

HIGHsted FLYERS...

March 2013

Dear Parents

Today, as I begin to write this Newsletter I am watching the snow swirling around in gale force winds, wondering whatever happened to the spring sunshine we experienced briefly over half-term in February. It has undoubtedly been one of the coldest and most uncomfortable seasons I can recall in recent years, with heating system failures across three key areas of the school. Fortunately, we have been able to provide electric space heaters for each classroom and consequently have not been forced to close the school. Our thanks go to all students and teachers for their understanding and patience whilst each problem has been resolved. With brand new boilers in R-block and main school, together with extensive repairs to the E-block system, we should now be in a position of ensuring that the warmer spring weather really does come to stay!

So much for the weather, what has been going on in school? February, of course, saw the appointment of Miss Kelly to the post of Headteacher from September and now interviews are underway again to fill senior posts of Assistant Headteacher. With an incredibly strong field of more than 50 applicants, I am entirely confident that we shall see the school go from strength to strength with exciting developments and plans under the new leadership. I, for one, will be looking forward to receiving invitations to school events as I continue to see Highsted girls developing their talents and skills in all manner of activities.

Speaking of Highsted talent, the usual highlights of the spring term have included the Over-55 Fellowship Concert, an annual event where senior residents of the town join us for afternoon tea, prepared and served by the pupils, and a preview of the Spring Concert. As well as songs for every taste this year's event also featured original compositions from our own examination students. The Spring Concert itself soon followed and included all elements from the Fellowship Concert, together with instrumental performances and extracts from popular films and musicals. As always, it was a superb performance, enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience of parents, friends and guests of the school.

The last day of term also heralds a new departure for the school: Soundwave – a collaborative talent exhibition, featuring more than 19 different groups from Highsted and Borden. The works will include an eclectic range of music performed by students from Years 7 to 13 and all in support of Franklin House charity, the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust. Well done to everyone who is taking part – I am sure that it will provide yet another memorable evening!

Alongside the musical evening, other important charity events this term have included the Keller House drinks and food sales which, together with the opportunity of paying to throw eggs at a teacher (?!), raised almost £800 for Demelza House. Members of Chanel House are in the process of running seasonal fund-raising activities across this week, including a cake sale, a range of competitions and culminating in the Highsted Easter Egg Hunt – all in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. All in all, we have enjoyed a great response to the House events and it is timely to say a big "Thank you," to everyone who has contributed their time, and also for your donations.

As usual in March, we hosted the annual German Exchange visit, with some 25 pupils accommodating their guests from Gymnasium Fridericianum in Erlangen, Bavaria. Numerous activities both in school and around the South East ranged from cultural visits to an evening of very competitive bowling. The return visit takes place in July and after the usual tears at farewell time, I'm sure that everyone will be looking forward to that. Also in July we look forward to our very first Great British Arts Festival – a week of celebration and competition where all students will be engaging their most creative skills through a variety of activities spanning all curriculum areas. Kicking off with the House Drama Competition, the week is set to showcase the very best of Highsted talent. Watch this space!

So, the list of successes continues. Our sincere congratulations go to all these students in recognition of their contribution to our school aim: *to seek, to learn, today ... to shape, to lead tomorrow* – confident in the knowledge that all they learn, will equip them with the foundation for their future as leaders. I hope you enjoy reading about the many things that make Highsted so special to us all. I wish you all a good Easter break and look forward to the start of another full and rewarding term on **Monday 15 April**.

Enjoy your holiday, and thank you for your support.



JENNIFER PAYNE
Headteacher

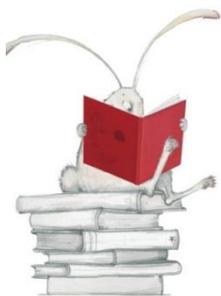
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Learning Resource Centre

Thursday 7th March was **World Book Day**. To celebrate this all years 7, 8 and 9 students received a £1 book token to purchase a specially produced title costing just £1 or exchange as part payment off any book. In the Learning Resource Centre there were special displays and plenty of recommendations of great books to read.

