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HOCKERILL

N E W S





Simon Dennis

Dear Parents and Guardians

It hardly seems possible that we are coming to end of another highly successful year at Hockerill. The marquee has just been erected for Speech Day and the Year 13 boarders are returning to College in preparation for their graduation ceremony. Reading through the current newsletter I hope it gives you a taste of some of the fantastic things that go on here in the College. Looking back over the year there have been some wonderful highlights, both the Year 8 Girls hockey team and the Year 9 Boys rugby team became County Champions. Also our CCF cadets won the Welbeck Leadership Challenge for the first time. The range of opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the staff.

Hockerill also makes a big impact in other countries, the response to the Japanese Disaster Appeal was both humbling and inspirational at the same time. We have two groups of students flying off to India and Rwanda for over two weeks working in schools teaching students; a fantastic opportunity for our students to demonstrate all the qualities that we value so much at the College.

This year has seen the creation of Hockerill Parents and Friends with a number of successful fundraising events. I know that many parents were keen to see HPF established and have been very generous with their time. I would encourage you to get involved and support this work, raising funds that go to improving the College for the whole community. If you are unable to help directly, then please consider contributing to the Development Fund. With your support we are hoping to expand our over crowded library into IT2 next term. Sadly, at this time of year we have to say farewell to a number of staff including our Director of Music Mr Paul Foulkes and our Head of German Mrs Tanja Kroeger-Foulkes. Mr Salah Ahras from the Maths Department will be taking up a new post at a school in Cambridge and Mr Colin Reed is retiring from his post in the IT Department. We also will be saying farewell to our music gap assistants Tom and Conor.

I would like to make a special mention of Mr Foulkes who is taking up a new post in Germany with his wife. Under his leadership the Music Department has grown both in size and reputation. Over half the College are involved in music in some form and I know he will be greatly missed by us all. Obviously we would like to wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

Finally, I would like to thank on your behalf, all the staff who have worked so hard this year and wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students every success this Summer.

S Dennis

University Applications

The IB examinations are over and we await the results! I am, however, delighted to say that all students who aspire to study at university are holding conditional offers and some have even be successful in securing unconditional offers at universities in France and Canada. Out of a total of 339 applications to Russell group universities 230 offers were made which is a fantastic achievement, University College London and Nottingham ranking as the favourites. Six students have secured places at either Oxford or Cambridge – provided they meet the grades!

You may be interested to know that the IB Research Department commissioned the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency to examine the characteristics and trends of IB students in comparison to their peers with other qualifications such as A Level. The findings indicated that IB entrants were more likely to be enrolled at a top 20 Higher Education Institution. IB students were, in most subject areas, also more likely to achieve first and second upper class honours degrees and to leave with an award. After university, IB students were more likely to go on to further study, and more likely to be employed in graduate level jobs and in higher paid occupations. All the more reason to embark on the IB Diploma Programme in the Sixth Form!

(see our website for further details).

I hope that you will have seen some of our most recent news coverage on the BBC as great interest has been shown in studying abroad in the light of rising tuition fees in the UK. The government are due to announce details of student support arrangements for entry in 2012 in July and until then I am afraid that I have limited information. However, you may wish to consult www.bis.gov.uk/studentfinance for any updates. www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance and www.ucas.com also offer some guidance.

Year 12 students are currently receiving training on the Electronic Application System and they will be in a position to complete most of their applications over the summer. Important deadlines are 3rd September for submission of a final copy of their personal statement via ManageBac and 30th September for completion of applications for those students who intend applying to Oxford or Cambridge or for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Students also need to be aware of dates for Aptitude Tests which certain universities require.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any stage if I can be of assistance.

J Chalmers

Art Review

The artists have had a successful year. The Visual Arts students enjoyed a very exciting exhibition in the chapel which met with positive acclaim from the examiner. Indeed, the students ability to talk about their work has always been a strength and, by all accounts, they grabbed the opportunity to talk about their work to the examiner with both hands. I strongly congratulate the departing year 13 artists and thank them for making the teaching of them an absolute joy.

The GCSE artist had their exhibition at the Rhodes Centre during the last week of June. Their work looked very impressive and I hope they receive the results that they deserve upon the opening of their results envelope at the end of the summer.

We now look forward to the new examination groups with eager anticipation. Early indicators are that we are in for a bumper crop of high grades once again. On the 10th June the year 10 artists all enjoyed a trip to London to witness art and design from a broad field. One group enjoyed a meal at the Rainforest Café while collecting research for their new interiors project; another enjoyed the thought provoking work of the notorious artist Tracey Emin. A third group visited a packaging museum and gained a lot of valuable input as a result. Trips are already played for next term and we aim to find the strengths of the students so that they may excel within the subject.

J James



Year 13 artists (top left) Emma Warbrick, (top right) Letaru Dralega and Lucy Davidson

The day of our LAMDA exam

Our blood, sweat and tears had all come down to this. The next ten minutes that could change our lives forever, had arrived. We sat outside waiting for the dreaded words "it's your turn". Finally, the moment had come and it was our time to enter.

