

# Hockerill News

Issue 9  
Summer Term 2007



Images from the Year 11 Prom, Speech Day and the Hampers and Champers Evening

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## Principal's Column

I am writing this on Sports Day as yet another busy and successful academic year nears its end.

Speech Day is always a very special day in the College year, not only for those who are leaving or receiving prizes but for all who work, learn or live here it is a real cultural celebration of the



past year. It is also a measure of the strength of the Hockerill community to see how many staff, students and parents put in so much extra effort to make sure it is successful. As usual demand for one of the 1,000 seats in the marquee significantly exceeded their availability. We were delighted that Dr Matev, the Bulgarian Ambassador was able to be our Guest of Honour and presented the prizes. The audio-visual presentation at the start really managed to capture the spirit of Hockerill and we will try to put it on our website so that those who were not able to get tickets for the event can see it. We will also make available at least some of the speeches on the website.

The quality and content of the music at the event also touched the heart. The classical piece "Meditation" was performed jointly by our own musicians and some of our visitors from Romania. The arrangement and singing of "You've got a friend" brought a standing ovation to conclude the ceremony and gave a preview of what lay ahead that evening.

Hampers and Champers as a replacement this year for the Ball was conceived as a more inclusive opportunity to showcase our home-grown musical talent and to bring the students, staff and parents together. Limited to 500 it sold out in 3 days. The musicians produced over 3 hours of music of the highest calibre and the event was judged a huge success. We are exploring the possibility of it being even larger next year.

Last week saw the first major national conference held at Hockerill. There were around 200 participants in our IB Diploma conference with delegates from both state and independent schools and from both the UK and overseas. With the growing popularity of the IB Diploma delegates were keen to witness it in operation. The event received an extremely positive evaluation and as usual the stars were the Hockerill students. They really are superb ambassadors for the College.

Very many thanks to all those parents who are making regular contributions to the Development Fund. We really do need these. It was also pleasing to receive a cheque presented to Hockerill on Speech Day by BAA. We intend to use money from both of these sources to upgrade the audio facilities in St.Alban's Hall and also to provide additional floodlighting for sport. The latter will allow us to make even better use of the playing fields during the hours of winter darkness.

Finally very many thanks to all those parents who have written to me over the last week. Your comments of appreciation are very kind and thoughtful and really are extremely motivational for staff.

Have a great summer.

**Dr R B Guthrie**

## Year 11 Prom

Well done to all Year 11 students for a superb evening. Enjoy a well deserved summer break.



## Day of Music

On Monday 25th June the Music and Language Faculties combined to produce a wonderful day of music involving our visitors from Dagneux and Romania. Drumming and Samba workshops filled the Cloister with an ethnic beat and everyone met up in the evening to share the fruits of the work and some food.

Great thanks go to Mr Foulkes for his hard work and enthusiasm which helped to make this such a valuable day.

## Reminder

**Results Days are:** Thursday 16th August for AS and A2; Thursday 23rd August for GCSEs.

Results can be collected from College Reception after 10.30am both days. Leavers T Shirts will be given to students on Results Day or posted.

## Future Dates

Some important dates for your diary

Open Morning – 29th September  
Grandparents' Day – 13th October  
Sixth Form Open Morning – 3rd November  
Carol Service – 13th December

## Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Girl and Head Boy and their Deputies



**Head Girl:** Constanze Benecke



**Head Boy:** Tristan Trevisick



**Deputy Head Girl and Boy:**  
Rhiannon Streitberger and Konrad Laker

We have received some fantastic comments from parents, they are always greatly appreciated. Here are a selection:

### Speech Day

"the content of the contributions was of a very high order"

"we listened in admiration to the speeches"

"such an enjoyable occasion."



### I B Conference

"an exciting and invigorating conference"

"outstandingly good course"

"the students were a pleasure to work with and made some amazing contributions."



### Hampers and Champers

"it was an honour to watch the young students, so proud in what they were doing"

"truly amazing, the entertainment just gets better and better"

"the standard of music was exceptional."



