

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Easter 2012

As we approach the great Christian festival of Easter, it is a sign that the academic year is approaching its critical point. Easter is never held in the same regard as Christmas commercially, but for the Christian faith it surely represents the beginning. It is no coincidence that it also corresponds to the wonderful season of Spring, when we see signs of renewal and new life everywhere. I hope the Easter holiday will rejuvenate and energize our whole community, and especially that it will enable Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to prepare for some very important exams.

Raising the bar again!

I wish I could say that the holiday for these year groups should be spent relaxing and taking in the new sun's rays but alas this is not the case. Every moment spent revising is precious because we never know which topics will come up in an examination. The fact of the matter is that Y11 and Y13 have the ability and drive to raise the bar again for Hellesdon High School. You may remember me saying, a few years ago, that we should aspire to emulate the performance of other schools. There is no need now, because we are the benchmark for many other schools who have seen what we have achieved as a learning community in 3 years.

Getting on together

Many of us will have been for a blood test, visited the doctor, travelled on the train or bus, or used other public services, and seen the signs saying that verbal or physical abuse of staff will be met with the strictest sanctions, up to and including the police and prosecution. It is no different in a school. In order that all conversations and discussions can be carried out politely and professionally, verbal and physical abuse will not be tolerated. Due to the high level of congestion with buses and taxis at each end of the school day, we would also like to ask parents/carers not to drive into the car park to drop off or collect students at these times. The School is able to clamp cars and involve the local police, but of course we would rather not have to resort to such measures.

Thoughts and prayers

We always keep in our thoughts and prayers the parents, carers and relations of students and staff who have recently died or who are ill, as we do our servicemen and women, and the people of Syria. The sporting world has been shocked by the sudden illness of Fabrice Muamba (thankfully he is now making progress), and neither should we forget those young men and women who have met with tragedy, but who are not in the public eye. Their friends and family also need our comfort.

And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the whole school community a happy and peaceful Easter. May the sun shine during the day, and the rain pour at night. Best Wishes,

Gerard Batty, Headteacher

Newsletter

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Photography



Emily Borrett, *A Winter's Tale*

On 9 February, shortlisted A2 Photography students Emily Borrett and George Cuffley attended a formal awards evening for the Nicolas Corbin Norfolk Schools photo competition. Emily was announced runner-up, winning a host of generous prizes. The judges described her 'Winter's Tale' as a wonderful portrayal of a stark Norfolk landscape, with "great texture and depth."

George's tilt-shift image of Norwich Market was commended for the high level of skill and technique evidenced in the piece. Emily continued the evening with interviews for the BBC, EDP and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Enormous congratulations to both students for their outstanding achievements! See the Art Department's website blog for more...

Mobile Phones

Please be aware of the policy: students are not allowed to use mobiles in the building during school time. They may only be used outdoors, at break and lunchtimes. Mobiles used indoors will be confiscated and parents will be asked to pick them up at the front office. The School accepts no liability for the loss or damage of mobile phones brought into school.

Birdbox project



Students and their professional-looking product

Year 10 Construction students have been making birdboxes with Mr P Duncan (Technology) and Mr J Duncan (Construction), along with Mr Knights and Mr Crabtree. Ridgeons Timber and Builders Merchants have kindly donated all the materials needed, and the students have worked hard to produce high-quality work. The boxes are for sale, and the money raised will go towards a building project at Emmanuel Grace School in India, which Mr J Duncan is hoping to undertake on a trip to India next year. Nicky Smith, who runs Emmanuel Grace School with her husband Pastor Samuel Zion, is hoping to visit England in May, and will be able to discuss their needs. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this very successful project to benefit the students of our Indian partner school.

Miss Jones

Sumobots 2012!



Scenes from a day of wrestling robots

19 March saw the annual Design & Technology Sumobots competition for local primary pupils. Ten teams entered, from five different schools: Kinsale, Firsides, Horsham St. Faith, Horsford and Rackheath. Each team of two pupils was challenged to build a sumo-wrestling robot, using electric motors and a selection of gears, supported by five HHS mentors from Years 7 and 8.

Our visitors had a great time working together, indulging in pizza and juice at snack time and then going head to head after lunch in a contest of strength and skill to see which SumoBot would prevail! The eventual winners were Lean Green Fighting Machine from Horsford (Y5) and Jailbreak from Firsides (Y6). The daytime event ended on a high, with presentations and prizes...



Alternating Annies: Megan Woodhouse & Bethany Grimshaw

The production of *Annie* from 14-16 March was hailed as one of the best the School had ever seen! It was wonderful to see so many of our young people demonstrating their talents.