We had been preparing for our LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) examination for several months and put a great deal of work into it. We had to recite a poem and a piece of prose of our own choice to an external examiner.

Noah Lawson

As I had been knocked out by an anaesthetic the previous day and undergone an operation on my eye I could barely stay awake! I pulled through it though and when I got my distinction I punched the air in triumph. I never will forget that day.

Lily Hamer

I was really nervous that day. I was shaking so much; I remember being told to calm down. I know the chapel well but then it seemed like an unfamiliar, deserted dungeon that was ready to capture my fear like a net. I walked through the big wooden doors and I was ready, well almost. The lady asked me what pieces I was doing and I started. I felt like I was in another world and when I found out I got distinction I felt so amazed and relieved. I couldn't believe it!

For any child of our age a professional exam is daunting and scary. We were both nervous about our results and never believed that we would reach the top. Our advice for younger children thinking about taking LAMDA is go for it and never give up!

S Peel



Junior Maths Challenge 2011

The Junior Maths Challenge took place in St Alban's Hall at Hockerill on Friday 6 May, when 57 students from year 7 and 8 took the 1 hour paper. The results arrived recently: 12 students got a gold award, 20 students a silver award and 7 students were awarded bronze, thus 68% of students who entered got an award.

Congratulations to Dan Hodder in year 8 who was best in school with the top score and a gold award. Other year 8 gold award winners were: Henry Walton, George Parks, Richard Bintley, Francesca Pettengell, Charlotte Mills, Felix von Cossel, Michael Lauble, and Onkei Chen. Special congratulations are also deserved by the 3 year 7 gold achievers: Nick Barra, Christian McKinnon and Neil Crawford.

A.Goldsmith



Japan Disaster Appeal

To date our Japan Disaster Appeal has raised a total of over £18,500. I have done my best to individually thank all those who donated so generously but there will inevitably be some who have slipped through the net. I apologise for this and would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the incredible level of support I have received from friends of the College. Below is a letter from Julian Crocker, to whom these funds have been sent. I hope it will give you all an insight into how your money is being spent.

E Gdula

Dear Hockerill Anglo-European College friends and family,



My name is Julian Crocker, the Principal of the three Carl Eikaiwa Nursery Schools in Sendai which you have been so kind as to sponsor through the Japan Disaster Appeal set up by Mr. Gdula. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for all the warm love and support you have provided us in our time of greatest need.

As you know, the magnitude and nature of the March 11th earthquake and ensuing tsunami was unprecedented in modern Japanese history. The unfortunate developments at the Fukushima Number 1 nuclear plant have also exasperated the situation beyond comprehension. Despite this, I am delighted to be able to report that all 150 of our cherished children have been confirmed safe and sound. We were also able to successfully hold our graduation ceremony for the children as planned on March 25th, not long after the earthquake had occurred.

However, it is only now, three months on, that our children and their families are beginning to gradually return their lives to some form of normality. Fortunately, two of our nurseries managed to avoid substantial damage during the earthquake but the third one, Carl Eikaiwa Kodomoen (CEK), did not fair as well. Up until just recently, CEK was in desperate need of repair; however, thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to fix the upstairs toilet and replace 12 of the 14 windows that were broken. We still have many walls and ceilings with large holes and cracks in them. As you can imagine, materials to repair such damage are in very short supply so we are currently waiting patiently for their arrival so that we can complete the work.

Your generosity has been absolutely overwhelming and after receiving more than enough funds to ensure the future of our nurseries, I have been inspired to establish an NPO (Non Profit Organisation) called MISO (Miyagi International Support Organisation), in order to continue to make the best use of your invaluable contributions. The main aim of this organisation will be to aid schools and other educational institutions in getting back on their feet as soon as possible. Mr. Gdula has kindly agreed to be one of the trustees, and support our activities, and we have already begun by initiating the Watari Town English Programme Support Project. Watari is on the southern coast of Miyagi and was hit so badly by the tsunami that two of their elementary schools are still unable to reopen. The kids from these schools are studying in the gymnasiums of other schools with the classrooms separated only by cardboard boxes. MISO will begin sending English teachers to the Watari elementary schools, free of charge, from June 13th, until the town recovers enough to be able to re-establish their regular English Programme.

All this and more has been made possible due to your warm and generous support for the people of Japan. Thank you once again for taking the time to make a difference.

All my love and best wishes,

Julian Crocker

Friends of Hockerill

The Friends of Hockerill (Alumni) are holding a Fun Day fete on Saturday 17th September from 12pm until 4pm. It will be held in the Gym and St Albans Hall and all are very welcome, there will be games for all ages, barbecue, ice cream, cake stall and greetings cards and much more. We would appreciate your support. The money we raise will be going towards refurbishing, the Chapel especially replacing the lighting and items that have been lost over the years.

We still need quite a large sum for the organ refurbishment. If you would like to sponsor an organ pipe at £25.00 per pipe, either for yourself, a family member, friend or an organisation, a certificate will be issued with their name on and an entry made in our memorial book. What an unusual present for somebody and much appreciated as we know from those who have been the recipient of such a gift. For more information please contact me either on: 01279 713980 or at shellardb@hockerill.com

B Shellard

Year 7 trip to London

On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th June, all Year 7 students visited London as part of the annual cross-curricular project – Pascal and Brunel went on Monday, and Da Vinci and Goethe on Tuesday.

