicate our own DNA by doing PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction), we made our own agar plates and learnt different ways of growing the specified gene in bacteria, and we used Human Embryonic Kidney cells in one of our experiments, and did many other experiments throughout the week. There were many other students there during the week, each working in different departments, dependent upon which ones they applied for. We were also given a tour of SMtech, which is where the 1.8 million substances that GSK use are stored, along with the 2.1 million solutions.

Year 10

Ashley Dallas will be spending three days at a Salters' Chemistry 'camp' in Nottingham during the summer. These 'camps' give students the possibility of experiencing life at university, whilst meeting similar students from around the country, and have been really enjoyed by all who have attended them. There are still a few places available for Year 10 students on these camps in August. If you are interested, please contact me at College.

J & S Chalmers

Arkwright Scholarship

We send all good wishes to Anna Rutherford, Year 11 who has passed the first two stages of her application for an Arkwright Scholarship. Anna will be attending the final stage with her portfolio shortly. She will find out the result in June, if successful Anna will receive funding, support and work experience from a global engineering company throughout her further and higher education.

A Russell

Maths Challenges

There have been 3 challenges this term, the first two were individual events: The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place here at Hockerill on 4 February. 60 students from years 9, 10 and 11 tackled the one hour paper in St Alban's Hall. The results were excellent: Catherine Martin was Best in School with a Gold award. There were also Gold awards for Edwin Aldridge, Conor Rohan, Georgia Price, Kieran George, and Noah Havers. Of these, 4 students qualified for the next round, which took place at Hockerill on 18 March. We currently await the results of this Kangaroo Challenge for Catherine, Edwin, Kieran and Noah.

On 22 March there was a team challenge for year 8 and 9 in Cambridge. I went with Cameron Goodhead, Marcus Dawe, Nathan Sanderson and Kieran George to the Centre of Mathematical Sciences at Cambridge University for the Eastern Region Team Maths Challenge organised by the UKMT (UK Mathematics Trust). We took the train to Cambridge and discussed some last minute strategy and practice questions during the journey. At the venue there were teams from 33 schools gathering for a day of maths.

The first event was to solve 10 questions in 45 minutes. Subsequent events involved splitting the team into 2 pairs. There was Cross Number where one pair had the Across clues while the other pair only had the Down clues. This was quite hard but we scored well. After lunch there was Head to Head in which each pair needed the answer from the other pair to solve the next problem. If one answer was wrong, it made everything wrong! The last round involved running with an answer to a teacher to collect the next question for the partner pair. It made an exciting finish to the day.

The UKMT organisers worked hard to ensure that everything went smoothly. Before we left we heard that we had come 12th out of the 33 teams, a very pleasing result.

A Goldsmith

UCAS Convention

On the 4th March we took the whole of Year 12 to the annual UCAS convention, this year it was held at Olympia in London.

The convention brings together universities and colleges within the UCAS scheme to inform and guide prospective applicants.

Other exhibitors included further education colleges, Youth Connexions, GAP year organisations, student support services, professional bodies, student travel firms, student finance and lots more. Students had the opportunity to attend seminars, ask questions, collect prospectus and freebies!

As always the students were a credit to the College, even during the unforeseen wait for relief coaches to rescue us when our coach would not start to bring us back! Many thanks to all of the staff who accompanied the trip too.

P Hopkins

Recent Events



Abbey Road crossing with Yr 11

The Lent Term has been another busy but rewarding time for the Faculty of Music. The first major event of the term was on Sunday 7th February and saw our Chapel Choir travel to Robinson College, Cambridge University to perform in a joint choral concert. This was hugely successful and we are now looking forward to a further

collaborative event with the Robinson Choir on 10th June.



Bob Chilcott Workshop

On the 25th January we began the second heat of 'Hockerill's Got Talent' in aid of our partner schools in Rwanda, Romania and India. This event once again showcased the wealth of undiscovered talent present at the College and we now have 8 finalists ready to compete in the Grand Final in the Summer Term, for the chance to perform at Hampers and Champers this June.