Congratulations to the whole cast and to all those behind the scenes, particularly Miss Stanley and Mr Brown in the Performing Arts Department. The *Evening News* reported on 20 March:

'Director K Stanley called the show "an outstanding production, showing hard work and dedication from all cast, technical and backstage members."

'... For many of the older students, it was the last chance to work together before they finish their school careers this summer.

'Cathy Wilson, who played Lily St Regis, said: "We had so much fun. Our opening night went really well. The atmosphere was amazing and when the applause began, we were all absolutely buzzing!"'

Orphaned raffle prizes

Many thanks to everyone who came to see the show, and if you supported the PTA by buying a raffle ticket or ice cream during one of the performances.

Of the 37 raffle prizes, 6 were unclaimed. These are chocolates, wine, biscuits and a DVD. If you didn't check your tickets and wonder if you might be a winner, please email PTA@hellesdonhigh.norfolk.sch.uk with your ticket numbers and, if you were lucky, we'll get your prize to you!

... and for those who wanted to perfect their SumoBot-making skills, there was an opportunity to return to HHS at 6 o'clock that evening, to participate in a family competition. 28 adults and 33 children attended this extremely popular annual event, and a thoroughly good time was had by all!

Mr R Edwards and Miss Ford



"It's a funner way of learning French."

In the past year, a new website has been introduced to the school. A new site that requires just a heart and a brain. A site that has taken the minds of the school by surprise: www.hellomylo.com

MYLO describes itself as "a new way to learn languages" and is living up to its reputation! "What is MYLO?" you ask. Well, although it is a lot of fun, it helps to teach beginners, amateurs, and even GCSE level students.

MYLO is not just a site for French, it is also for German, Spanish and Mandarin learners. It is web-based and there is no software to download, so students can access MYLO in and out of school.

The question is, how many kudos points have YOU got?
Jessie Bew

MFL Olympic Award



You might have seen badges like this around School, pinned to students you know. They are actually Olympic medals, awarded to languages stars for 2012!

To qualify for these awards, you need to ask your language teacher for a checklist to keep track of your achievements. These include some core goals like going up a level, winning points for effort in the Chocolate League, using the language in class, having your work displayed, earning kudos points on MYLO (see above) and keeping your books looking good.

Then there are options to choose from, including teaching an adult 10 words s/he didn't already know, writing an article, performing a song, making a presentation, board game, snack or resource for younger learners.

Congratulations to everyone who has already won a badge, or is on the way to doing so. There have been some outstanding achievements, such as a great board game based on sightseeing in Paris by Alex Slaughter in Year 7, which you can see on the MFL blog (via the school website).

Mr Berry

Crime and Punishment

As part of their GCSE controlled assessment work, Y11 spent a day at the Castle Museum. They investigated the architectural history of the building and discovered evidence of its use as a prison. They also had the opportunity to examine different types of punishment such as the scold's bridle, stocks and ducking stool.



History comes alive at the Castle

In the afternoon, the students took part in a mock trial, recreating the case of James Rush, who was convicted of murder in 1848 and hanged outside Norwich Castle in 1849, before a crowd of 30,000. There were star performances from Keenan Groom, Raph Barnett-Ward, Stevie Beckett, Eleanor Torbati, Max Emerson, Emily Turner, Molly Baldry, Kim Clarkson, and Mr Spillane as the judge. Many thanks to all the students and staff for making it such a positive day.

Mrs Kelleway

Easter Revision Day

A special revision day is being organized for students who will be re-sitting their Germany and Medicine modules in the summer. The event will take place on Wednesday 4 April, and students will be invited to attend. The focus will be examination skills and revision.

Witch Hunt

Witch Hunts were the focus of the History taster session which the UEA ran as a Gifted and Talented event for Year 12 students. Schools from across Norfolk were represented and students had the opportunity to work with UEA historian Professor Malcolm Gaskill who has written extensively about the history of witchcraft beliefs and prosecutions. Professor Gaskill used contemporary sources to develop students' understanding of the period. Y12 were able to experience a mini-lecture and a seminar to get a taste for studying History at university. After the seminar, UEA ambassadors gave tours of the campus, helping students to familiarize themselves with the university.

Learning Gateway

Don't forget that you can access all of your child's key information, such as attendance, reports / assessments and behaviour data via the Learning Gateway. If you have lost or forgotten your login or password please contact the school office. The Learning Gateway can be accessed via the school website.

PTA News

New Shelter

We are excited to announce that a new shelter is being erected in the School grounds in the Easter holidays. This will give students somewhere to sit outside with protection from the elements. We'll post some photos on the website. The money to build this shelter has come from our recent events: the quiz night, indoor car boot sales, sale of ice-creams at School productions, and profits from our monthly draw. We have also received some company giving and hope to claim gift aid on donations.