This trip supported the work that has been completed this year in our Art, History and English lessons. Everyone came into school early, armed with huge packed lunches to keep them going throughout the day. We had a quick journey by coach into the city and managed to avoid any traffic congestion which was a good start. Our visits began with a tour of the Globe Theatre, a place we've been thinking about in our English lessons, before having an exciting drama workshop, conducted by actors from the Globe Theatre. We enjoyed the opportunity to express ourselves through Drama and completed lots of group exercises. On both days we were able to eat our lunch outside next to the river Thames whilst watching the activity on the river. After lunch, we walked to St. Paul's Cathedral via the Millennium Bridge. We were given a guided tour of the Cathedral, including the Whispering Gallery, and were told about medieval religious life. The highlight of this visit was when we got to climb to the top of the dome – the view was incredible! Finally, we viewed some of the world's best paintings at the National Portrait Gallery. I think everyone in Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed themselves and got home feeling tired, yet thrilled after their busy day.



Thomas Lewington 7B

La Coume Trip

May 27th, 5 o'clock in the morning - we load some of our Year 7 boarding students into taxis and off we go to Stansted airport to meet the rest of the group. The Year 7 trip to la Coume 2011 had started with excitement and eyes heavy with sleep – a perfect symbol for the whole trip.

Our long journey to Girona allowed us to finish our night's sleep on the plane and to enjoy our first day in the Pyrenees with Marta and Olivier. Here we were, lucky enough to arrive in the sun, the boys using the empty swimming pool to play football, the girls starting off their tan, the staff watching them all and chatting.

But a trip to La Coume is not just about chilling out in the sun; it is also about enjoying sporty activities like rock climbing and abseiling, mountain walking, archery and Go Ape in the wonderful Pyrenean landscape. Our lovely students enjoyed shopping in some picturesque and medieval towns such as Villefranche and Carcassonne whilst constantly being encouraged to use and improve their French language skills. Other stops on our busy schedule included the magnificent "Chateau de Quéribus" and the beach in Collioure, a beautiful little town located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Pyrenean mountains. Sometimes in the sun, sometimes in the rain, the trip to la Coume was never without its humour.

After all these cultural activities and visits to caves and a monastery; after many delicious ice creams and money spent for presents and French delicacies, finally the time came when we had to pack up again and leave our hosts. It was another exceptional experience for and with our Year 7 students which had come to an end, hopefully leaving them with many good memories and improved French skills!

E Peau

Year 10 Geography field trip to Dorset

The trip to Dorset this year coincided with the start of Wimbledon fortnight, so rain was to be expected. We were not disappointed. On Monday we arrived in Swanage, our base, via Barton-on-Sea, where we studied the coastal protection scheme. The evening found us at Old Harry's Rocks, at the end of a headland and a mile from the minibuses when the skies opened. It was a wet walk back.

The next day was better. We managed to visit a number of well-known beauty spots, and we took photographs as countless thousands have done before. We walked the well-trod trail between Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door and were able to appreciate why the 'Jurassic Coast' was given World Heritage Site status. Oh, and we did some work as well.

The final day found us in the dunes at Studland, wearing wellingtons as protection against the various fauna that the group had been warned about. Needless to say, the skies opened again and it didn't stop raining until we reached Bishop's Stortford.

Despite the rain, nobody complained and everyone agreed that the trip had been both enjoyable and helpful to the understanding of processes and features occurring on the coast. I look forward to next year's trip, by which time the current Year 10 students will have completed their coursework based on the work done during the trip and will, hopefully, be on their way to excellent grades at GCSE.

A Marshall



Year 12 Geography field trip to Norfolk

Well, that was ironic! On the 10th of June, a Drought Order was signed for parts of Eastern England. Since then, it has rained fairly continuously and particularly between 16th and 18th June, the dates of Year 12s' Geography fieldwork. After several years of conducting fieldwork abroad, I decided to support the British economy this year, there being something of a financial crisis at present. Big mistake I fear!

Friday saw us measuring beach profiles and measuring pebbles, whilst standing in a puddle at Aldeburgh before journeying north with steamed-up windows towards Great Yarmouth, which appeared to be closed for business. An overnight break, then off to Winterton to study sand dunes, before making our way along the North Norfolk coast, famous for its 'big skies' to Stiffkey, where we were due to study salt marsh development. Needless to say, it didn't start raining until we were as far away from the minibus as we were going to be! The 'big skies' opened and the rain arrived horizontally. Amazingly, nobody complained but everyone steamed quietly as we made our way back to Great Yarmouth, where the rain continued to fall all night. I lay awake that night, wondering how things could get any worse. It was then that I remembered that the Duke of Edinburgh Award group were at that time up a mountain somewhere in the Brecon Beacons! Suddenly life didn't seem so bad.

