

ISSUE 20 • APRIL • 2011

HOCKERILL

N E W S





Simon Dennis

Dear Parents

By now I am sure you are aware that from the 1st February 2011 the College became an Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents and governors who supported us through the process that at times was challenging and bureaucratic. We worked very closely with the DfE and four other State Boarding schools who were also converting at the same time as Hockerill. We expect that the College will continue to operate as normal and that the new freedom will allow us to continue to develop the College to meet the needs and aspirations of our students and parents. We were also delighted to receive a letter from Ofsted informing us that, after an interim assessment of the College, we have sustained our high standards since the last inspection in 2007 when we were graded outstanding. We therefore will not be subject to an Ofsted visit, but Ofsted will continue to have our Boarding operations inspected every three years. This is a fantastic testament to the hard work of all our staff and students. A copy of the letter will be sent to parents via Parentmail and will be accessible on our website.

Many of you will be aware that this year has seen the launch of Hockerill Parents and Friends (HPF). We have had two excellent events this term, firstly Burn's Night and more recently Grandparents' Day. Both events were well supported and we have received a lot of positive feedback. All money raised goes into the College Development Fund which is supporting the development of facilities at the College for the benefit of our students. If you wish to get involved directly or indirectly please either contact our new

Development Officer, Linda Daw dawl@hockerill.herts.sch.uk, or go to the College website. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our new Senior Nurse, Lucy Tinnirello, who joined the College recently.

This term also saw many outstanding sporting achievements but two of particular note: U13 Girls Hockey County Champions and U14 Rugby emerging champions. Both matches were extremely close against excellent opponents, so it was a real achievement to have won both finals and we are very proud of both teams. I would also like to thank the Sports department for their dedication and hard work, these results would not have been possible without their support.

We would like to formally welcome our new parent governors, Patrick Lewis and James Leaton Gray as well as Geoff Pedersen as a community governor. I would also like to mention that our Library has increased its opening hours from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. The newly refurbished Library has proved extremely popular and I am sure many of our students will welcome these changes.

Next term will see work commence on our Senior Girls House (Roding) to refurbish the ground floor and add a new common room and classroom at the rear of the building. The new exterior is very similar to the development of Winchester House and reflects the governors' commitment and desire to develop the College's infrastructure further for the benefit of the whole community.

After thirteen years at the College as Vice Principal, Dr Worsnop will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up the post of Headteacher at St Clement's High School in Norfolk. Whilst we are delighted that she has gained promotion she will be greatly missed by us all. In her time at the College she has led the development of the sixth form from a humble beginning to the outstanding sixth form it is today. She should be justifiably proud of her achievements and the contribution she has made to the development of Hockerill College. We wish her every success in her new position.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students every success next term as the exam season commences straight after the Easter break. I am aware that students have been working extremely hard throughout the year in preparation for these important exams at both GCSE and Diploma level. Good luck.

S Dennis

Liege

40 Hockerill students from Years 9 and 10 participated in the exchange to Liège which took place during the February half-term.

They were warmly welcomed by their partners in contrast with the weather which was very cold. We had a nice breakfast at Sainte-Véronique Collège on the first Sunday with all the families bringing in various gorgeous specialties. On Monday and Wednesday Year 9 attended some lessons and took part in activities at school while Year 10 were doing their work experience in different shops around or at Sainte-Véronique School. On Tuesday Year 9 went to Brussels to visit the centre of the European capital and taste one of the Belgian specialties : chocolate !

After an afternoon break with their partners on Wednesday, the work experience continued for Year 10 whilst Year 9 visited Liège on Thursday and Friday. They discovered the most famous puppet in Liège - Tchantchès, and saw a show. They went to the Maison de la Science for hands-on experiments. They climbed the 374 steps of the "Montagne de Bueren" to discover Liège from high up. And finally they visited a fantastic exhibition on sustainable development entitled "SOS Planet" which was taking place in the new Liège train station (built by Francisco Calatrava). After a final day with their partners, when more waffles and chocolates were eaten, all the groups returned in a very happy mood to Hockerill College on Sunday. We are now waiting for our partners return visit. Hopefully their bags will be full of chocolate and waffles !!!



A Perraud, A Coveney & J Hudson



Dance and Music

Timeless, the College dance and music show, took place just before half term, and provided an outstanding array of talent from all groups in the College. There were long hard hours of rehearsals, including much determination and deliberation from all those involved, to ensure the show lived up to the high expectations, and demonstrated to the non-participants how much hidden talent there is at Hockerill. The show itself provided a huge variety of dance, and was an excellent example of what the pupils are capable of once they put their minds to it. As Mr Gdula said at the end of the Friday performance, "There is a lot of bad press for kids out there at the moment,' but this show proved how wrong people can be in their generalisation of the young generation, and children are much more gifted than they are given credit for.

The show contained a wide array of dance and music styles, working its way through the ages and captivating the audiences with its variety. The evening was presented by Alice Nelson and Titus Ogbonnaya whose banter kept the audience entertained and the atmosphere light. The opening number to 'Tonight's going to be a good night' by the Black Eyed Peas, was a great introduction as it gave the audience snippets of each dance that was to follow. There was plenty of originality with inventive dances such as 'Laffy Taffy', putting a new spin on dance, very different to the usual styles of today. The boy's rugby team led by Boris Diamond provided a convincing rendition of the Hakka, and together with 'Laffy Taffy' it educated the audience in how versatile dance could be.

