

Harrow Way Newsletter

Community School

www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk



Heads Corner Summer 2009

The examination desks and revision guides have now been packed away, at least for the time being, as we await the publication of our GCSE and other Key Stage 4 exam results at the end of August. Results day is Thursday 27th August and I look forward to seeing our Year 11 leavers on that day as they anxiously open their results envelopes. Certainly their and their teachers' hard work augurs well, and we hope to hear of some excellent results for Harrow Way students on the day.

This is my fifteenth Head's Corner and marks the end of my fifth year as Headteacher at Harrow Way Community School. It is incredible how quickly time passes as I reflect on the fact that I have now been in post for half a decade! This has been another busy year with several landmark successes as the school and its community grows and develops; we look forward to welcoming another full Year 7 cohort of 180 students in September and I look forward to working with them and their families for the next half decade!

Investors In People Award

As I write this edition of Head's Corner we are undergoing our school's Investors In People (IIP) assessment. IIP is a kite mark awarded to employers, businesses, and other organisations that have shown commitment to continuous improvement and investment in staff development and expertise across a range of indicators in order to raise standards. We have felt for some time at Harrow Way that we meet the necessary criteria, and we have been preparing our Application for some time. By the time we return in September we will know whether or not we have been successful!

Student News

We recently attended the Great Hall in Winchester to receive our Healthy Schools Award. Mr Goatley, Deputy Head was accompanied on that occasion by our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, Jonathan Walsh and Sophie Attmere. Jonathan and Sophie have made a great start following their appointment last month and we are looking forward to working with them and their deputies, John Pawley and Katie Woolf, in their ambassadorial roles during the coming year.

I would like to congratulate our entire team of Prefects and Senior Prefects. They have already made a huge impact and have given up their time freely, not just in relation to their responsibilities regarding break and lunchtime duties, but in a number of other high profile events and activities. These have included supporting staff and primary school pupils in our recent Year 5 Activities Days, lending valuable support in our Year 6 Induction Day and Evening and helping out in several evening activities.

Our Year 10 Junior Sports Leaders organised and ran a Multi-Skills Festival for our local Year 2 Infant and Primary school pupils last week. The poor weather did not deter our enthusiasm and as well as welcoming back some of our Year 11 leavers to help on the day,

we were joined for the occasion by the Worshipful Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Ian Hibberd and his consort, Mrs June Hibberd. This really was a fantastic afternoon, one of several such events that have been organised through our local Sports Partnership under the direction of Ms Rhonda Sturges; as well as the Junior Leaders team, my special thanks go to their leaders on this occasion, Grace Howells and Katie Woolf, both students in Year 10, who worked tirelessly and meticulously in preparing for the Multi-Skills Festival – so congratulations to them.

Anyone who thinks that events slow down towards the end of term at school should think again, as the features within this article show! On Monday this week we held our annual Key Stage 3 presentation evening, celebrating the achievements of very many students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Other events held during the final days of term include the BTEC Music Summer Concert and the annual Stars in Their Eyes Competition!

Also on Monday I attended, at the invitation of Mr Tim Deery, Headteacher, Portway Junior School's Summer Tea Party. This was an opportunity for members and friends of The Portway Junior School community to celebrate the very many successes of the school and to say goodbye for the summer break, and I was delighted to be able to take part in this event.

Swine Flu

There has been an enormous amount of media coverage on this subject in recent weeks and schools have been regularly updated with advice from the Health Protection Agency. I am sending out with this newsletter an additional letter on the subject of swine flu and its management which I hope readers will find helpful. If having read this letter you have any additional school-based queries, please do not hesitate to contact us after the summer break. Any queries relating to swine flu itself should be directed to the websites or helpline numbers contained within the final paragraphs of the letter.

Gifted and Talented Students

Our Gifted and Talented Students Programme has continued to grow during the year. The member of staff with responsibility for the development of this important area, Mr Essop, has, along with assistance from various colleagues, organised a number of very successful events for these able students. We have significant and increasing numbers of more able students at Harrow Way, particularly as the school grows so rapidly, and we place great importance on the challenge and motivation we are able to provide for them. This term in particular has seen a rise in the number of 'G and T' events involving many able pupils from our family of Primary Schools. For example, we have conducted workshops and activities with primary

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pupils in the areas of Art, PE, History, Design & Technology and ICT.