The students finished their work the next day with a study of service spacing in Great Yarmouth, while I walked with Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley along a wind-swept sea front, noting that the donkeys had been given the day off and the boat trips to the offshore wind farm had been cancelled.

I really must publically acknowledge the help of Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley, without whom the trip would not have been possible. I must also take time to congratulate the students, who worked extremely well under very difficult conditions. I hope that they have all recovered now and that the data gathered will prove to be valuable when they start to complete their coursework.

A Marshall

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that I have to impart the news of the death of Mrs Joyce Perry, the wife of Hockerill's first Head, Mr Richard Perry. Joyce was such a lovely lady, a friend and inspiration to so many. Our sincere condolences go to Mr Perry and his family.

B Shellard

The Vine Cup

Contrary to rumour The Cup was not inspired by the Quidditch Cup and the Equipe's were not a copy of Slytherin, Griffindor or any other dreams of J K Rowling. As did we, Hogwarts followed a long tradition found in schools: a House system with Inter-House competitions.

The first stirrings arose during the autumn of the first year of the new Millennium, a fitting time to start: it was the keenly contested football matches on the Astro' that provided the inspiration. The first contests were often between groups who vied to occupy space on the Astro during the lunch break. The competitions were more often inter year than inter-form!

Sometime during December 2000 I mooted the idea of a "House" system. In January 2001, following a little canvassing the "House" system was launched, the trouble was we needed to find a name for the whole idea... the College already had "Houses" – boarding houses. Teams didn't seem quite right: it took a while for us to make the leap to Equipe. While we waited for that inspiration the competitions started. Competitions were held during most lunch times and the first names came from the colours of ribbons the College seamstress happened to have in her sewing box: Red, Green, Blue and Yellow.

Around the beginning of February 2001 everyone pulled together and the first competitions started. The response and enthusiasm and support from both staff and students were great. At lunch times virtually everyone from the forms in the competing year group could be found cheering teams on around the Astro' and that was whether their team was playing or not. Our "gappies" made excellent referee's after being 'volunteered' by Mr Wright.

Everyone in every form contributed and just as today, everyone's contribution counted.

Especially notable was seeing how the strong and talented players supported the not so brilliant players in team games and the 'man of the match' awards often went to those who perhaps weren't the most talented players but to those who made the greatest efforts for their teams.

In the first two terms competitions were held in chess, football, basketball, table tennis, netball and I think I can even recall a mixed netball competition when some of the boys squeezed into netball skirts! The term ended with Sports day providing the grand finale and the deciding points.

I was at that time Acting Head of Lower College and it was because of the brilliant support from the staff and the tremendous energy of the students that we had the opportunity and great pleasure of founding the Equipe system. I was leaving Hockerill at the end of the Summer Term and I purchased the Vine Cup and donated it to the College to be awarded to the overall Champion Equipe at the end of each Summer Term.

It wasn't until the following year that the names Brunel, Da Vinci, Goethe, and Pascal were adopted and Yellow became White.

When we set up the Equipe system, the agreed aim was to run competitions over as wide a range of activities as possible and in that spirit this idea has been carried forward and now we are very used to the idea of Equipe competitions covering all manner of competitions including Commendation totals and the annual Quiz, the Musical / Drama Competitions.

When I have presented The Vine Cup at the final assembly each year I have always seen it at a great celebration of all of the talent, effort and teamwork that makes Hockerill a very special community.

E Vine

Equipe 2011

This year the Performing Arts Equipe Competition took place Friday the 6th of May. The evening demonstrated incredible Hockerill talent in singing, dancing, acting and music. This event, which is open to students from every year group, has become larger and better every year. The Year 12 IB Theatre Arts students are required to direct the younger students in performing a 30minute abridged version of a musical as part of their IB course and also as part of the Equipe system.

Brunel started the evening with Peter Pan including modern pop songs such as 'Forever Young' and 'I've got the magic in me'. They were followed by a slick theatrical version of the much loved film High School Musical' from Pascal. After the interval Da Vinci transported the audience to an Arabian market with their performance of Disney's Aladdin and managed to create an amazing flying carpet! The evening ended with the classic musical The Wizard of Oz and the beautiful song 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' from Goethe.

Our professional panel of judges made the following awards:

- Best Production Organisation:** Connie Pope Yr 12 Pascal
- Best Set/Costume Design:** Goethe
- Best Dance/Choreography:** Connie Pope Yr 12 Pascal
- Best Drama:** Da Vinci
- Best Music:** Pascal
- Best Actor:** Ciara Waterfield Yr 8
- Best Dancer:** Lily Pope Yr 10
- Best Musician:** Ruby Ktori Yr 10

The winners of the evening were Pascal with High School Musical, but every Equipe produced a highly impressive and professional performance that they should be extremely proud of.



V Marsh

Maths Department

A new online resource has been introduced to the maths department. www.mymaths.co.uk is designed to be used by students from KS3 to KS5 and we are hoping that it will become a great help and resource to students at Hockerill College. The details to access are; Login: hockerill Password: sixteen.