The show continued through the ages, including a wonderfully energetic Can-Can produced by the Year ten girls, and a magnificent tap performance by Miss Calcasola. The second half kicked off with a punchy disco number 'Disco Inferno'. The girls' from Winchester boarding house danced to 'Fame' and the audience laughed as the Year ten boys leapt on in florescent tutus and leg warmers. As the show drew near the end, modern day dance and music was introduced. A wonderful example was a stunning performance by Grace Dewhurst and Lily Pope in 'Hurt', sung brilliantly by Eloise Pedersen. The powerful expressions on their faces along with their beautiful elegant dancing left the audience spellbound. The show went out on a high note with a lively finale which included music from the entire night and as all the performers gathered on stage with beaming smiles, it was clear how much fun everyone had putting on the production.

Huge congratulations to Miss Calcasola who put so much time and effort into the show. She started the first rehearsals in September, and was relentless in her commitment to the show. Mrs Vernon also spent a lot of time preparing and organising the rehearsals, pushing the students to the best of their ability. Mr Foulkes and the band must not be forgotten, as the show would not have been possible without their wonderful performance of live music, helping create the exciting atmosphere. Finally, the students who took part should be very proud at what was undoubtedly an extremely successful show, and in each performance provided the energy which entertained the audience. Once again the College proved what talented students it has, not only academically, but, in all round creativity. Well done to everyone who was involved!



Connie Pope

Drama Club Presents: A Night of Comedy

This evening did not disappoint a fantastic audience of 200 people. The first act of the show consisted of Junior Drama Club Performing three pieces Twelve Angry Pigs, The Ketchup Bottle and The Apple. Particularly memorable performances were given by Ciara Waterfield, Henry Walton and Louis Boyce all in Year 8. Junior Drama Club had warmed up the audience nicely for the Senior Club to perform their pantomimes in the second act. Ali Baba, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk and Hansel and Gretel were performed to shouts of "It's behind you!" and "Oh no you shouldn't!" from a fantastic audience who enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the show. Particularly impressive performances were given by Jack Sillitoe and Bronte Smith, both in Year 10, with their German twist on Hansel and Gretel, as well as Daniel Webber in Year 12; the melodramatic Prince in Rapunzel.

GCSE Drama Student Conference

On Thursday 13th January Year 10 GCSE Drama students went to the Lyric Theatre for the first GCSE Drama Student Conference. They were given valuable information by the chief examiner about how to achieve the top grades as well as seeing a variety of performances from 'Class Act' and the amazing 'Slingshot Theatre Company' who specialise in Commedia dell arte. Students took home bundles of notes and information about how to approach the remainder of the course and the Drama department believe it will make a real difference to the results.

Travelling Theatre Company come to Hockerill.

On Friday 14th January Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Drama/Theatre Arts students were lucky enough to see the acclaimed Theatre Company 'Scene Productions' perform Georg Buchner's Woyzeck. This play is studied by Theatre Arts students at IB. This Theatre Company are acclaimed for their work in physical theatre, puppetry and mime and students were mesmerised by what could be achieved in their own school hall with a simple set and no lighting changes. The performance immediately grabbed the audience's attention as they were brought into the hall to discover the character Marie's dead body and then asked to lift the dead body on to the stage. After the performance the actors and director stayed behind to discuss their work and the performance, which was an exciting, informative experience for the students.

V Marsh

Five days of hard work in the midst of culinary treasures such as "Bratwurst" and "Sauerkraut"

In the early evening of Friday, 18th February, thirteen Year 10 students, one Sixth Former and two German teachers set out in a small plane with wheels coming out of its wings to a small city in a far-away country with weird habits and already in carnival mood on the other side of the English Channel, where they were welcomed and taken home by the families of their German correspondents, students from Pascal-Gymnasium, who most of them had already met way back in October.

For a vast majority of them it was also the second time in Münster, and – as before – the beautiful city in North Rhine-Westphalia presented its best side: nice weather, cold but sunny, hearty food and lovely families that did their very best to return the hospitality and generosity their own children had received from the English families only four months before. Over the weekend it got very quiet and by Monday the staff accompanying the group had basically forgotten why they were actually there and enjoyed their "holiday", whereas the students experienced a taste of what 'real life' was like and started their work in and around Münster.

This year we had a range of the most interesting placements, from kindergartens and primary schools to an International Centre at the university, a book-shop, a café, a bakery and even veterinary practices. And when six miles outside Münster, where one German family lives, an organ-builder was found within walking distance, who offered a placement to a young man, who even plays the organ himself, things could not have been any better. They could not have been for staff either, as every year we are told on our visits to the various placements, just how good our students are, how much they are liked by the children or customers respectively and their supervisors and colleagues and how much they regretted that they were only there for a week.

However short that may be, the students benefit hugely from the experience. Not only do they improve their speaking skills in the target language, they also gain in self-confidence, and it fills them with pride, when they can show us around their working area and explain what their daily duties are.

The families who hosted them were equally sad to see them leave at the end of the week, and when we met at Münster-Osnabrück Airport again in the early hours of Saturday, the 26th February, not a single one of them was too tired to find words of praise and appreciation for the youngsters, which staff can fully support. Without exception, the students were a credit to the college and once again made the trip a lovely experience and worthwhile holiday pastime.