Forthcoming events

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, our wine-tasting evening in May is cancelled, so our next event is to be a glizty race night on Friday 13 July at School. Tickets will be on sale, to include a BBQ (over 18s only). Please look out for more information.

The Giving Machine

If you ever shop online, please sign up to the website TheGivingMachine.co.uk. This is a not-for-profit company set up by four Hertfordshire dads in 2006 to raise money for UK schools and charities. If you nominate Hellesdon High School, online retailers will give a donation to HHS PTA each time you shop there.



Competition! *Everybody signed up by the end of April 2012 will be entered into a prize draw to win a high street shopping voucher. Please email the PTA your contact details to enter.*

As always, feedback and suggestions are gratefully received, at: PTA@hellesdonhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Jo Storey, PTA

Year 6 Maths Challenge

On 9 February, primary schoolchildren from three of our Cluster schools, Kinsale, Firside and Horsford, came to HHS for a morning of creative maths. The following account is by three pupils from Kinsale Junior:

When we arrived we were told we were making custard bouncy balls to measure the mass, height of how high it bounces and to convert the averages into different measurements (inches). With this experience we learnt that smaller and lighter balls bounce higher than big and heavy balls do. Another thing we discovered was that the mass of the ball probably mattered most because gravity would pull it down more.

If you want to make your own custard bouncy ball here's how. To make a successful custard bouncy ball you will need:

- a teaspoon
- a tablespoon
- warm water
- borax
- glue
- a container
- custard powder



How to make a custard bouncy ball

First you pour four teaspoons of warm water into a small container, along with one teaspoon of borax, and mix. Next, using a different container, pour one tablespoon of glue and two teaspoons of custard powder and mix. After that, pour one teaspoon of the first mixture you made into the second mixture you made. Finally, you roll the final mixture in your hand in the same direction to form a ball. This is your custard bouncy ball: keep rolling until it is rubbery and then you have finished.

Sherena, Jamie and Sophie

What's been happening at STEM Club? (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)



We have been busy since Christmas, taking part in a number of challenges. The first was to make the strongest bridge possible with limited resources. Our winners were Ilana Mack, Imogen Jamieson and Chloe Smith (Y7) with a bridge that held a whopping 1.5kg.



We then had a go making balloon-powered cars, which we raced along the Science corridor.



Currently, six Y7-8 students are completing their Bronze Crest award, which involves carrying out an investigation and writing up the findings. The group has chosen to investigate the wobbliness of jelly made at different concentrations, and to test the claims made for hair products by measuring the strength of hair.

If you're interested in joining us, we meet every Wednesday in D6 from 15:00-16:00.

Mrs Nicholls

January modules

Results were handed out to students on 8 March. There were a lot of happy faces, as well as some who hadn't done quite as well as they wanted. All students should now have had conversations with subject teachers on what the results mean and how they can be improved. The Sixth Form Team has been offering support and advice on the next steps, in preparation for the May/June examination period.

Attendance Focus

With exams out of the way, this half term we have been concentrating on attendance. Did you know that missing one lesson a fortnight in a subject equates to 15 lessons over the year, OVER 10% of the course? We are also pushing punctuality, as (and these figures did shock me) arriving 5 minutes late to every lesson over a fortnight means a loss of over 11 hours of teaching time, or more than a fortnight of missed lessons over a year.

Kinsale Readers

It was really pleasing recently to attend a meeting with the Head Teacher of Kinsale Infant School. Joining us were 30 Sixth Form students, who had volunteered to go to the school once a week, to hear pupils from Years 1 & 2 read. So far, reports are promising and both the Sixth Formers and the infants are really enjoying the time spent reading. My thanks go to Mr Holroyd (Head of Y13) for organising this opportunity.

Applications for Sixth Form 2012/13

Letters offering a place in Sixth Form have been posted to those who have applied to study with us next year. The offer of a place is subject to students gaining the required entry criteria for the Sixth Form (a minimum of 6 A*-C grades in at least 4 subjects). Please make sure you return your reply/acceptance slip by Friday 20 April 2012. This is very important, especially if you have applied for oversubscribed courses. And please note that, while the entry criteria for all courses are C/B grades, students should be aiming for the top grades possible. This will become even more important when you apply for jobs/university at the end of Sixth Form, as GCSE grades are often used as well as A Level ones to determine who is invited to interview.

Revision Sessions over Easter

This year, a number of departments are once again organizing extra revision sessions over the Easter break. Make sure you look at the list produced by Mr Jones (also on the website) to see where and when these are.