Staff

Readers will know from previous editions of Head's Corner that we are both losing and gaining several members of staff in time for the beginning of the next academic year. The following members of staff have either left during the course of the term or will be leaving us at the end of term: Mr George Garner, teacher of English. Mr Garner has taught at Harrow Way for 13½ years. He has been an outstanding member of staff, and has always been extremely popular with colleagues and students. Our school community will really miss Mr Garner and we wish him and his wife Jenny a long and happy retirement; Mrs Barbara Davis, Receptionist. Mrs Davis has served our school community as receptionist since September 1995 and is now looking forward to her retirement. We likewise wish Barbara and her husband Michael all the very best for the future; Mr Danny Holmes, Head of Science. Mr Holmes has been with us for two years and will shortly be leaving us as he and his wife move to Geneva; Mr Simon Clune, teacher of History. Mr Clune is also leaving us to live abroad; Mrs Alison Tilling, Learning Support Assistant. Mrs Tilling left us recently to take up another post with Hampshire County Council; Mrs Denise Dale, Cover Supervisor. Mrs Dale and her family left us recently to move away from the area; finally this term we say goodbye to Mr David Gibbs who has been working as a volunteer in the Learning Support Department. Mr Gibbs has secured a post at another institution. I would like to thank all the above colleagues for their service to the Harrow Way School community – we wish them well.

I am delighted to welcome the following colleagues to Harrow Way, who will be joining us in September: Mr Ryan Bowles, teacher of History; Mrs Carolyn Lovett and Ms Sonja Tkach, teachers of Science; Mrs Gillian McSweeney, teacher of Geography; Ms Karen Pittman, teacher of English; Mr Scott Williams, ICT Technician; Mrs Sinead Jones, Receptionist, Mrs Margaret Veale and Ms Anne Wood, part-time teachers of Literacy and Numeracy (Mrs Veale re-joins us after taking retirement last year); finally, in a change of role Mr Ben Turner who joined us as a Learning Support Assistant has now begun working for us as a Cover Supervisor. I would like to offer all these colleagues a very warm welcome to Harrow Way; they are joining us at a very exciting time in the development of our school community.

Governors

This term we are saying goodbye to two members of our Governing Body; Mrs Michelle Lunn and Mr Michael Harding.

As a result of these changes we now have vacancies for Parent Governors from September. I will be writing to parents in September inviting expressions of interest in one of these positions. If, as a parent, you are interested in the possibility of serving on our Governing Body in these interesting and quickly developing times for our school, please do get in touch with Mrs Burbidge, Chair of Governors, by leaving a message for her here at the school.

Premises

As usual, the majority of any maintenance and refurbishment work on our school premises takes place during the summer holiday. The programme of work for the six week break has to be organised to tight deadlines for contractors in order for the school to be cleaned thoroughly after any building work and prepared for the start of year in September.

Students returning after the summer break will see a completely refurbished Library and Learning resources area as part of our Mathematics and Computing Specialist School developments. This long overdue development will bring that area of the school firmly into the 21st Century and will provide our students and the wider school community with state of the art learning resources. Other planned work for the summer includes the refurbishment of my and my secretary Mrs Vanderplank's office areas. This will bring our areas up-to-date and create a more private waiting area. Other areas to be refurbished include the school's staffroom as well as the ICT Technicians' work area. External work is focused mainly upon the re-surfacing of the school's metalled areas.

In addition to these major works the remaining premises programme includes general decorating, and the supply of new furniture.

Partnerships

We continue to work in close partnership with many other educational institutions and local businesses. For example, our collaboration with our family of primary schools goes from strength to strength with a huge amount of transition work going on for pupils in Years 5 and 6. This is especially rich and varied in relation to our Maths and Computing Specialism, with particular emphasis on our Gifted & Talented student programme which is aimed at supporting and challenging our most able Harrow Way students and primary pupils. We now have significantly increasing numbers of very able students attending Harrow Way and it is really important for us to ensure that we continue to provide appropriate resources and facilities for all of our students.

I was delighted to be able to attend the Lights Theatre last week to take part in the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony organised by David Gleave, Economic Development Officer, and his team on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council. This was an opportunity for Year 6 pupils, together with their families, to celebrate the important rite of passage from Primary to Secondary education, and for them to look to the future, not just towards their secondary education, but beyond to the prospect of Further and Higher Education. As part of the celebration it was good to be able to welcome the pupils as soon-to-be secondary students, many of whom will of course be attending Harrow Way in September. We are looking forward to working with our new intake and their families for the next five years.

At Harrow Way we place great emphasis on working closely in partnership with parents and families and an extremely important part of our team is Family Support Worker Janice Buckley. In addition to Mrs Buckley, who is employed directly by Harrow Way Community School, I am now pleased to inform readers of the recent appointment of Mrs Michelle Pelling,

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Parent Support Adviser (PSA) who works through our partnership of schools and is based at Knight's Enham Infant School. Mrs Pelling can be contacted there on 07876484868 for Andover parents requiring general family advice and support.