It is our hope that the site is very easy to navigate. Mathematical concepts can be accessed by precise topics and also by level. Booster packs are available and are designed to focus efforts in raising skill levels from say, B to A in the GCSE. In the great mathematical tradition plenty of drill exercises are available on most topics. However students can receive instant feedback on their answers and this is seen as a very positive aspect of the site. Students can then redo the exercises

with very similar, but not identical examples, and see improvement... hopefully! If improvement is a bit hard to come by there are online explanations linked to each set of exercises and further help can be found.

Each student will also be supplied with an individual login which will enable them to complete specific tasks set by their maths teacher. This will help their teacher track individual and class performance swiftly and accurately and aid with the planning and preparation of lessons and materials. Some teachers are issuing these personal login details now but this will be only fully underway in the new academic year.

I expect the site will become a useful supplement to learning maths at Hockerill. Any feedback on how it works would be appreciated.

T Hill

On The Road To Being A New Resident In September?!!

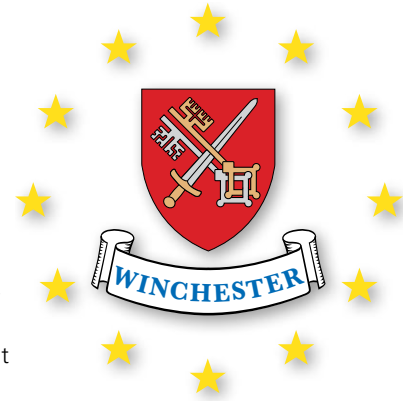
WOW!! I can't believe that it's been 10 months since I started boarding at Hockerill!! Everything seems so natural now as if I've been here all my life. I know the school inside out (even better than I know my house) and I know pretty much every student and every member of staff. I remember when I first started - I had a mixture of feelings, in fact I didn't know you could feel so many things at one time. I was anxious, scared, worried, excited, brave, curious, and paranoid but mostly like I was starting primary school all over again. However I realized all of the girls in my year felt the same. We all made a pact to stick together and look after each other so we didn't get lost in a current of big kids. That was another thing. All the older years looked like giants (especially sixth form), but we soon learnt they were all kind and welcoming.

The lessons were very good particularly because we had them with the same people so we always knew one another. It wasn't too hard and it wasn't too easy. It was perfect and so was everything else. Later in the year we were placed into maths sets and language sets so we could be with people of our own talent and skill. It also made things a bit easier for those who were struggling.

The staff in the boarding house were very welcoming and understanding. We always knew that they were there for us and the soon became like second mums. I remember at the beginning of the year I kept calling them 'Mum' instead of 'Ma'am' as it was so homely. I can now name all the girls and say where their room is. As I'm a full boarder I got to know the staff much better and much easier. I soon learnt that everything was more relaxed and laid back on the weekends. There wasn't such a big rush in the mornings and it felt more comforting as there were less of us. Mrs Pierrejean set-up a scheme called buddies so that we 'new' Year 7's could always have someone to talk to if we had any questions or problems. It was very reassuring to have a buddy especially because they were older than us and they felt like older sisters.

I think my favourite weekend memory was when we went to Alton Towers to spend the day. It showed us how to be responsible yet still have fun. We got to stay in our friendship groups without an adult so we could feel free. The rides were so much fun and the shops weren't too expensive. It was my best day ever in boarding.

Everyone was friendly to each and every child no matter their size, shape or personality and that's what I felt mattered, our special bond between our big and welcoming Hockerill community! All I have left to say is 'Good Luck', have fun at Hockerill and always remember you can do well in life if you put your mind to it and try your best.



Whitney Gitaari Yr 7 Full Boarder

My first year as a weekly boarder



Year 7 Boarders before the Easter Dinner

was a completely new thing to all of us. The boarding staff had taught us a lot and everyone had their listening ears on and was willing to listen. Many of us joined lots of clubs and were enjoying them hugely. All the weekly boarders went home at the weekend and got welcomed back by the members of staff in the House Office who were always very kind. The full boarders always had stories to tell about their weekend whether it was good or bad and they always made it interesting to listen to.

The second term was even better. We always came back to the boarding house after school to get the offer of biscuits and squash before dashing off to a club or signing out. We always had something to do and more people would sign out if they didn't have a club whether it was to the Spar, out on campus or into town.

The third term has been great. Everyone is amazing friends and we are almost like a family now. You wouldn't believe the amount of time people spend outside. The weather has helped. If you went into the boarding house you wouldn't find many people after school. More people have joined sports clubs and many are now in teams. The field being open after prep time has been great and many people are out there burning off some energy before bedtime. Although everyone is getting tired we are trying hard to keep up the good spirit.

So all in all it has been a good year and I hope that years to come will be just as good!

How quickly this year has gone, it feels like just yesterday that we were all new. It has been a really good year and most Year 7's have enjoyed it all. There have been ups and downs throughout the year but we have been there for each other when needed. We are all like one big family now and no-one is ever left on their own. At the beginning of the year everyone was scared as not many people knew anyone. The first few days were the worst as everyone was just getting to know people and many had tearful days. The older years were a great help to us all and have taught us some good and some bad things about boarding as they knew what it was like to be the youngest ones. The year has been full of fun!