### And some more general comments...

"thank you for having made it a very good year"

"the College leads by example as to what can be truly achieved within the state system"

"thank you for the ethos which is Hockeril."



# Design Technology News



## Another year over and what a year it has been for the Design Technology Department.

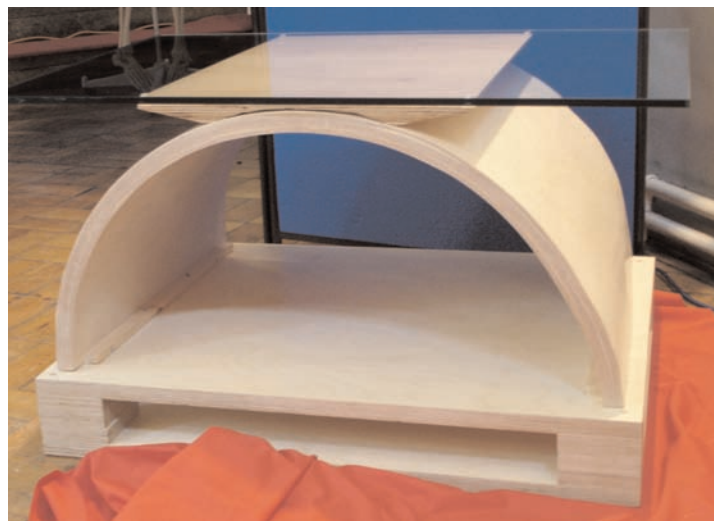
On Friday 8th June, the Department organised a celebration of GCSE work completed by our Year 11 students. The range of work on show was tremendous, with Ascot style hats produced in Textiles vying for space alongside coffee tables and graphical display units. The parental turnout was amazing and the comments very positive.

This was the ninth such exhibition the Department has organised and yet again it was great to see proud students and even prouder parents enjoying their one night of fame.

This term has also seen the arrival of a new and exciting machine, in the form of a computerised (CNC) routing machine. Costing the Department a staggering £15,000, it will provide all our students with the opportunity of experiencing CNC design and puts the Department firmly at the front of 21st Century production methods. As a result of this expenditure, it has been necessary to increase the Technology fund and I do hope as many of you as possible will continue to support the Department through this fund.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all Hockerill students a pleasant and refreshing summer vacation. To Year 10, don't forget to work on your final projects and to the Year 13 designers who are moving on to design in higher education, enjoy, no pressure....but you are our future!!!!

**D Sinclair**



## Going Going Gone

S5 is finally being replaced, having almost set the record for the longest standing temporary building in existence.

It is being replaced by two new laboratories on the same site to give the Science department some well needed extra space.

## 6 Go Mad in Essex

A tropical exeat weekend in June saw six Year 12 students pack their rucksacks and head out along the Flich Way to raise £300 for the breast cancer charity Breakthrough. Setting off from Great Dunmow, the expedition saw the group brave torrential downpours, sodden conditions underfoot, and a three hour detour on day one, interspersed with hot sunshine and blue skies, before arrival at their destination of the Doreshall Farm camping ground near Braintree.

The natural splendour of their environment, a sizzling barbecued supper and visits from a plethora of farmyard animals throughout the night added to the experience of getting away from modern conveniences, proper sanitation and creature comforts to enjoy instead the richness of the great outdoors.

On such experience, resolve digs deeper, relationships become stronger and memories grow fonder, whilst the pressures of studying for the IB diploma can seem, if only for a while, a distant concern.

**J Hill**



## Language College

The short summer term at Hockerill is as usual filled with numerous trips and exchanges for which we are so well-known. As I write, our Year 8 groups are scattered over four areas of France and Germany – two groups on bilingual exchanges in Dagneux and Münster and two on study visits in La Coûme and La Traverse. Year 8 in Hockerill at present consists of the visiting Dagneux students, the visiting Münster students and 10 Hockerill students!

Fifteen local primary schools have now either received curricular language provision from Hockerill or are in the process of receiving the provision. There is a comprehensive programme of training opportunities organised by Hockerill for our partner schools and there is a very positive feel to our strengthening relationship with all our partners.