Readers will already know that we are a very active member of our local 14-19 Consortium which is working hard to develop enhanced provision for our Key Stage 4 students, most notably perhaps with the introduction of the new 14-19 Creative & Media and Environment & Land Based Diplomas. At Harrow Way we will be delivering the new Creative and Media Diploma from this September, as part of a high quality, broad and balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum.

I have been pleased this term to further extend our work with other schools and agencies, and the Local Authority, as we plan together how best to jointly provide high quality services for learners and their families. As the universal agency, schools continue to be at the centre of these developments and, as an outward looking institution, we at Harrow Way relish the opportunity to serve members of the wider community, not just those who attend our school, vitally important to us though they are, but also across the area.

Our partnership with Le Creuset also continues to develop; we were delighted last month to take part in the Le Creuset sponsored walk from Salisbury cathedral to Winchester cathedral, which raised money for Naomi House. At the end of term we are also taking part in a joint 'It's A Knockout' competition which has been organised together with Le Creuset. This promises to be an exciting, competitive and very energetic event with teams from both establishments taking part – let's hope the weather holds out!

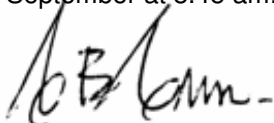
We are also continuing our work towards securing the Rights Respect and Responsibility School Award as enshrined within the UNICEF Charter on the Rights of the Child. This is about looking closely at the issues around human rights and also the importance of the responsibilities that go with them. Readers may already be aware that, together with Andover Vision and other Institutions, we are now looking at securing Rights, Respect and Responsibility status for Andover and District as a whole.

Finally in this section on Partnerships, I would like to draw your attention to a letter that I am sending out with this edition of Head's Corner, on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council, on the subject of alcohol misuse. Please read the accompanying letter to find details of a forthcoming Production at The Lights Theatre in September by the Solomon Theatre Company, which tackles this sensitive and complex issue. If you or a family member feel that you would find this Production interesting, or if you would like support on this subject, please contact Mollie Antrobus on Andover 723653 or email Mollie at mollie.antrobus@tvcs.org.uk

As always, I would like to encourage readers to log onto our website for up-to-date news of school related events and activities at www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk.

It now just remains for me to wish all members of our school community a restful and refreshing summer break. We are already looking forward to continuing our developments and improvements throughout the next academic year and beyond.

Please note the school year begins for all students on Monday 7th September at 8.45 am.



Headteacher - July 2009

Beginning of the Autumn Term 2009

The first day back for all students is
Monday 7th September.

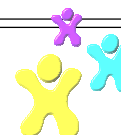
All students must be in school ready for
Registration at 8.45 a.m.

GCSE RESULTS

GCSE results will be available from the school on
Thursday 27 August between 10am and 12 midday.
If you do not intend to come to school that day to pick up your result slips, a stamped, addressed (A5) envelope should be left with Mrs Cook in the uniform office. All remaining result slips will be held at the school for collection at the beginning of the September term.
These result slips are often requested by admissions officers for Further Education courses.

Parent Support Advisor

Harrow Way School's PSA is
Michelle Pelling and her role is to:



- ⇒ provide free support and information on a range of issues for parents. These can be from health, housing, education or any other concerns.
- ⇒ help parents support their child's learning.
- ⇒ work together with parents to identify reasons for non-attendance and provide individual tailored support.

If you would like to arrange an informal meeting, Michelle can be contacted through your local school or by phone, text or email.

Mobile: 07876 484 868

(Calls will be returned to save your credit)

Email:

michelle.pelling@knightsenham-inf.hants.sch.uk

All meetings and discussions with Michelle will be confidential.

(unless she believes that your child may be at risk, in which

Students Signing-out for Appointments

If a student has an appointment during school hours, he/she must have a note in the student diary or an appointment card.

Parents please:

1. Write a note in your child's diary giving collection time and reason for going out of school.

Students please:

1. Show your diary or appointment card to your teacher
2. Sign out at Student Reception and come through to Main Reception where you will meet your parent.

It is not the responsibility of the Receptionist to locate the child in the School.

www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk

Don't forget to visit the website for all the performing arts news, sports and trip reports, recent events, letters home, exam information and much more.

If you can't find what you're looking for, please do not hesitate to contact the school, who will put you in touch with someone who can help provide the relevant information.