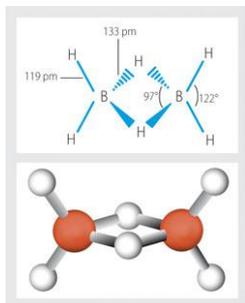


The annual **Readathon** will take place over the Easter break for all year 7 students. This sponsored reading event encourages year 7 students to read at least one book, but we would really like them to aim for three books or more. All money raised will be used to purchase books for the LRC and because we are keen to purchase books the students want to read, we will be asking them for their recommendations too.

Several times a year the LRC Managers circulate **Scholastic Book Club** leaflets. This gives students the opportunity to purchase a wide range of books at competitive prices and with the commission earned, books are obtained for the LRC.

2013 International Chemistry Olympiad

Each year The Royal Society of Chemistry organises the selection of the UK team for this exciting competition. The successful students go on to take part in an international final. The International Chemistry Olympiad offers a fantastic opportunity to travel and meet fellow chemistry enthusiasts from all over the world. The final of which will be held in Moscow.



4,574 students entered the competition this year and, again, there was a wide range of marks.

- The top mark, achieved by Upper Sixth students, was an impressive 54/63
- The best mark from a student in the Lower Sixth was 46.5/63
- Gold certificates have been awarded for marks over 31 (7% of candidates)
- Silver certificates have been awarded for marks of 20 - 30 (28% of candidates)
- Bronze certificates have been awarded for marks of 12 - 19 (32% of candidates)
- Students achieving 11 marks or lower have been awarded participation certificates.

The following students from Highsted entered and received the following results in round 1:

Hannah Blandon	Yr13	Silver
Samantha Clifton	Yr12	Bronze
Jonathan Easton	Yr12	Bronze
Kimberley Matthews	Yr12	Bronze

This is a very demanding test of their chemistry knowledge and is an excellent achievement to receive an award.

The Maths Team Challenge at Westlands

On 13th February, eight students went to Westlands Secondary School to participate in the Maths Challenge. We were joined by other teams from different schools around Kent, ranging from the schools in Sittingbourne (Fulston Manor, Borden Grammar and Highsted), up to schools in Sheppey and Maidstone.

The day started with an introduction, then went straight into completing ten questions in our teams of four. This went very quickly and ended up in laughter with people just scrambling pieces of paper and putting answers down. This swiftly moved on to doing two different crosswords which had to have the same answers. This seemed harder than the first part as you had to check if the answer was for both crosswords. However like the challenge before, it ended up in everyone having more fun because you were trying to finish it as quick as you could. After all this hard work, we had our lunch time and were able to talk to each other, and to other students in other schools and were able to rest our brains ready for the more active second half of the day.

The third activity of the day was a head to head competition. We were given a table of numbers, underneath 2 of them were another 2 numbers. From those we had to figure out what the sequence was and then complete the rest of the table. This proved to be a challenge but it was nice to get to go against the other schools and just have fun. Finally the last activity of the day was the most active and the most fun. It was a relay challenge. Just like any other race, you had to figure out an answer from your given question. However once you found the answer, you had to go and give your other team another question, and the relay just kept going like that. The atmosphere was extremely lively with pupils running around, shouting encouragement to each other. This day ended sooner than we expected, but as the saying goes – time flies when you are having fun.

In the end we found out the results from the whole day. In first place came one of the teams from Borden! Unfortunately we didn't come in the top three, however we weren't far behind. The whole day was an amazing experience, and it is so nice to have a break and have fun with math puzzles. If we had a chance to do it again, we would not think twice about it and we would be back on that minibus ready to complete all the challenges once more. We loved the day, and hope that it will be back on next year ready for another team from Highsted to have a lot of fun.

By Amy Walker, Izzy Packman and Nicola Smith

German Exchange

A group of 25 students and 2 teachers arrived from Erlangen in Bavaria on Wednesday 14th March. After landing at London City Airport and spending the day in Greenwich at the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory they arrived at the end of the school day to meet their exchange partners at Highsted. Off they went back home with their suitcases to meet their host families for the week. The following day we all met up for a day trip to Canterbury, where we were able to enjoy the sites of the historic city centre and a tour of Canterbury Cathedral.