In September we embark on a totally new initiative by offering a large variety of language classes to adults from the local community. The languages on offer are French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, Arabic and English as a Foreign Language. We hope for a very good take up.

The largest ever group from Iasi arrived in Hockerill in mid June for their annual visit and finally, on 28th June, 10 students and 4 staff from Hockerill go off to Gisenyi for our first ever exchange to Rwanda which is very exciting. The Hockerill community has raised well in excess of £8000 to enable the Rwandan group to come to Hockerill in September. We eagerly await their arrival.

**Mike Ullmann**  
Director of Language College



Departing for Rwanda

## La Coûme

During the May half-term I joined a group of Year 7 students travelling to La Coûme in the French Pyrenees. The group was treated to a week packed full of exciting activities. We travelled into the mountains and enjoyed fantastic views, visited beautiful castles and stopped for glorious picnics. The rock climbing activity brought about tremendous team-work and even the 10k walk being pelted by enormous hailstones gave the group something to talk about over dinner! Just when I thought it might be time for a small rest, Mr Ullmann informed me of my first match in the table tennis tournament!

This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and, although exhausted, I was grateful for the opportunity to discover first hand the ingenious way that Hockerill students are given the chance to improve their language skills.

**A Everett**



## Spanish Exchange

When my daughter's Spanish group went to Valladolid in northern Spain, she had only been learning Spanish for 7 months and was quite nervous about not being able to communicate well enough.

The worry was unnecessary. The Spanish families could not have been more friendly and welcoming. The whole group gelled immediately and had a wonderfully social time in Spain. They were made to feel part of the family and indeed the friendship group, with lots of wonderful days (and nights) out. This gave them a genuine insight into the life of a Spanish teenager.

When the Spanish group returned here I felt that we were treated to a week with one of the friendliest, most fun loving and just lovely groups that I have ever had the privilege to meet. We threw a small barbecue which turned into a full-blown party with flamenco dancing in the dining room and Spanish songs in the garden. It was one of the best parties we have ever had and the students were delightful.

This experience, for us and for our daughter, turned into one of the best she has had and certainly one she will remember for the rest of her life.

**M Blackaby**

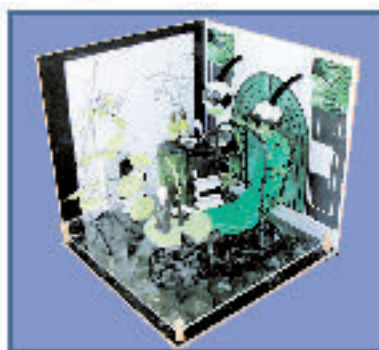


# Creativity in Art

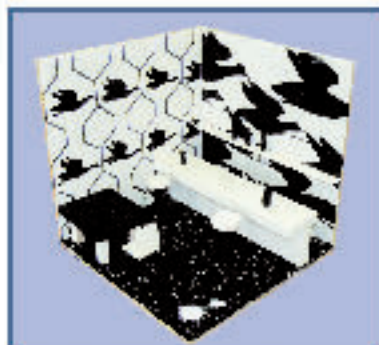


**Above:** Combining the new College Music Specialism with art, Emily Boong presented this vivid painting in order to express the 'funkiness' of jazz. Her work joined all the other year 11 artists' projects during the Technology Exhibition on the 8th June and was enjoyed by many.

**Right:** Year 9's have just completed what is to be for some of them their last ever art project. Students have worked together to create an imaginative model for a café, the walls and furniture reflects a key style from the 20th Century along with a theme of their choice.



**Above & left:** Year 13 celebrated their exhibition on Wednesday 18th April. Within the excellent work seen here, Nicola Stewart Laursen-Schmidt focused on the idea of identity and the reasons for individual personalities. We wish all the year 13 artists the very best of luck in the future.



**Above & right:** Year 8 students from Hockley, Munster and Dagneux painted t-shirts with images collected from trips to London and Cambridge. The winners Nicolas; Emma; Berenice; Tessa and Leah (pictured above) won chocolate prizes for the most creative ideas.