CALENDAR DATES

July '09 to July '10

Thurs 3 Sept	INSET DAY 1	Sat 30 Jan	Ski Trip departs - returning Sunday 7 February
Fri 4 Sept	INSET DAY 2	Fri 5 Feb	Year 9 Reports & Curriculum booklets home
Mon 7 Sept	First day for all students	Mon 8 Feb	Ex-students' Pantomime begins at Monxton
Mon 7 Sept	Year 7 reading tests + new students	Tues 9 Feb	Year 9 KS4 Curriculum Evening - 1830
Thurs 10 Sept	Guitar Club Open Evening	Fri 12 Feb	INSET DAY 4
Mon 14 Sept	Year 11 art students - Drawing Day	Half term - Monday 15 - Fri 19 February inc.	
Mon 21 Sept	Open Evening for Prospective Students 1830>2100	Thurs 4 Mar	Year 10 Skills to Learn - Pds 1>4
Tues 22 Sept	Open Morning 0915>1030	Fri 5 Mar	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam - Day 1
Weds 23 Sept	Open Morning 0915>1030	Mon 8 Mar	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam - Day 2
Thurs 24 Sept	Open Morning 0915>1030	8-9 Mar	IBM Blue Fusion (Yr 10 x 6)
Fri 25 Sept	Years 7 & 10 photographs	Mon 22 Mar	School Show all week
Mon 28 Sept	HPV 1 Year 8, 10, 11 girls	Wed 31 Mar	HPV 3 Year 8, 10, 11 girls
Thurs 1 Oct	Ski Trip Parents Information Evening - 1900	Thurs 1 Apr	Year 8 reports home
Tues 6 Oct	Year 7 Settling-in meeting	Thurs 1 Apr	Year 9 Top Link Conference
Wed 7 Oct	Year 11 Careers Fair - a.m. only	Easter Holiday Fri 2 April (Good Friday) - Friday 16 April inc.	
Thurs 8 Oct	English Schools Cross-country	Thurs 22 Apr	Year 11 GCSE Catering Practical a.m. (1)
Mon 12 Oct	Year 10 art students - The Big Draw	Mon 26 Apr	Year 10 Exams all week
Mon 19 Oct	Year 11 mock exams begin for 2 weeks	Thurs 29 Apr	Year 11 GCSE Catering Practical a.m. (2)
Thurs 22 Oct	Rugby 7s (Yrs 7+8) Periods 5&6	Mon 3 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Half term - Monday 26 - Friday 30 October 2009 inc.		Fri 14 May	Year 10 art exam all day
Mon 2 Nov	Shakespeare Link this week	Mon 17 May	Year 9 New Forest trip 1 day this week
Fri 6 Nov	Year 11 mock exams finish	Thurs 20 May	Key Stage 3 Superstars evening
Mon 9 Nov	HPV 2 Year 8, 10, 11 girls	Fri 28 May	Year 7 reports home
Tues 10 Nov	14-19 Parent Information Eve - The Lights 1800>2000	Half term - Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2009 inc.	
Thurs 12 Nov	Rugby 7s (Yrs 9+10) Periods 5&6	w/c 7 June	Creative Arts & Media Work Experience (Diploma)
Thurs 12 Nov	Key Stage 4 Presentation Evening - 1930	w/c 14 June	Calshot residential trip (Year 8)
Fri 13 Nov	Year 11 art mock exam all day	w/c 14 June	Year 7 reading tests all week
Mon 16 Nov	Year 11 art mock exam all day	17/18 June	Year 9 Leadership Camp
Fri 20 Nov	Year 10+KS3 selected students - Art Mural workshop	20 June	National Sports Week begins
Wed 9 Dec	INSET DAY 3	Mon 21 June	Year 7 Charlton Lakes trip 1 day this week
Thurs 10 Dec	Citizenship/RRSA International Human Rights Day	Fri 25 June	Year 10 reports home
Fri 11 Dec	Year 11 Reports home	Fri 25 June	Leavers' Dinner/Dance
Fri 11 Dec	Christmas Fair	Mon 28 June	INSET DAY 5
Mon 14 Dec	Year 11 Parents' Evening	Tue 29 June	Induction Day/Evening - Parent Consultation Day 2
Mon 14 Dec	Years 7, 8 & 9 Pantomime trip p.m.	Wed 30 June	Year 10 Enterprise Day (1)
Wed 16 Dec	Christmas Concert	Thurs 1 July	Year 10 Swanage trip
Christmas Holiday Mon 21 December - Fri 01 January inc.		Fri 2 July	Year 10 Enterprise Day (2)
Tues 12 Jan	First Parent Consultation Day	6/7 July	Year 5 Activity Days
Tues 12 Jan	Year 11 Study Skills	8/9 July	Year 9 Enterprise Days
Wed 13 Jan	Year 10 art students Drawing Day	Wed 14 July	Summer Concert
Fri 15 Jan	Spelling Bee	Mon 19 July	KS3 Presentation Evening - 1900
Thurs 21 Jan	Ski Trip Parents' Evening - 1900	Fri 23 July	Sports Day - Last day of term
Wed 27 Jan	Citizenship/RRSA Holocaust Memorial Day	SUMMER HOLIDAY Monday 26 JULY - Friday 3 September inclusive (Published on HCC website July 2009)	
Wed 27 Jan	Year 9 Consortium Taster Day		