After spending a day in lessons at school on the Friday, the group met up once again to test out their bowling skills in the evening. Who knew that Year 9 students were so competitive?! The exchange students spent the weekend with their host families, with many meeting up with other exchange partners and going on very enjoyable trips together.

The following week saw the German exchange students visiting Faversham, Whitstable, London and Bluewater before heading back to the airport for their flight back to Nuremberg. With tears a plenty before their departure one week after arriving, it was clear to see that many Highsted girls had made a strong bond with their exchange partners and are now very much looking forward to their return visit in July to see them once again.

I would like to thank all the parents and families involved in the exchange. It has been very much appreciated by all.

Miss Allen

UK Mathematics Challenge

On the 7th February some of our year ten pupils took part in the UK intermediate mathematics challenge; this is aimed at the top third of pupils in Year 11 or below in England and Wales. The papers are multiple choice and test a mixture of mathematical, logic and reasoning skills. Of those entered, the top scorers qualify for a certificate. Congratulations to the following students:

Silver Certificate and Best in School: Helen Moran

Silver Certificate: Lauren Acott, Lucy Palmer

Bronze Certificate: Hannah Smith, Freya Rix, Grace Hale, Zahin Miah, Rosie Page, Amy Smith, Ellie Hyde, Florence Anderson, Emily Dale, Holly Boorman, Bethany Waller, Hannah Brothers, Maddie Neil, Emma Gearing and Bethany Claxton.

Sainsbury's School Games Indoor Rowing Competition

On the 16th January representatives from Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 travelled up to Herne Bay High School to compete in the East Kent heat of the Sainsbury's School's Games indoor rowing competition. We took part in both the individual races and relay events. Individual events require rowers to gain as many meters as possible within a set time depending on the age group or to reach 2000m in as fast as possible for the sixth formers. Relay races were competed in teams of four with each member of the team rowing for a minute. Our years 8, 9 and 12 relay teams all qualified for the finals as well as individuals:

Year 8 - Alice English, Reann Mullins, Kalechi Otuadinma, Titilola Williams

Year 9 - Lydia Read, Beth Coulhan, Nicole Richardson Olivia Slack.

Year 12 - Sammy Clifton, Elizabeth Kirk, Abi Davis, Aimee Daniels



The final round took place at Medway Park in Gillingham on the 6th February. All our competitors rowed their hardest and our year 12 relay team even managed to bag a silver medal!

Well done to all of the girls who took part and we look forward to more training and next years' competition.

Collecting Pupils from School...

Could we please remind you that you are not allowed to park in the school grounds at any time, regardless of circumstances to collect pupils. We have limited car parking spaces and it becomes a danger to students when they are leaving the site.



THE CAR PARK IS FOR STAFF USE ONLY – AT ALL TIMES

Please also show consideration to local residents when parking in Highsted Road. We have had complaints from residents about their driveways being blocked by parked cars and cars parked in a dangerous manner with regards to junctions and safe crossing places.



NO PARKING

dreamstime.com

Fairtrade

On the week beginning the 4th March, the school council set about running activities for the whole school to enjoy; it took weeks of planning but after much deliberation, we settled for popular smoothies and fruit kebabs along with a three-legged race and a football match, all promoting different sides to Fairtrade.



On Monday we started off with some fun activities in the hall, including a three-legged race, limbo and our version of bobbing apples but with a twist! It attracted a variety of participants, with the apples and the race being some of the more popular and amusing events. To promote the use of Fairtrade cotton, people had to try and get as many t-shirts on in 30 seconds as they could, which was also a peculiar sight to see!



Tuesday was the first day of selling our smoothies and fruit kebabs. The school council members gave up their lunch to prepare and sell the scrumptious

chocolate, strawberry and banana smoothies, as well as our beautiful fruit kebab creations slathered in deliciously smooth chocolate. At first, we weren't 100% sure that these would sell as well as we had hoped, but much to our delight they went down brilliantly and we were rushed off our feet to keep up with the demand.