T Stege

The trip to Freiburg and Basel

In December 2010 28 Year 7 students who learn German went on a trip to Freiburg and Basel. After leaving the plane, we got a private coach to the youth hostel we were staying in. The rooms were really cool and for keys we had these special cards that when you put them in the lock, the door opens. The next morning we had breakfast and went on a tram, which was like a train but, smaller and was on the road. We passed the Freiburg football stadium on the way. Then we went to Freiburg cathedral and had a look around the place. There were LOADS of sausage stands and the sausages were really delicious. We then went to the Freiburg Christmas Market. It was really nice and we bought a lot, of Christmas presents for our families. Later we went on a train to Switzerland. The place that we were heading for was Basel.

The next morning we had breakfast and we went to Basel Cathedral. It was closed when we got there, but, we had a look around Basel and then went back. We also went up the tower of Basel Cathedral and it was huge! Before heading off to the airport, we went to Europa Park and there were different country rides represented. There was even a football part of the park where you could play football on ps3 and also play a game on bumper cars. The trip was awesome!

Nikita Melnikov

News from the Library

Picture Book Award

Following on from an activity run by the Library with Year 9, in conjunction with the English Faculty, where we evaluated and voted on the shortlisted books for the Bishop's Stortford Picture Book Award, a small group attended the Award Ceremony on February 9 at Bishop's Stortford College. Year 9 students wrote a review of their favourite book and then thirteen were selected to attend the ceremony with Mrs Ballard and Mrs Green. The award was presented by last year's winner Giles Andreae to Sue Hendra and Liz Pichon for their book 'Dave'. The Picture Book Award is part of the Bishop's Stortford College Festival of Literature.

Booked Up

Once again the Library took part in Booked Up which is a national programme aimed at encouraging 11 year olds to read for pleasure. Along with other activities every Year 7 student selected a free book from the list and then wrote a book review. Stephanie Courtney 7P received a box set of books for her outstanding review.

Amazon Wish List

The Amazon Wish List is going well with 80 donations to the Library. Resources are constantly being added so check out the list on the Amazon website and select an item for the Library. Thanks to all who have donated to the Library.

J Ballard



The BBC at Hockerill

Many of you will have seen the BBC breakfast broadcast on Friday 11th March from L2 in the languages block.

We had very little notice (actually about an hour!) that Graham Satchell would be coming to film some students talking about their experience of learning languages at Hockerill. If you did get to see the piece you will know that, as always, the students did a great job

and were very patient given that the two minute slot took around 90 minutes to complete! A lesson in what goes on behind the scenes!.

Many thanks go to all involved



C Smith

Art

The exam season is upon us. The year 13 students have been preparing their final exhibition in preparation for their exam interview on the 5th April. The students have worked hard and produced work which is imaginative, original and particularly strong in its conceptual nature.

The year 11's have started their exam 8 week period and have enjoyed a visit to the British Museum, applying make up to year 11 boys (thank you boys), using morphing software to see what their children would like and sculpting apples which shrink and turn into old people! All in the name of art!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the examination groups for their diligence throughout the 2 year course. The personalities of all the students have made teaching them a pleasure. The Department wishes them all well for the future and the best of luck when they open the results envelope in the Summer.

J James



English Department News

Year 7 MUN Creativity Day

On Tuesday the 16th November, Year 7 took part in a Model United Nations (MUN) Creativity Day. The day featured some superb student leadership, with Charlie-Maud Munro, the MUN President, delivering a series of activities for our younger students that enthused and interested them. The Year 7s responded in a very thoughtful way to the debates about the environment, education as well as a talk by Mrs Rittman on the function of Amnesty International. The students participated wonderfully in all tasks especially that of representing the interests of their allocated countries. Many made and took great effort to research and wear full ethnic dress which gave the day an air of authenticity. The day was a colourful and memorable one; special credit goes to Charlie-Maud Munro, Ken Oderich and Renee Horster, who were instrumental in the delivery of the day.

R Lukey and A Rana



Year 10 Creativity Day 2010: A perfect example of passion for learning and sharing

The English Department had the pleasure of organising the very first Creative Activity Day this year for Year 10. With only a little instruction and minimal teacher input the students worked together in groups and within a few hours created their very own version

of Macbeth. The resulting performances at the end of the day not only demonstrated perfect teamwork, a sense of humour, musical talent and a thorough knowledge of the play, but also passion. Their ability to express and enjoy their creative spirit was a true inspiration to everybody who had the pleasure of being present.

Year 10, many many thanks!

J Bloemert

Mrs Davies' Visit

We took great pleasure in meeting Mrs Uofoma Davies who was visiting us from The Supreme Educational Foundation School in Lagos, Nigeria. While she was here we took the opportunity for Mrs Davies to talk to one of our Year 11 English classes about Chinua Achebe, a Nigerian poet whose poem, Vultures, we are studying for the GCSE exam this year. The students really enjoyed her in-depth knowledge of the poet's life and the Nigerian civil war; they also learned the song, 'Things Fall Apart', which Achebe used as the title of one of his novels. We all benefitted from her visit and learned a lot from her innovative teaching style.

D Stevenson

Young Writer's Poetry Competition

We had 71 Key Stage 3 entrants in the Young Writer's poetry competition this year and every one of them was selected to be published in the anthology. This is an outstanding achievement and we are incredibly proud of our talented poets.

D Stevenson

The Thursday Thought: Word of The Week's pragmatic relative.