The Music Department also assisted with a 'Mixed Bag' concert hosted by Interact in aid of Leukaemia Research on 27th January. The event was spearheaded by Stephanie Drew in Year 12 and it was wonderful to see students willing to donate their time and talent to raise money for a worthy cause.



Spring into Classical Music

As part of the Creativity Day that took place on 3rd February, a group of Year 11 Music students travelled to London for the day. This proved to be a highly enjoyable experience, and we visited an exhibit chronicling the history of British popular music at the O2 arena, had a guided tour of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden as well as making an impromptu visit to the Abbey Road Studios to cross the famous pelican crossing!

The second half of the Lent term began with the 'Spring into Classical Music' concert on 5th March. The show was held in St. Albans Hall and was a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the College's hugely talented soloists, as well as the Orchestra, Chapel Choir and Junior Choir. The feedback we received from the evening was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to our next foray into the world of Classical Music.

A group of GCSE music students travelled to the West End on Saturday 20th March to see 'Grease the Musical'. This trip linked strongly with the curriculum for GCSE music as well as providing an incredibly enjoyable afternoon for all involved.

On Saturday 27th March a group of Hockerill Musicians attended a vocal workshop at St Michael's Church in Bishop's Stortford. This workshop was run by the renowned British composer, Bob Chilcott and during the course of the day the vocalists worked on a performance of his new composition entitled 'Requiem'. The workshop was extremely enjoyable and gave our students a brilliant opportunity to work alongside one of Britain's leading musicians (who was highly complimentary of the vocal skills of our students!).

The Music Department would like to take this opportunity to wish you a relaxing Easter break and we hope to see you at some of the numerous events planned for the Summer Term.

Chapel Organ Update

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was sent on 19th March in the hope that they will be able to provide additional funding to help with the restoration of our Chapel Organ. We hope to receive a decision regarding this before the end of the academic year. Fundraising efforts within the College will continue and we thank you all for your continued support of this project.

O Bond

A REMINDER

YEAR 9 WORK SHADOWING DAY

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Year 9 Work Shadowing day has been changed from Monday 14th June to Tuesday 15th June. However, if you made arrangements before the announcement was made about this change and are unable to change it to the Tuesday, the placement can still go ahead, but please let us know. Please also check with your child that they do not have an examination of the Monday!

P Hopkins

The icing on the cake

For the third year running, Laura Sheahan won first prize in the 11-14 year old competition at Squires Kitchen International Sugarcraft Exhibition held in Farnham, Surrey on 12 to 14 March. The theme was 'Things with Wings' and Laura had to decorate cupcakes using different sugar mediums and techniques. As well as receiving more than £200 worth of prizes from Renshaw the sponsors, this year's win also gained Laura a gold award to recognise the high levels of skills used.



County Cup Final

On a freezing night in early March the HAEC U-15 rugby team travelled to the Old Albanian Rugby Club in St Albans to take part in the County Cup final. The HAEC side had been in brilliant form all season beating all local schools convincingly, then seeing off Stevenage's Noble School in the semis the previous week. Even with a partisan crowd and a sizeable opposition in the form of Nicholas Brakespeare School, Hockerill were defiantly organised and well drilled. Michael Frankcom opened the scoring early on in the game, and some resilient defending kept the lead in tact. With superior movement beginning to tell Frankcom, Palierakis, Holdsworth and Ogbonnaya added to the try-count with captain Humphreys converting six points to put the contest well beyond the St Albans side. A resounding 31-5 victory was down to Mr Vernon, Mr Capener and the PE department for their inspirational coaching, and Captain Joe Humphreys for his leadership contribution. Congratulations to the new Herts County Champions.