The first term was ok although we were the first whole year group in the brand new Winchester House. Everyone was just finding their feet. The boarding community as a whole

Millie Berrett Year 7

The move from St. Alban's to Winchester House

It's nearing the end of another school year and most of the boarders are starting the yearly summer-holiday clear out. This time last year, the junior girl's boarding house, St. Alban's was where Upper Canterbury now is, and consisted of about 50 girls. Truro House, the old learning support building was undergoing construction and at the start of the new school year in September, was going to be the new junior girl's boarding house, Winchester. Construction on the house was carried out throughout the summer holidays and in September, many of the old boarders returned to find a brand new, state of the art boarding house.



As I came nearer Winchester and saw the finished product of many months of hard work, I was speechless. I remembered the many times all of us in old St. Alban's had asked to look at the building plans and the wallpaper samples and even the floor tiles samples for the showers to get a feel of the house before it was even finished. I designed the winning logo for the Winchester House badge and part of the prize was to have a tour around and inside the building site. I remembered my tour through this big construction site, wiring being put in here and there, floorboards being inserted. I remembered our impatience, our eagerness to move into the new boarding house.

When I saw the finished product, it seemed even better than I had imagined, and I have quite a big imagination. At first, the house felt a bit alien, a bit new, but after the first week, everyone knew where everything was and we all started to feel at home with our new Wii and more importantly our brand new IT suite. A year on, the house still looks just as new, just as girly with the purple colour schemes, but a lot more like home. Winchester now has 84 girls but still feels as much like home as St. Alban's did. In September, the Yr 10's will be moving across to Roding House and will look forward to experiencing the new extension that is presently being constructed now which should be ready after the October Half Term.



Day Boarders Room (top left),
Common Room (top right), First
Floor Corridor

Shamama Muhit Yr 10 Weekly Boarder

Hockerill Development Office

Over the last 2 years the College has been working to create a structure that focuses on raising funds and friends to develop the College. To that end, a post of Development Officer has been created, which I now occupy. It is my job to coordinate the various strands of fundraising activity in the College. I have been in post since March and I will be giving you updates on progress, starting with this first report below.

Here at Hockerill we are very fortunate to have a group of incredibly supportive and enthusiastic parents and friends. One of the ways that parents have shown their support in recent years has been through their generosity in making regular monthly, annual or one off donations to the Hockerill Development Fund. The funds raised go towards costs incurred on capital development projects such as upgrading the library, floodlights for the sports pitches etc

In today's climate of cuts, we will increasingly depend on contributions to the Hockerill Development Fund, so your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of you who have contributed and continue to contribute on a monthly basis to the Fund. We will be holding another Development Committee drinks reception on Thursday 1st September as a thank you to our regular contributors.

Our current projects include the phase 2 refurbishment/extension of the library, the creation of new drama facilities and the conversion of the boiler room into a fitness studio. It has been agreed that the balance, which has been built up over the last 2 years, through both monthly and some very generous one off larger donations, will be allocated to the library and drama projects. Longer term, we are looking to raise significant funds for the refurbishment of St Alban's Hall and the building of a dedicated sixth form centre, a project which will hugely benefit the school and students alike.

In addition, we now have a successful Hockerill Parents and Friends group, created in September last year, with both boarding and day student parents planning events to raise much needed funds. This group meets regularly to discuss and share fundraising ideas to support the school's capital development projects. Events planned for 2011/12 are a Race Night, the Christmas Market, Burns Night and an Auction of Promises. If you would like to join our Hockerill Parents and Friends, the next meeting is on Wednesday 28th September at 8.00pm, in the Staff Room.

As you would imagine, our Fundraising operates on several levels, from the submitting of bids for larger scale grants, through to the sale of Hockerill merchandise teddies and mugs. We would welcome your support and ideas in any of these areas. For further information please call me via the main switchboard on 01279 658451

L Daw

Grandparents Day 2011

Hockerill Anglo-European College
Grandparents' Day
SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2011



On Saturday 26th March, the College had an open day which gave students' grandparents the opportunity to experience the College life we have. The event gave them a sample of what our lessons are like and a taster College lunch in the refectory to allow them to reminisce on their own school days.

This offer had an overwhelming response and all the tickets were quickly sold out. My own grandmother was keen to come along and have the chance to see what I do at College.

I met her in the car park just after morning registration and guided her into St Alban's Hall. The Principal gave a short welcome speech and some videos were played which explained some special aspects of the College such as Music, Language and Sport.

I then took my granny to look at some of the displays and a couple of the classrooms I have lessons in. She got to speak to my English teacher, Miss Rana and my Form Tutor, Mrs Whiteley. After that we made our way to the Chapel to have our photograph taken. My granny really enjoyed this part of the day as it was important for her to remember the day she came into College with me. Miss Calcasola provided an excellent dance display which my granny and I both thoroughly enjoyed. The Music department put on a marvellous concert. My granny said "I wish I could come back and start my secondary education all over again here!" I then took my granny down to the refectory where we would eat our lunch, another thing that amazed her. "My school lunches were never as good as this." She was astounded at the advanced technology we have in the Music department and was really impressed with the

fantastic facilities we have here at Hockerill. My granny also told me "I am so glad you come to such a wonderful school where the opportunities you have are endless!"