# House of Commons International Conference

On April 24th 2007, Hockerill's English teacher and Armenian Genocide historian, Mr. G. Topalian took up an invitation to lecture at a major international conference in the Grand Committee room of the House of Commons in support of Early Day Motion 357 aimed at recognition of the Armenian Genocide.



**From right to left:** Farhad Melekian, Gregory Topalian, Christopher Walker, Baroness Cox, Armenian Ambassador to Great Britain, Lord Avebury, Prof. Theo Van Lint

The conference was chaired by distinguished parliamentarians Lord Avebury and Baroness Cox. Historian Christopher Walker began proceedings by speaking about the levels of denial of the crime before being followed by Mr. Topalian who focussed on the mechanisms used by denialist historians as well as the British Government. Topalian also spoke about the incredible volume of evidence to categorise this crime as 'genocide'. His lecture was also a hard hitting critique of the Government's current laissez faire position with reference to recognising the Genocide, and Mr Topalian suggested that this position meant that the Government must take some responsibility for the Istanbul murder of Armenian Turkish journalist Hrant Dink in January 2007.

Dr Margaret Brearley brought out the parallels between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. Linda Melvern, Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, read the powerful open statement to the Prime Minister of Turkey that the genocide was fully accepted by that organisation and this conclusion could not be varied by bilateral dialogues between Turkey and Armenia. Professor Theo Van Lint brought out the genocide in the context of the rich and varied cultural life that was extinguished with the Armenian communities in Eastern Anatolia.

Meanwhile Armenian Ambassador to Great Britain, Vahe Gabrielyan stated any discussion on the detail of history was futile and that politics was at the core of this issue. Finally a letter from Geoff Hoon was read out on behalf of the Government, to the dismay of the attendees that demonstrated that the British Government's position was at variance with the position of the overwhelming majority of genocide scholars and experts in the UK and worldwide.

A vote of thanks was given by the well-respected campaigner in parliament on the issue, Baroness Cox. At the time of going to press, the Motion has 136 signatures which is more than ever before. All of the lectures are going to be published in booklet form, and are seen as a key ingredient in persuading the British Government to recognise the Armenian Genocide in the near future.

Activities week was an extremely busy week for the History department...

## Year 9 Battlefields visit



Wednesday 13 June saw 3 coaches of Year 9 students leaving College at 5.00am to visit the battlefields of Ypres in Belgium. Having taken the shuttle across the Channel the groups arrived in Ypres at around 11.00am. One coach visited Poperinghe to view where the British soldiers were shot at dawn. The other groups visited the cemetery at Lijssenhoeke where we saw the grave of Nurse Nelly Spindler, one of the few women buried on the Western Front.

During the rest of the day all groups visited Essex Farm cemetery where John McCrae wrote the poem In Flanders Field and where 15 year old Joe Strudwick is buried, Langemarck German cemetery, Tyne Cot cemetery which is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world, Vancouver corner where gas was first used in war and the preserved trench system at Bayernwald.

We ended the day at the Menin gate in Ypres with the Last Post ceremony. Holly Lohmeyer, Zoe Hughes and Nye Renouf laid a wreath to the fallen on behalf of the College. My thanks go to all the staff for their help on what was an incredibly long but rewarding day.

## Year 10 Jack the Ripper visit



On Friday 15 June Year 10 GCSE historians set off for London to complete the Jack the Ripper walk around Whitechapel and visit the London Dungeon. The Ripper walk takes in the scenes of the Ripper murders including Mitre Square where the body of Catherine Eddows was found and the old Frying Pan pub where another victim, Annie Chapman used to drink. We also got a feel for the nature and social composition of Whitechapel- a very poor London district which lies literally right next door to the very affluent City of London. Having lunched by the Tower of London the second part of the day was dedicated to a visit to the London Dungeon. Not only does the Dungeon have a section on the Ripper murders but also has other exhibits on the history of London notably the Plague and crime and punishment. It also kept students well and truly on their toes, not knowing what lay around the next corner...

My thanks go to the accompanying staff for helping the day run smoothly.

**M Fraser, Head of Humanities**

## U13 Rugby at Twickenham

To follow up from the last newsletter the U.13 Rugby team reached the 12 a-side National Emerging Schools Finals this year.