We set each house the challenge of coming up with a dance which would be shown off in front of our dance expert Dr Blanshard and the school council on Wednesday.



Both Roddick and Franklin put on a remarkable performance and entertained us all. It was a close call, but Roddick won the overall challenge and claimed their prizes. The school council would like to thank all of the participants and judges for their time and hard work and encourage them to 'keep dancing!'

Again, over lunch time on Thursday and Friday the school council worked hard to produce and sell smoothies and fruit kebabs. With experience from Tuesday, we managed to meet the high demand of smoothies and kebabs in half the time we had before. Our selling team did well pushing our produce to the whole school and by the end of lunch, almost all of it had been sold.

Unfortunately due to the depressing British weather, we had to postpone our Fairtrade football match until the

following Monday, but it was worth the wait! Monday came and it was the day of the Teacher vs. Sixth Form Fairtrade football match; complete with a Fairtrade



ball, the game began! With many spectators, the game flew by and with many laughs. The game ended a draw at 4-4, but it was the Sixth Form team that eventually won the match through Golden Time.

We would like to thank those who brought any of our produce, the teachers and Sixth Form pupils who took part in the football event, form tutors for raising awareness about Fairtrade in their form groups and the other volunteers who came along to help make our smoothies and kebabs. We hope you enjoyed yourselves during our Fairtrade week and learnt something new about Fairtrade; we certainly did!

by Holly Chapman, Year 11 and Chloe Hornbuckle, Year 8.

Keller Charity Week

Keller held their extremely successful charity week this term. Each form had to raise a target of £80 but the overall money raised exceeded our expectations by nearly £300! This was all in support of the local charity, Demelza House.

Each form were given a day to hold a stall on the gallery or under the canopy that got the whole school to contribute. The week increased Keller's community spirit and in total we raised £775.50

The stalls were:

Monday	K1's delicious chocolate fountain
Tuesday	K2's drinks and smoothies
Wednesday	K3's sweets and doughnuts
Thursday	K4's cookies and sweet kebabs
Friday	K5's 'Easter theme' – Throwing eggs at the teachers!
	K6's yummy bake sale

On Tuesday, 26th March, Laura, a representative from Demelza House visited the school to officially collect our cheque and talk to the house about how the



money would benefit the children's' hospice. The talk was fun and inspiring as well as touching. Laura was hugely grateful for all our hard work.

Keller House – be proud of yourselves and all of your achievements. You have made a real difference in your local community! Well done!

Calendar Update



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Term 5	April
Monday 15 th	Start of Term 5
Thursday 25 th	Year 8 Parents Evening
May	
Monday 6 th	Bank Holiday
Monday 13 th	GCSE/AS/A-Level Examination start
Tuesday 21 st	PSHE Education Focus Day
Friday 24 th	End of Term 5
Term 6	June
Monday 3 rd	Start of Term 6
Thursday 6 th	Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 13 th	Open Evening
Thursday 20 th	New Intake Welcome Evening
Saturday 22 nd	Year 5 Day
Wednesday 26 th	GCSE/AS/A-Level Examinations end
July	
Thursday 4 th	Year 6 Welcome Day Year 12 Higher Education Information Evening
Friday 5 th	Sports Day
Monday 15 th	PSHE Education Focus Day Citizenship Week Work Experience Week
Tuesday 23 rd	Lower School Awards
Wednesday 24 th	End of Term 6
August	
Thursday 15 th	AS & A-Level Examination Results Day
Thursday 22 nd	GCSE Examination Results Day
September	
Tuesday 3 rd	Start of Term 1 Staff Development Day – School closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th	Staff Development Day – School closed to pupils
Thursday 5 th	Staff Development Day – School closed to pupils
Friday 6 th	Years 7 & 12 Familiarisation Day
Monday 9 th	Whole School Returns
October	
Friday 25 th	End of Term 1

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