Mr Taylor, Director of Sixth Form

Commonwealth Day

On 12 March, HHS students joined the Queen, High Commissioners, VIPs and 1,000 other schoolchildren at the Commonwealth Day celebrations at Westminster Abbey. Molly Rush, Jazmine Notley, Danielle Forder, Jade Buttifant and Stephanie Scharer won tickets with their stories for the Jubilee Time Capsule, and were joined by Eve Leeder (Y7), Head Girl Molly Baldry and Head Boy Matthew Parker.

The Royal party passed only a few feet away from the Hellesdon students, who were lucky to have some of the best seats in the Abbey. Another highlight was the performance by South African jazz musician Hugh Masekela, who got the whole Abbey singing!



Outside Westminster Abbey

My favourite performers were Laura Wright and Hugh Masekela. Westminster Abbey was beautiful and I will never forget the outstanding architecture. Queen Elizabeth was there, and she looked lovely. I hope to be able to go again another year!

Molly Rush



The Queen arrives at the ceremony

The day was amazing, and the weather made it even better! I had never seen the Queen in real life before and I was the first out of my whole family. Thanks, Miss Lovick and Mrs Wang, for taking me - it has been one of the best days ever!

Jade Buttifant

Anniversary Garden



The Year 7 Council

The Year 7 Council spent a morning at Firside Junior School recently to help them create a new wildlife garden to celebrate their anniversary. Lauryn Moncur said: "It was a spectacular day out and we would like to thank Firside for having us." Bryony Neale was impressed by the Firside pupils. Joe Bales said "It's a good school, and it was nice to help the younger kids learn how to grow things," whilst Luke Gray thought it was great fun to dig big holes! All of the Y7 Council would like to wish Firside a very happy anniversary.

Miss Lovick

World Challenge



Kerala

Epping Forest

On Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March the World Challenge team travelled with Miss Bingham and Mr Thomson to Epping Forest to complete a practice expedition in preparation for their 24-day tour in Kerala, India.

They were taught how to use small stoves to cater for large groups of people, how to set up a safe campsite and how to cope with injury during their trek. They even modelled safe practice when crossing rivers! The group made real progress over the weekend and now have the task of organizing their roles during their expedition.

We are all looking forward to watching their skills develop as they plan their itinerary, book accommodation and organise their finances throughout the trip. Good luck, Challengers!

Miss Bingham

Easter Holidays

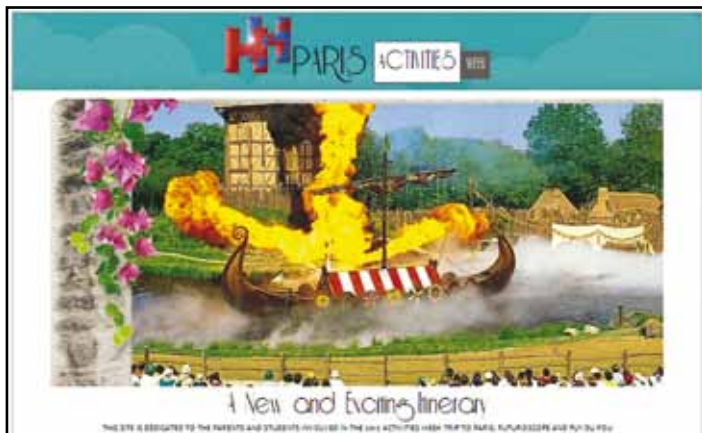
The Extended Schools Easter Holiday Activities Newsletter is now available to view on the HHS Blog, full of upcoming opportunities for young people and families, along with a list of contact and booking details.

There are two fantastic Easter camps running this year for HHS students. The first is taking place on 2-3 April in the HHS Sports Hall, between 09:30am and 3:30pm with Premier Sport: a brilliant multi-sports camp for 11-15 year-olds. Book a place by phone on (01953) 499040 or through the following website (sibling discounts are available): www.chewitspremiersport.org

The second Easter camp is with Basketball in the Community, taking place in the Sports Hall at HHS on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 April from 10:00am to 3:00pm. This is an opportunity for students in Years 7-11 to have lots of fun and exercise, improve their basketball skills, win trophies and medals, not to mention receive their own custom printed BITC t-shirt! Students can pick up booking forms from Mrs Skeggs in the School Library, or alternatively, bookings can be made over the phone on 07533301392. Places are limited, so don't delay and sign up today!