The National finals took place on the 5th of May at Staines Rugby Club. The team met at 06:15 to travel to Staines RFC. With 3 victories and 1 loss the team qualified to play the winners of the other half of the pool in the National Final at Twickenham just before kick-off for the annual Army versus Royal Navy match. The Hockerill team and other finalists travelled into Twickenham stadium on a private coach, were whisked into the changing rooms and presented with shirts to wear. In front of 41000 spectators the team was unlucky to lose by 1 try in the final to Charlton School (Midlands champions). However, it has been a fantastic achievement for the rugby players at Hockerill who have beaten many much larger schools on the route to the final. It will be great for those students to be able to reflect on their experiences of playing on the hallowed turf of Twickenham as they get older.

Throughout the tournament Hockerill managed to score 270 points with only 40 conceded as detailed below. The College, Students and Parents are extremely proud of the U.13 Rugby Team's achievements and look forward to targeting the team to enter the U.15 Daily Mail Cup when the boys reach year 10.

Leventhorpe	10-0 & 15-0
Chauncy	25-0
Turnford	45-0
Knights Templar	15-5 & 10-5
St Clement Danes	30-0
Lothingland	35-0
St Ignatians	25-0
Southend	15-10
Colne	10-10
Knights Templar	10-5
Ousedale	5-0
Cams Hill	5-0
Humphry Davey	25-0
Robert Bloomfield	0-5
Charlton	0-5

**Under 13 Team:** George Birchenough, Josh Davies, Hugo Delaune, Laurie Dobbin, William Ekong, James Eastaugh, Christopher Gemmill, Sam Leung (Captain), Ben Perkins, James Pickett, Oliver Thorpe, Christian Holmes, Jack Joseph, Andrew McCulloch and Joe Humphreys.

## U14 Rounders District Champions

The U14 squad captained by Alex Ballard started the districts as reigning champions so the pressure to succeed again was huge. Not daunted by the task ahead the girls went on to win the tournament and every game played.

The U14's are a very talented sporting year group and I am sure next year you will be hearing more of their District and County titles won.

**R Vernon**

Freeman College	8 - 4
SWCHS	6 - 3
Herts & Essex	9 - 4
Helena Romanes	6 - 3
Leventhorpe	3 - 1
Stansted Mountfichet	8 - 2



**Squad:** Alex Ballard (capt), Hayley Brookhouse, Jen Lowe, Chloe Pepper, Steff Barker, Holly Lohmeyer, Katie Vrydandt, Jessica Easto, Rosie Cavalier, Amy Goldsworthy, Lily Clifton, Marie Pestell and Masie Woolley.

## Sports Dinner

The 3rd Annual Sports Dinner, held on 19th May 2007, was a huge success with students and parents enjoying great food and entertainment. Highly entertaining speeches from Ben Allberry & Slippy, 2 international mixed hockey players, were well received. They donated their playing shirts to the College. The dinner and speeches were followed by a disco which proved popular with students until their parents joined them on the dance floor!

All round it was great event and one that parents are hoping will be repeated next year. With the money raised from this event the new College netball team kits have been ordered ready for September.

A big thank you to Linda Oliver for all her support and help.

**S & R Vernon**

## The Inaugural Hockerill Invitation Athletics League

The summer term 2007 saw the inauguration of the Hockerill Invitation Athletics League, a series of three track and field meetings hosted by the College for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Five local schools took part with separate competitions for the boys' and girls' categories. Each age group competed in three different events per evening and points were awarded in conjunction with finish positions.

The Hockerill girls' team held a commanding lead throughout the series and finished as comfortable overall winners. Meanwhile, the boys narrowly trailed the Bishop's Stortford High School going into the last match and had to pull out all the stops in order to secure a well-earned title.

Congratulations go to all those selected; their sterling work has helped raise the profile of athletics at the College and has set a standard for future generations of athletes to maintain. Also worthy of mention are the professionalism and efficiency of colleagues, parents and students whose willingness to give their time generously enabled the events to take place.