The Thursday Thought is a weekly interdisciplinary, whole-school initiative introduced by Mr Lukey of the English Department. It is intended to be thought-provoking, an invitation for critical thinking and deliberately controversial at times. Interestingly registration times have been ablaze with debates over the meaning and egalitarian impetus of the Thursday Thought quotation. An excellent way to inform students of various thinkers and their ideas as well as a warm-up for the brain before Period 1! We encourage those at home to follow the Thursday Thought in addition to Word of the Week.

A Rana

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to the Year 9 (Set 1) English students who took part in Operation Christmas Child with Miss Peel. They packed 8 lovely shoe boxes full of gifts and their generosity was overwhelming. A thank you has since been received from children in Liberia who shared their gratitude for their gifts. Well done and keep up the wonderful work!

S Peel

Bishops Stortford College Short Story Competition

Congratulations to Freya Somerville for winning the Bishop's Stortford College Competition for Young Writers. All entrants were given a first sentence which they went on to incorporate into their own masterpieces! There were 291 entrants in total who were split into three categories. Freya was chosen as the winner in her category where five had been shortlisted from one hundred entrants. The competition took place on Friday 11th February at Bishops Stortford College and was judged by writer Pauline Francis. Freya's gripping short story has been featured in this issue of the newsletter.

A.Rana

Future Events:

Times Spelling Bee

In preparation for the Times Spelling Bee Competition all Year 7 English classes have participated in 5-6 rounds of spelling heats. The inter-class competition has proven fierce, entertaining and fuelled with enthusiasm to spell complex words. The English Department is extremely pleased with the efforts and spelling power of the Year 7 cohort and would like to commend all participants for their confident efforts. The four winners of the internal heats are: Anna Wall (7G), Gethin Davis (7B), Kristie To (7P) and Nick Barra (7D). On the 21st of March these four Year 7 students will represent Hockerill Anglo-European College at the first round of the Competition in Braintree. Six Year 12 students (Edwin Aldridge, Conor Rohan, Martha Eadie, Nat Burnet, Alyssa Shamshudin and Emma Lester) are dedicating their lunchtimes twice a week to ensure our young competitors are armed with the necessary lexical ammunition and practice. Good luck team Hockerill!



A Rana

Short Story Winner

Winning short story entry for Bishop's Stortford College Competition for Young Writers.

From the outside the house looked as quiet as all the others in the street; but inside it was chaos. A silent, awkward chaos. Today was the day we had been dreading for weeks. Today was my brother's trial. My mother was unable to stay still while my father had locked himself in his office. This wasn't supposed to happen to my family yet almost a year ago now, it had. I remember that day like it was yesterday, the police knocked on the door and the look on my brother's face told me everything I needed to know; he was guilty.

If you had asked me a year ago if I thought my brother was capable of murder I would have said no without a shadow of doubt crossing my mind but, then they found the body, the body of his girlfriend and that was the beginning of the end. My brother was arrested a week later and ever since then my life has been a blur of lawyers, tears and anger.

I feel like my whole life has been a lie. The big brother I looked up to, who played hide-and-seek with, who looked after me when life wasn't going my way, took something that wasn't his to take, a life. Even though I know he is my brother what he did has put a dark and desolate shadow over my life and I can never forgive him.

lcily, a hand touches my shoulder and I look up into my mother's vacant eyes and I know it is time, time to see my brother put behind bars for life. No one else knows how I feel about my brother, my mother still sees her baby boy, my dad still sees his perfect son, our lawyer sees his client who he will prove is innocent but, I see a murderer who should pay for what he did.

I step into the courtroom behind my parents. All I hear is silence, I look up from my shoes expecting to see one hundred pairs of eyes trained on us but, all I see are empty rows of chairs and two men waiting for us at the door. They have the same look in their eye as the men who arrested my brother, it wasn't quite guilt or sadness but, more sympathy, as if what they were about to say would change our lives forever. What they said did. My brother was gone. My brother had ended it all.

Death is forgiving, death is a gift, death is peaceful, death was his escape but, life is judging, life is a battle, life is a prison but my life is now a mission to put right what my brother did not.

Freya Somerville, Year 9 (age 14)

Year 13 University Choices – Important Deadlines

Please note the following important deadlines which are published on the UCAS website www.ucas.com

March 2011 If you are eligible to use Extra, you can refer yourself to another choice.

31 March 2011 If UCAS received your application by 15 January, the universities and colleges should aim to have sent their decisions by this date (but they can take longer).

5 May 2011 If UCAS has received all decisions from your universities/colleges by 31 March, you need to reply to any offers by this date (unless you live outside the EU or you are applying through Extra). If they don't receive your replies, UCAS will decline your offers on your behalf.

6 May 2011 If you applied by 15 January, universities and colleges need to send their decisions by this date. If they don't, UCAS will make any outstanding choices unsuccessful on their behalf.

7 June 2011 If UCAS has received all decisions from your universities/colleges by 6 May, you need to reply to any offers by this date (unless you are applying through Extra). If they don't receive your replies, they will decline your offers on your behalf.

6 July 2011 This is the last date to apply through Extra.

Clearing is a service available between July and September, but for most people it is used after exam results are published in August. It can help people who a university or college place to find suitable vacancies on higher education courses.