The whole day was a complete success, my granny was thrilled that she had had the chance to see what my life at Hockerill is like and I was really pleased she had enjoyed the day as did so many other grandparents.

On behalf of myself, the other students and their grandparents I would like to thank Mr Whiteley for the smooth organisation of the event, Miss Dalby and Mr Abraham for the lovely photos, the catering team for providing a delicious lunch, the Music and Dance department and all those who contributed to this enjoyable and happy event. Thank you all so much.

Olivia Tomlinson 7D



News from the Library

Friday 18 March

Local author Pauline Francis visited Hockerill Anglo European College. She worked with Year 8 and Year 9 students on language used by writers and then did a 'Meet the Author' event in the library at lunchtime. She also signed books and 50p was donated to Comic Relief for every book sold raising £20. She returned to the College on Monday 21 March to talk to the Library Reading Group.

Both days were very successful. The students learnt a lot about how writers choose language and looked at the different levels of language. At the Reading Group she looked at opening lines.

Pauline has written two novels for older children – Raven's Queen and A World Away. Her new book, Traitor's Kiss is to be published in July 2011.

More information on her website <http://www.paulinefrancis.co.uk/>

J Ballard

The Really Good Read

The Really Good Read

On Thursday 26 May the Library held a fundraising day in aid of RNIB's The Really Good Read. Only five per cent of books are available in formats that blind and partially sighted people can read so this is a really worthwhile charity to support. By passing on our passion for reading we can help RNIB to give more people with sight problems access to books that we love. We held a cake sale, a book sale, sold badges and bookmarks and held a raffle and we raised £115. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

J Ballard

CCF Summer term 2011

Once again it has been a very busy term for the Combined Cadet Force at Hockerill. Just before Easter we had a field weekend at Bassingbourne barracks which was attended by some of our new cadets in Year 8 who are now able to join the CCF when they turn 13 years old. During the weekend the cadets were involved in a number of different activities from command tasks, patrolling, section attacks and learning how to use the cadet GP L98 weapon. During the Easter break some of our senior cadets completed in the annual Combat Cadet Competition at Santa training ground in Thetford. We performed very well, coming 9th out of 25 teams. Upon the students return to College at the start of May a team of 8 cadets from Year 9-11 embarked on the Welbeck Leadership Challenge competition. It was our second year of entering this competition and it provides the cadets with an excellent range of experiences which all add to their around skills set. The team, led by Corporal Laura Sparks, spent the weekend competing against some very tough competition. On the Sunday morning when all the results of the various tasks were read out we were overjoyed to hear Hockerill College CCF announced as the winners. The cadets were awarded with individual medals as well as the Winning cup which will be engraved with Hockerill Anglo-European College CCF 2011.

We finished the year with our annual CCF dinner which this year saw us celebrate our 10th anniversary. We were pleased to invite back some of the founding members of the CCF, Mrs Lee and Squadron Leader Akyildiz as well as ex-cadets in particular Flying Officer Mathew Eldred. Before we sat down to dinner we were very fortunate to have Beds and Herts Core of Drums play for us and led us into the college chapel for a full regimental dinner.

On 7th June 2011 we held our Bi-annual Inspection and welcomed Colonel Lewis from 5 Division in Shewsbury to inspect the Contingent. He was extremely complimentary to the cadets and Officers and as he, along with parents, staff and governors went around visiting a number of CCF stands.

All in all it has been a very busy and successful year. Thank you as always to the Cadets and the Staff who give up a lot of time outside of the normal working day to contribute to these activities.

N Ashlee-McCrae



Sports Report

Athletics

The athletics season has been affected by adverse weather conditions and a very short Summer term. However the Hockerill team impressed in the recent annual Invitation Challenge with an excellent victory for our girls team and second place for the boys against other Bishops Stortford schools.

In the English Schools Cup the Hockerill teams improved on last years performances but narrowly missed out on qualification to the regional finals. Rory Sale excelled in middle distance events and he has the potential to be a fine athlete if he is prepared to train properly. Francesca Pettengell and Rebecca Blaxland were stand out performers in the Invitation Challenge hosted by Hockerill.

Other impressive performances came from Ladi Adagun (Year 9; 200m & Shot Putt), Alex Banjac (Year 10; 400m & Discus), Luke Davies (Year 10; High Jump) and Kate Willis (Year 9; 200m). We very much look forward to all our athletes having the opportunity to perform in our annual Sports Day as long as the inclement weather holds off!