Squad: Humphreys, Davies, Bates, McNaughton, Palierakis, Pease Watkin, Grant M, Seaton, Grant C, Stirling, Frankcom, Holdsworth, Ogbonnaya, Rowbottom, Babb, Tse, Banjac, Harris, Chu, Greatrick, Bridgewater

Herts County Hockey Cup:

Year 10 hockey squad easily progressed to the semi-finals of the Herts U15 County Cup by winning all but one of their 6 pool games that they had been playing in since September. The semi-finals saw them drawn against Parmitters. The game started at a frenetic pace but was 0-0 at half-time. Hockerill made the break through early in the second half to run out comfortable 2-0 winners to progress to the finals. The final had Hockerill pitted against Queenswood (a private Sports College that offers Hockey scholars to the top players in the country) – Hockerill produced their best hockey of the season and had most of the play in the first half but lost their confidence when a seemingly legitimate goal was disallowed by the umpire – this gave Queenswood renewed energy and a goal scored, after a controversial penalty stroke was awarded, just before half-time was against the run of play. In the second half Queenswood increased the pressure by scoring 2 superb goals from short-corners but Hockerill didn't give up and came back with goals of their own to bring the score to 3-2 this set up a tense last 10 minutes of the game. By then Hockerill, who had played their best hockey of the season, tried to level the scores but by pushing forward Queenswood took advantage when a stray ball found Queenswood's forward who calmly slotted past the keeper. With one minute to go Queenswood made sure of their win by scoring from another short corner.

The year 10 girls can be extremely pleased with themselves as they have showed tremendous commitment to their hockey throughout a long season. This dedication has taken them to the final of the county cup which is the highest county honour that can be obtained in school hockey in this area.

Squad: Harriet Richardson, Melanie Abegglen, Scarlet Jarvis, Izzy Cavalier, Marli Todd, Jade Nelson, Alice Nelson (Captain), Beth Brookhouse, Izzy Lawrence, Liz Crane, Layla Younis, Olivia Pettengell (year 9), Francesca Pettengell (year 7), Marie Beaufile.

G Hodder

Netball Districts this season saw:

Our U18 squad lost in the final to BSC 12 -4.

Our U13 B team beat HRS 7-0, BSC 7-6, Birchwood 19-0, Ralph Sadlier 11-1, St Marys 16-1 and Herts & Essex 13-2. Making them convincing winners of the round robin tournament after easily winning all 6 matches.

Our U13 A team won all 5 out of six pool matches making them winners of their pool. They played Herts and Essex in the Semi final and then went onto play BSC for the 2nd time that evening having beaten them all in the pool matches. The final was very close but Hockerill eventually won the match 11-9. Thus crowning them district champions. An exceptionally talented year group showing real depth and strength winning both A and B team tournaments.

Our U12 B team beat HRS 7-1, Herts and Essex 5-2, BSC 3-1, St Mary's 7-0, Ralph Sadlier 4-1, Birchwood 7-0, Leventhorpe 8-1.

Girls Rugby

Hockerills first ever Girls' Rugby Team (full contact) year 7 and 8 picked up the sport incredibly quickly and went to Hertfordshire Schools Tournament at St Albans on Friday 12th March where we beat Nobel, Chauncey, St Mary's and Queens we lost only one game to Presdales the National Champions. However we proceeded into the Regional Finals to be played on the 26th March at Jobbers Wood Bishops Stortford. We won all our first round matches easily beating King Edwards, Barking Abbey, Fakenham, Cambridge Club and Whitton. We scored 110 points and had no tries conceded. We then met our old rivals Presdales in the Regional Finals and in a well fought match we lost 15-5. A special mention must go to Pat Metcalfe-Jones the Squad Captain who led by example and awed all the spectators with her amazing tackles.

R Vernon

Bishop's Stortford District Swimming Championships

Bishop's Stortford College hosted the District gala in January. Hockerill entered swimmers in every event and finished in an excellent 3rd place overall.

Most notable individual performances were by Martha Pryor (Year 7 girls Backstroke) 2nd, Ross McGarry (Year 7 boys Butterfly) 2nd, Amy Sears (Year 10 girls Butterfly) 3rd and Luke Sears (Year 7 boys Freestyle) 3rd.