18 August 2011 Adjustment opens for registration. Each year some applicants pass their exams with better results than expected. And this may mean that some will have not only met the conditions of their firm choice, but will have exceeded them. UCAS have introduced Adjustment for these applicants - it provides an opportunity for them to reconsider where and what to study.

31 August 2011 Adjustment closes on this date.

20 September 2011 This is the last date that UCAS will accept applications for courses starting in 2011.

30 September 2011 The Clearing vacancy search is closed after this date. You should contact universities directly to discuss vacancies. Clearing choices can still be added in Track.

24 October 2011 This is the last date to add a Clearing choice.

This is also the last date a university or college can accept an applicant in Clearing.

One final reminder – Please note that acceptance of a Conditional Firm offer is an indication that you will accept the university place if you meet the requirements. A Conditional Insurance offer is what you will accept if you do not meet the requirements of your first choice. However, if you do not meet the requirements of this insurance offer, then you will need to go through the Clearing process.

Year 12 University Applications – Important In-house Dates

18 March Norman Renshaw 11.35 InTuition Scholarships (US universities)

22 March Deborah Anderson 13.40 Study Options (Australian and New Zealand Universities)

22 March 18.00 Parent Presentation in the Chapel, Study Options (Australia and New Zealand Universities)

30 March UCAS Convention

Should you have any queries about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

J Chalmers

Rwanda

May I take this opportunity to thank you once again for all your support for our Rwandan project. As you will know from my most recent letter, we are keen to raise funds to improve the sanitary conditions in our partner school in Gisenyi. In addition, we are seeking sponsorship for students who would otherwise not receive an education. The fees are currently £150 per year.

On Saturday, 12th March, we shall be holding a non-uniform day, the proceeds of which will go to the sanitation project. More fund raising activities are being planned. All donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully received, so can I please encourage you to consider making just a small sacrifice for those who are less fortunate. It always gives me enormous pleasure to see the fruits of our efforts when we make our annual visit in July.

It goes without saying that the current group of 13 students and 4 staff are very much looking forward to our trip and all the adventures that it will undoubtedly bring. Exciting times ahead... but more of that on our return!

In the meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make a donation or if you would like more information about this project.

J Chalmers

Interact

On Thursday, 17th February the Interact Club were delighted to welcome Jim Moulson, the President of the Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) to our meeting. He witnessed the elections of the new officers before addressing the students. Congratulating them on their achievements over the past nine years, he then presented the official RIBI banner to Rose-Anne Roy Chowdhury, who, as President, accepted it on behalf of the Club.

And so Interact is coming to the end of another very successful year when it is time to hand over the reins to a new team. My heartfelt thanks go to the outgoing officers, namely Rose-Anne Roy Chowdhury (President), Luke Pettengell and Silvia Hernando-Fernandez (Vice-Presidents), Stephanie Drew (Secretary), Jessica McCarthy (Treasurer), Alex Funnell (Crisis), Ken Odrich (Sports) and Letaru Dralega (PR). Without their enthusiasm and commitment we would not have been able to raise over £8000 for a wide range of charities, local, national and international.

The club is currently being re-structured so that more students become involved under the auspices of a new team. I look forward to working with Kumbi Kuti (President), Adam Butcher (Vice-President), Megan Lines (Secretary), Nat Burnett (Treasurer) and Charlie Dixon (Sports Officer). Congratulations to one and all!

J Chalmers



Learning to right wrongs: Year 8 Human Rights Day

Year 8 spent the recent Creativity Day focusing on Human Rights. The day began with a session on the background to the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights and the different types of right. The students then participated in three different workshops: Wealth and Health in which, through playing the paper game students learned to appreciate the challenge of poverty in Calcutta before exploring the recent global poverty statistics; Fair Trade a simulation game focusing on cocoa farmers in Ghana and Education where they explored the discrimination which exists in the classroom in certain places around the globe. At lunchtime the students were offered a lunch of rice in order to highlight the plight of students in Less Economically Developed Countries. We ended the day with a plenary session exploring the Charter of Human Rights and discussing what the students felt were the most important rights. It was a very successful day and I would like to thank the Humanities staff and Mr Lukey for running the workshops and the other staff who supported the activities.

M Fraser



Auschwitz Trip

After studying Nazi Germany and World War 2, I had an idea of the scale and the horror of the Holocaust, though it was my trip to Auschwitz that not only forced me to consider the seemingly limitless victims as individuals, but also to try to understand what it would have been like to have been subjected to the cruelty of the Nazi perpetrators.

After an orientation seminar with a testimony from a survivor of Auschwitz I felt better prepared for my visit, though I still had no idea what was in store. Just over a week later, after an hour's drive from Krakow airport we arrived in the Polish town of Oswiecim, whose name was replaced with the German 'Auschwitz' during their occupation of Poland in the 2nd World War. What first surprised me about Auschwitz 1, the concentration camp, not to be confused with Birkenau, the extermination camp, was its proximity to the town of Oswiecim. I had pictured it to be in the middle of nowhere, or at least out of sight. What also struck me was that the appearance of the camp was not altogether unpleasant- ironic considering each building is now filled with evidence of the horrific crimes that occurred there. Rooms filled with the shoes, glasses, personal possessions, suitcases and even the human hair of the victims are a reminder not only of the scale but also of the victims as individuals before they were de-humanised by the camps.