Cricket

Cricket is becoming an increasingly popular sport at College with numbers of boys attending club rising each week. There has been a 700% increase in the number of fixtures this year and the number of competitive opportunities have had a positive impact on the quality of cricket played. Fixtures have been played against Heath Mount and Bishops Stortford College Prep Schools and

The Bishops Stortford High School. Notable performances against The Bishops Stortford High School ensured that Hockerill had success at U12 and U14 age groups. The U12s were well captained by Sean Grant and supported by excellent batting and bowling by Rory Sale. The U13s struggled on occasion, without valuable contributions from Luke Sears and Sam Thorp they would have been a less competitive team. The U14s captain Teddy King took wickets in all fixtures and was supported by some enthusiastic play from his team mates. The genuine interest in cricket and the progress made this year has hopefully laid the foundations for the sport to progress at Hockerill in the future. Dr Letten, Mr Coleman and Mr Conolly must be thanked for giving up their free time and helping develop cricket at Hockerill.

A Mackenzie

Zell am See – Ski Trip Easter 2011

This year our Ski Trip took place in Zell am See in Austria. We took Year 7, 9, 10 and 11, which meant that everyone could mix together and meet new people. We departed from the College on the 9th April and drove for almost 20 hours to the resort. Our drivers from Florida Coaches, Bertie and Martin took on the brave task of expertly driving nearly 50 excited students all the way. Once we arrived at the excellent Hotel Daxer everyone was absolutely shattered due to a very small amount of sleep. After a bit of unpacking and some dinner it was time for an early night.



The dining room was a buzz of excitement on Monday morning. No one could wait to get out onto the slopes. After meeting our instructors we went up in the Gondola to the mountain just next to the hotel. There was very little snow and we were only able to use two slopes. Despite this, everyone was enjoying themselves and after a few funny falls and wipe outs it was time for lunch. In the afternoon there was even less snow and as Anna and I found out, co-ordinating your way up a very steep t-bar lift covered with very little snow is extremely difficult and results in hilarious but quite painful consequences. In the evening both students and teachers took to the dance floor and the karaoke began. I seem to remember that when it came to Mr Foulkes and Mr Gdula singing the Macarena, everyone was in stitches.

So with a few bruises we started the second day, luckily we had a snow shower overnight and the conditions of the slopes improved ever so slightly. Everyone started to realise how much they loved skiing and just enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately, the clear skies did not stay and by the

afternoon the sky had clouded over and what started as a slight sprinkle of snow developed into a blizzard and extremely poor visibility. Most of the groups managed to make it down the slopes to find that we could not get down the mountain due to the strong winds. We all stayed in the restaurant but group 4 was not so lucky. They had to be rescued by a piste basher and brought down to shelter in freezing weather. The teacher's decision to buy everyone a hot chocolate was greatly appreciated by all. Eventually the wind calmed and we were able to get down the mountain to a warm shower. That evening we had a good laugh with a Quiz and "Guess the Baby".

On Wednesday, we travelled in the coach over to the Kaprun Glacier. We took a Cable Car and Gondola to the very top where the snow was in beautiful condition. A full day of skiing on powder lay ahead of us, but such good snow comes at a price, the temperature, including the windchill plunged to a numbing -27°C. Once you got used to the cold temperatures, the skiing was wonderful and the day was described by Mr Whiteley as one of his top 20 favourite days of skiing and, with the number of days of skiing that he has done, that's pretty impressive. We had a great night out at the Après Ski Party which gave both students and teachers a chance to let their hair down and just have a really good time.

Thursday was my favourite day. After a very early start and the short journey to the Glacier, we started skiing in perfect conditions; beautiful powder snow, blue sky and lots of sunshine. The weather was still chilly though. Unfortunately the sun and blue sky did not last into the afternoon but the snow was the best I have ever skied on.

In the evening we headed out to the Ice Rink for a bit of skating which made up the majority of the side-splitting clips that were included in Mr James' video.

On Friday everyone was starting to get quite tired but we still managed to have a good day skiing and although the weather was slightly overcast the snow was good. In the evening, Lode, Penni, Lawrence, Scott and Wali (our instructors) came over for dinner and the Ski Presentation. Each of us received a certificate and presented our instructors with a small gift to say "thank you".



Saturday came around far too quickly and everyone was sad that it was our last day skiing but also slightly relieved as it was the last day of having to put on ski boots! We headed up to the glacier and met our instructors for one final day's skiing. The weather was wonderful, clear blue skies, sunshine and beautiful views across the valley. At lunchtime we stopped at the Volvo Ice Camp where there is a huge igloo which was amazing. After a bit more skiing it was time for our last run. There were a few falls but everyone made it down without any major injuries. We said goodbye to our instructors and headed down the mountain for the last time.

We left the hotel and got onto the coach for the long journey home. Everyone was absolutely shattered but there was still a murmur of northern accents among the students on the coach which had rubbed off on us from Bertie and Martin. The majority of people got to sleep extremely quickly and missed most of the journey. At about 2 O'clock on Sunday the 17th April, a group of around 50 people stumbled off the coach, exhausted. One week of skiing, one afternoon spent stuck in a restaurant, a few injuries, hundreds of bruises but overall one of the best holidays I have been on.

I'd like to say thank you to all the teachers that laughed at us when we wiped out, Bertie and Martin for putting up with us on an extremely long journey and Mr Whiteley for organising what was an amazing trip.

Fiona Williams 9PDGi