Activities Week

Information letters are available from Miss Ford, Mr Male and Mr Armstrong for the Year 8-9 Paris and Sailing trips for Activities Week 2012! Again, places are limited, so please don't delay. There is a dedicated 2012 Paris trip website which you can visit via the school homepage: www.hellesdon.net



New opportunities

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for information on the new Freestyle Football and Karate after-school clubs starting soon at HHS! More details will be coming to the Extended Schools noticeboard, rolling plasma screens, morning notices in School, and the HHS Blog.

HHS Youth Club

movienights
 foodPOOL
 PingPongwii
 xboxkinect
 karaoke
 djdecks
 friends
 musicfootball
 Rounders

Hellesdon Youth Club.

From Friday 27 April the HHS Youth Club will be opening its doors once more. This fantastic safe haven for young people to meet out of school hours will be operating from the HHS Sixth Form Common Room on a Friday between 18:45 and 20:45. The new and improved service will be run by trained volunteers from the local community, and will cost 50p per person per visit, to be reinvested into the Youth Club funds for future events and facilities. Each young person wishing to attend the Youth Club must collect a parental consent form from Mrs Skeggs in the School Library and return it signed and completed by his or her parent/carer to the Youth Club. As places are limited, it is recommend that parents and carers check that their child definitely has a place for the evening when dropping off.

Please note: Students will have the opportunity to bring home a flier with a heavily discounted admission fee on for Pleasurewood Hills this Easter, negotiated by the Extended Schools Team! Enjoy!

For information on extra-curricular events and activities at HHS, students can use the Extended Schools folder in 'Public' on the school intranet system, the Extended Schools noticeboard at the bottom of the B staircase, listen out for morning notices, and parents/carers can use the HHS Blog.

Miss Ford and the Extended Schools Team



Netball

All our netball teams have done very well this year. The U12 team played in the City tournament at UEA and came 3rd from 10 teams, losing only to Norwich High. Congratulations to the U15 team, who won every one of their league matches! The Hellesdon Angels U14 **basketball** team are also league winners, having won all their games, and will go on to play a semi-final against the 2nd place team from Norwich South.



Now for the big one! The U14 Netball team qualified to represent Norfolk in the Eastern Region Finals in Southend in January. There they were up against the best teams in the Eastern Region (Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire), so it was going to be tough. The team played amazingly well and came second in their group. This meant they were in the semi-final, which unfortunately they lost to Brentwood High School. However, what an achievement, to be among the top 4 schools from 6 counties! The girls should be very proud of their performances. The team consisted of Jess Clegg (Captain), Rosie Beel, Katie Light, Jaimee Woodhouse, Rio Topley, Morgan Warnes, Anna and Lucy McNarry, Charlie Banks and Ellen Lucas.

Mrs Broster

Sporting achievements

Congratulations to Sophie Alden (Intermediate Girls) and Juliet Broster (Senior Girls), who have been selected to represent the School and the county at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships at Taunton in March. They qualified through the County Finals and then the East Anglian Finals to be selected for the team. We wish them all the best.

Finally, good luck to Gemma Thrower (Y11), who will be representing the England Midlands team (11 counties) in the javelin, at the Sainsburys School Games to be held at London's new Olympic Park in May 2012.

Football



We made the short trip to Carrow Park on 21 February for the Community Sports Foundation U13 football tournament. The HHS girls were placed in a difficult-looking group containing Wymondham High, Caister High, Sheringham High and Sprowston High School.

The day started well with a strong performance and a 2-1 win over Sheringham: very good goals from Hope Middleton and Bryoni Newman-Sanders were enough to secure the three points. The second league game of the morning was against Wymondham. The team battled hard, but were caught out from a late corner and unfortunately went down to a narrow 1-0 loss.

With a positive response needed, the girls came up against a very tall, physical Sprowston team in their next game. The team fought well and played some fantastic football, coping with a new formation and rather aggressive opposition. They sneaked a great 1-0 victory with the only goal of the game from Hope Middleton. After Wymondham lost to Sheringham, Hellesdon needed to beat Caister in their final league game to assure their progression to the county finals.

The game began slowly, and chances went begging on both sides, but before long Hellesdon started to impress with some excellent football. As the confidence grew so did the 'goals for' column, and Hellesdon had soon notched up an impressive seven goals! When the ten minutes ended, goals from Rosie Clements, Gemma Manning, Lois Baker x2 and Bryoni Newman-Sanders x3 had eased HHS to a comfortable victory.

A fantastic day of football ended up with Hellesdon progressing to the county finals in March. The team performed admirably and deservedly booked their place in the next round. A special mention must go to our goalkeeper Elise Aldred for some superb goalkeeping, and also to Jasmine Nabarro and Darcey Clayton for some very assured defensive performances. Well done, girls!

Mr Stevenson