We then moved on to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the death camp where over a million innocent people lost their lives. Jews, disabled people, black people, gypsies and homosexuals from as far away as Greece, Russia and Romania came here simply to die. It was a freezing -10° on the day, though we were informed that it could get as cold as -40° in the winter, making us realise that surviving the gas chambers was not the only concern in camps such as these. We ended the day with an eerie yet moving ceremony beside the crematorium and gas chambers just as the sun began to set. The steps down to the gas chambers were exposed as a result of the Nazi attempts to blow them up in their attempts to destroy the evidence of genocide. As the Rabbi finished the prayers, we began our haunting journey towards the exit, using the railway track as our guide in the darkness and eventually left through the same gates that over a million people never had a chance to leave through.

From this experience, I have learnt that it is essential to consider everyone as an individual. Each of the victims had many of the same dreams, interests and beliefs that we have today, though it is all too easy to dismiss a victim of genocide as just another number.

George King

Holocaust Memorial Day – 25th January 2011

On Tuesday 25th January 2011,

120 students in Year 9 participated in Holocaust Memorial Day. We went to Northwood Synagogue in



London to hear a Holocaust survivor speak and to take part in various workshops relating to the Holocaust. The focus this year was on 'Rescuers', individuals or groups who actively helped Jewish people during the Holocaust. At Northwood Synagogue Hockerill students listened attentively to Jan Goldberger speak about his experiences as a young Polish boy caught up in the events of 1939-1945. The students were moved and intrigued by his personal story. They asked questions at the end and were very grateful to him for giving them this first-hand account. During the workshops students were split into small groups and worked with an educator from the Synagogue on the topic of Jewish Identity. They discussed the Nuremberg Laws and various images from the period and discussed how Jewish Identity was affected in terms of peoples Political, Religious and Social Identity. The educators at the Synagogue were very impressed with the vast knowledge and understanding that our students already had.

Once back at College students completed some follow up work in their Religious Education and History lessons. In Religious Education they focused on 5 rescuers and completed a fact file about what they did to help, why they did it and their thoughts on the rescuers actions. They then completed a short reflection about their day which Mrs Yates used to make a beautiful display. Various thoughts were 'Emotional' 'Inspirational' 'Eye opening' 'Touching' 'An unbelievable story' one student commented that 'Hearing Jan Goldberger made me think of one thing, the amazing ability some people have to forgive'.

In History, students completed a timeline looking at Anti-Semitic measures in Germany 1933-1939 focusing on why a people could turn against another group of people. My thanks go to all the Year 9 students for their participation on the day and to all the staff who assisted with this trip.

N Ashlee-McCrae



Alfie Tingey and Iwan Benskin

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place at Hockerill on 3 February. 49 students from years 9, 10 and 11 tackled the one hour paper in St Alban's Hall. The results were very good: Melanie Abegglen was Best in School with a Gold award. There were also Gold awards for Robert Muscroft, Iwan Benskin and Alfie Tingey.

Kieran George, Sebastian Drew, William Wookey, Jimmy Ball, Thomas Evans, Owen Crawford, and Salvatore Wye gained Silver awards. Twelve other students gained Bronze awards.

Iwan and Alfie, both from year 9, qualified for the next round (Grey Kangaroo), which will take place at Hockerill on 17 March.

Well done to all those students.

A. Goldsmith



Kitzbuel Skiing Trip 2011

It all started off with us leaving in the bus from College. The bus was very good, comfy seats, air conditioning and a tv at the front of the coach! When we arrived at Dover we started to see the white cliffs a very recognisable feature of that part of England.

We boarded the ferry at about 6.20, it departed at 6.30. I enjoyed the voyage as we bought ourselves some supper and then explored the ferry. When we arrived in Calais it was time to go to sleep on the coach so the girls chose a film, the boys did not approve of the choice! I found the night tough and only got about 2 hours of sleep and I do not think I was the only one!

In the morning we stopped off at a service station in Germany where we had our breakfast. I was amazed to find out that we had to pay to use the toilet! When we arrived in Kitzbuel the mountain scenery was wonderful, but, there was not much snow. We hired our boots, poles and skis, then set off to the hotel in Kichberg where we had time to put our things into our rooms and then socialise and off to bed.

In the morning we awoke to loads of snow! There was non-stop snow for the next three days. The whole week we really enjoyed going skiing on the magic carpet to the t-bar and then to the mountains. My instructor was really good and was a great laugh. In the end I had skied down the Hanecam and gone on some major red runs! At first we learnt how to side-step, then snowplow turns and then linking in to parallel turns, faceplants and rolling down the mountain. Very soon everyone was skiing really, really well.

I found our evening activities great fun. The first day we went swimming at a really cool place with great water slides. We also went tobogganing down a narrow snow covered road in and out of the woods. Another night we went ice skating this was really exciting and we really enjoyed it. We also experienced the different culture when we went around the town on another evening. It was a brilliant trip and one I would thoroughly recommend.

Christopher Wenham

Hindu Temple Visit

On 9th March 2011 Year 12 visited the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, London. The Mandir is Europe's first traditional Hindu temple and is popularly known as the 'Neasden Temple'. The Mandir is a masterpiece of Indian stonework and craftsmanship, replete with its towering white pinnacles, smooth domes and intricate marble pillars, all based on ancient Vedic principles of art and architecture. Most of the students had never been to a Mandir before and they were surprised to find such a beautiful and awe inspiring building on a road near Wembley Stadium!