College Basketball 2009-2010

Basketball continues to be one of the Colleges major sports with over one hundred boys regularly attending weekly clubs.

Basketball is taught to years seven, eight and nine boys during Physical Education lessons and provides a solid foundation which can be built upon during extra curricular training.

The Bishop's Stortford District Sports Association (BSDSA) competition takes place between November and March and provides the majority of our fixtures.

College teams have had mixed successes this year. The Year 7 team have qualified for a third place play-off following an excellent victory over The Bishop's Stortford High School. The Year 8 team failed to qualify for the finals but showed plenty of promise during a number of very close matches. The Year 9 team played well throughout the year, but unfortunately lost a hard fought district final to Saffron Walden County High School. The year 10's remained unbeaten throughout the season and lifted the District winners trophy after an excellent final victory over The Bishop's Stortford High School.

I would like to express my thanks to all the players for their commitment and to Mme Cunin and Mr. Roberts for volunteering their free time to provide our boys with the opportunity to play Basketball.

A Makenzie

Friday Running Club

This has proved a very successful club. During the year seventy-two different students have attended with an average of thirty participating each week. Runners have not been discouraged by poor weather, our largest gathering was in January when we were challenged with hail stones, snow and freezing conditions.

We have run around the local streets, along the banks of the River Stort and followed trails through Grange Paddocks.

Runners of any standard and experience are welcome to join the club which takes place on Friday mornings from 7.20am.

I am very grateful for the support of Mr. Helmesley-Smith and Mrs. Hodder who have given generously of their time.

A Makenzie

Cross-Country

Many of you will have horrific memories of your school cross-country lessons. It may be twenty six years ago but I still vividly remember Mr. Roberts driving his car along a Somerset lane, waving a garden cane from the window offering words of encouragement to an eleven year old such as "run faster Mackenzie you pathetic little wimp or you'll feel this across the back of your legs."

For some reason, despite this early experience, I have always enjoyed the challenges running offers. Running requires enormous amounts of intrinsic motivation; it offers opportunities to achieve personal goals, test your character and increase your general level of fitness. Cross country running is not glamorous, there are no millionaire celebrities to act as 'role models' and the cold and wet conditions can drain even the most enthusiastic athlete.

However I have been delighted with the positive way in which many Hockerill students have approached cross country this year. Seventy-two students have represented the College in a number of different races.

Our Year 8 girls team (Kate Willis, Patricia Metcalfe-Jones, Charlotte Prowse, Bryony Defraize-Dash, Violet O'Gorman, Phoebe Evans, Celine Todd and Emma Lewis) won the district competition. Year 7 girls and Year 10/11 boys came 2nd, Year 9 and Year 10/11 girls were 3rd. Francesca Pettengell (Year 7) and Kate Willis (Year 8) were crowned individual District Champions with Grace Braithwaite and Joseph Humphries (both Year 10) finishing 3rd.

Hockerill teams have also competed in the English Schools Cross Country Cup, the Bedfordia Championships (Year 7 and 8 girls finishing 3rd overall) and the inaugural Hockerill Invitation Championships.

In February, a number of students entered the Hertfordshire Schools Cross Country Championships at Verulum Park, St. Albans and as a consequence Carlos Vazquez (Year 12) has been selected to represent Hertfordshire in the English Championships to be held in Manchester in late March.

I very much look forward to next season and providing our runners with an opportunity to improve their performances in an increased fixture list.



Football

The Lent term's football fixtures have been a game of catch-up due to the dreadful weather we had earlier this term. There have been groups of boys representing the College in football, basketball and rugby sometimes in close succession. This is to the credit of Hockerill students and reflects their willingness and commitment to representing the college.

After a number of games played with much success Hockerill have reached the final of the year 8, 9 and 10 Bishop's Stortford District Plate competitions. The matches are to be played in the final week of term.

We are extremely proud of the 1stX1 who won the Bishop's Stortford District title last week. The senior football has grown in strength over the past couple of years under Mr Clark's guidance.

A Makenzie