We were greeted at the Mandir by one of the many volunteers. After removing our shoes we went into the main Havali Prayer Hall. This uniquely designed pillar less hall spans 50 metres in width and has carpets which are lavishly designed and patterned with symbolic emblems, colours and designs. Whilst in the hall the students watched a film about the building of the Mandir and then went to explore an exhibition about the religion of Hinduism. The final part of our visit to the Mandir was to experience the Arti ceremony which is performed every day at 11.45hrs.

This year we were very lucky to be met in the Mandir by Kishan Devani, an ex-student of Hockerill, who now teaches Religious Education at the The Swaminarayan School near the Mandir. He took us over to his school where some sixth form students had prepared a presentation. After the presentation there was a very informative question and answer session along with some vegetable samosas and drinks.

All in all the day was very informative and educational. My thanks go to all the staff and students who attended along with Kishan Devani and the students of The Swaminarayan School for their presentation and hospitality.

N Ashlee-McCrae

What's happening in the Science Department?

The Year 10 and 11 GCSE students sat their latest GCSE modules at the beginning of March. The results will be back from the exam board after the Easter holidays. The Year 10 and 11 Double Science students have already started their final modules and the Year 11 Triple students are working on their extension modules, worth 30% of their final GCSE marks.

Kat Jack in Year 12 spent her half term on work experience at GlaxoSmithkline in Harlow. Competition was very fierce for places – Kat was the only one of the six Hockerill students who applied, to get a place. We will hear about her experiences in the next newsletter. Unfortunately, with the shrinking of the local GSK sites, these opportunities are becoming harder to achieve every year.

Several students in Year 12 have applied for work experience placements during the Summer holidays through the Nuffield Bursary scheme and the Engineering Council. We are waiting for the offers. These should be a significant help in the completion of their IB extended essays.

Four year 10 students have been accepted to attend Salters Chemistry Camps during the Summer holidays. They will spend three days living at universities – three in Cambridge and one in Nottingham, taking part in a myriad of interesting activities.

S Chalmers

Model United Nations

On the 3rd – 6th March 2010 Hockerill Model United Nations students attended the annual BISMUN conference at Kingswood School in Bath. MUN looks for innovative and forward thinkers, you look to ways in which we can improve our world for ourselves and the future generations. I was honoured to take 20 of our best MUN delegates to the annual Bath MUN conference at Kingswood secondary school. The conference consists of numerous committees such as Health, Economic, Disarmament, Security, Human Rights etc. In each of these committees every country in the UN is represented. Hockerill delegates were allocated 4 countries: Brunei, Uruguay, Belgium and Zambia. Each committee had particular topic areas to prepare and debate upon. I am honoured to say that Hockerill students formulated strong, controlled and justified arguments with strong and were positively well rounded, argumentative and tactical speakers. I would like to thank all staff that made this experience possible for ourselves and congratulate Charlie Dixon and Emma Raventos for receiving recognition as commended delegates. Charlie-Maud is also to be congratulated on being a commended delegate !(Editor)



Charlie-Maud Munro (MUN President)

Year 8 Girls Hockey Team Triumph in Hertfordshire County Cup

After a long campaign, starting back in October 2010, the Year 8 girls hockey squad returned triumphant from the finals of the Herts County Cup. During the pool stages Hockerill had been dominant in all of the 5 games scoring 65 goals and only conceding 1!

Having cruised to the semi-finals a very excited Hockerill team played Kingshott in a tense match – after a nervous start the girls settled and exerted their dominance and easily progressed to the finals by winning 3-0.

On the same day they had to play the final which turned out to be against Queenwood, an independent girls school who offer hockey scholarships to some of the best young players in the country.

Having watched Queenswood's semi-final match Hockerill identified their key players and played a tactical game marking them out of the match. They didn't allow Queenswood to settle and were rewarded with an opening goal from their ever reliable captain, Francesca Pettengell, who shot fiercely from the top of the D. Some excellent defending followed and although Queenswood pushed hard, and had a goal disallowed, Hockerill broke free with Pettengell linking up well with Miranda Wilson who found the back of the net to make it 2- 0 at half-time. The half-time break allowed Hockerill to regroup and replan for the second half. A few tactical changes meant that Hockerill simply had to hang on and defend hard which they did with aplomb with Inka Pearson, Olivia Brookhouse (GK) and Poppy Seaton absolutely outstanding.

The rest of the match was a somewhat scrappy affair with Queenswood dominating but, all the Hockerill team rose to the challenge and repelled attack after attack. Queenswood finally broke through to score to 1 minute to go – by then all Hockerill had to do was to keep possession and run down the clock.

A fantastic win to cap an excellent season for the Year 8 girls – their commitment to training and matches, over a long season, has been immense.

I would like to say how proud I am of their achievement to be crowned the top Year 8 girls hockey team in Hertfordshire and also thanks to all the parents/carers have supported them. I look forward to coaching them again next year and building on this richly deserved accolade.

G Hodder



Year 8 Girls Hockey Squad:

Charlotte Mills, Lili Daw, Olivia Ryan, Olivia Brookhouse, Olamide Majekodunmi, Poppy Seaton, Daisy Kershaw, Inka Pearson, Becky Blaxland, Francesca Pettengell (Captain), Martha Pryer, Miranda Wilson, Izzy Budd, Katie Philpott.

Netball District Report - March 2011

This term has been an extremely busy one for the Netball squad with fixtures and also the District competitions.

All year groups have shown great commitment to their training sessions and have worked hard and given encouragement to each other during training and matches.

A lot of fun and laughter has been heard on the netball court, which I feel as one of their coaches is a really important factor in developing each girls team play, although at times during fitness training there also has been some moans and groans!

K Yates

Results from the 2011 Districts are as follows:-

U18 Netball Squad (Year 12/13)

Result – 4th in group

Squad – Amber Wilson, Chloe Pepper, Kumbi Kuti, Steph Drew, Charlotte Dixon, Beth Davis, Francesca Dimarco, Gabby Provenzano, Lauren Oliver.

U16 Netball Squad (Year 11)

Result – Lost in Semi Finals against Herts and Essex.

Squad – Franky Yates, Marli Todd, Rebecca Natali, Melanie Abeglenn, Grace Braithwaite, Elizabeth Crane, Ana Taylor, Amy Sears and Millie Allen.

U15 Netball Results (Year 10)

A team – Lost in Semi finals to BSC

Squad – Poppy Walton, Shona Austin-Chukwu, Lily Pope, Olivia Pettengell, Jenni Graham, Freya Lawson, Harriet Bayliss, Bryony Defraise-Dash.

B team – Runners Up

Squad – Kristen Barrett, Danni Holder, Isobel Richard, Lily Pryor, Elena Taylor, Becky Vrylandt, India Allen, Franky Gilbey.

U14 Netball Squad (Year 9)

Result A team – Lost in Semi-finals to St Marys (after extra time).

Squad – Jovanna Radusin, Celine Todd, Amelia Davis, Kim Oakley, Sophie Pease-Watkin, Phoebe Evans, Kate Willis, Izzy Boyd.

Result B team – Runners up in their group

Squad – Ellie Brierley Emma Lewis, Charlotte Coupat, Anna Spivack, Faye Elliott, Marianne

Drew, Mollie Naughton, Poppy Putnam, Patricia Metcalfe-Jones.

U13 Netball Squad (Year 8)

Result A Team – 3rd in group

Squad – Olivia Brookhouse, Francesca Pettengel, Inka Pearson, Becky Blaxland, Ola Majekodunmi, Lili Daw, Daisy Kershaw, Miranda Wilson, Katie Phillpot

Result B Team – 2nd overall

Squad – Francesca Bilocca, Tayla Lebentz, Martha Pryer, Ciara Waterfield, Julienne Doppa, Ashli Wilson, Emily Dixon, Rachel Ivey.

U12 Netball Squad (Year 7)

Result A team – 3rd in group

Squad - Beth Calvert, Katie Miles, Olivia Cacciatore, Meg Gibby, Celia Romyn, Stephanie Courtney, Maddy Fox, Lara Berndes.

Result B team – Lost in Semi finals to Bishops Stortford College.

Squad – Kadiatou Diallo, Vaness Igoe, Angel Peck, Millie Berrett, Izzy Budd, Stella Diamond, Sophie Rutter, Esperanza Jimenez, Kristie To.

Outstanding Play

The girls listed below have been chosen by the Netball Coaching staff for their outstanding play at the districts:

U12 – Katie Miles

U13 – Olivia Brookhouse and Francesca Pettengell

U14 – Celine Todd and Jovanna Radusin

U15 – Shona Austin-Chukwu

U16 – Franky Yates

U18 – Chloe Pepper

Cup winners

Hockerill reached the U14 Emerging Schools Rugby County Cup final and hoped to follow in the footsteps of last year's U15 team who won the cup last season. The final of the U14 Emerging Schools County Cup came to a close with Hockerill Anglo European College coming out the victors in a tough clash with the Parmiters School 22-17 at the Old Albanians RFC.

Team coaches Steve Clarke and Tom Coleman were extremely proud of the team and should be congratulated for their commitment to Hockerill sport.

S Vernon



Combined Cadet Force



Hockerill Anglo- European College CCF has again completed another successful term, in terms of both Cadet numbers and attendance together with the varied training having been undertaken.

This term for the first time Year 8 students have been allowed to join, if they are over 13, this is proving to be very successful and will continue next term.

The Contingent recently held a Field Weekend at the Army Training Regiment at Bassingbourn in which we were joined by Cadets and Officers from St Edmunds College CCF and St Albans Detachment ACF. HAEC CCF fielded some 35 Cadets who took part in section attacks, a night ambush, an assault course and finally on the Sunday morning a live firing package on the 100m range.

The RAF Section have been flying at RAF Wyton on a number of occasions this term together with an impromptu visit to RAF Duxford. The Contingent has regularly been shooting at the indoor .22 Range at St Edmunds College, which has proved to be good experience for the younger Cadets.

In the Easter holidays the senior Cadets will be competing in Ex 'Combat Cadet' a Military Skills competition which is held annually in Norfolk. This will be followed in May with the junior Cadets competing in the Welbeck Leadership challenge at the Defence Sixth Form College, Welbeck. Both of these competitions are now regular features of the yearly training programme within the CCF.

Finally I'd like to thank all the Officers, Staff and cadets who have again shown what a successful, enthusiastic and enjoyable experience Hockerill CCF is

Many Thanks

T Hemsley-Smith

Basketball

Senior Basketball season is nearing completion. The team has got better and better over the season.

Played 5, Won 4, Lost 1.

Semi-final against Birchwood on March 17th

J Catchpole