

Harrow Way Newsletter

Community School

www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk



Head's Corner - Christmas 2009

I am pleased to present this, my sixteenth contribution to Head's Corner which is published in both leaflet and web form. This has been an amazing term for the school. Firstly, following the most successful GCSE results in the history of the school, we were able to announce in September that our application to be designated as "Investors in People" was successful and we are proud to have on display our hard won "Investors in People" plaque in our School Reception.

Ofsted Inspection

Secondly, on Monday 2nd November I was given the customary 48 hours notice of a full Ofsted Inspection which took place here on the 4th and 5th November. The results have been plain to see and as I wrote in my letter to parents shortly afterwards, we were all delighted to be described as "a good school with many outstanding features". We knew this already of course (!) but to have our view endorsed externally was terrific, including Ofsted's view of our "outstanding" curriculum and student support services and the impact that our Maths & Computing Specialism is having throughout the school. Perhaps most importantly I feel that the contents of the report give us a platform for further growth and improvement – this is never going to be an organisation that stands still! At the same time as our whole school inspection, our popular and successful Harrow Way Pre-School Group was also inspected. Our Pre-School Manager, Mrs Carol Ashurst was similarly delighted with the very successful outcome of that inspection also. As well as recent press and radio coverage, there is a link to both Ofsted Reports on our website at www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk. Our website contains a huge amount of additional information and links for visitors and also provides access to our extensive Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is now an essential feature of our teaching and learning culture.

I am extremely proud of our school community and especially of course our students and I am grateful for the ongoing support of our families throughout the school community.

Other events this term have included an extremely well received performance of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream in November. Also in

November we held our Presentation Evening to celebrate and congratulate last year's Year 11 students on their fantastic GCSE and other results as well as their wider achievements during their time here at Harrow Way. As I said at the time, I have a special affinity with that year group because both they and I joined Harrow Way at the same time. I cannot believe that my first five years at Harrow Way have gone so quickly!

Recently this term we also held our third Christmas Fair which was typically extremely well supported by our school community, raising in excess of £1,500. I am grateful to the Harrow Way Community School Association for their fantastic hard work in preparing for this and other fund-raising and community opportunities throughout the year. Special congratulations of course go to our students who threw themselves enthusiastically into the organisation of the evening and did a great job in running the various stalls.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our special Human Rights Day in school. It is of course an extremely important part of the education process for us to recognise and respond to the plight of those around the world whose basic rights are not routinely upheld, whilst at the same time retaining a sense of proper hope and optimism that in preparing for the adult world, we imbue in our youngsters a very clear sense of their responsibilities in ensuring that the world becomes a better place for them and for future generations. My thanks go to Mrs Delany and her team of student Unicef Peer Educators for making our contribution to the day such a success.

I also wish to commend the work of our Junior Sports Leaders and Olympic Ambassadors who make such an important contribution to our sporting activities within our Sports Partnership. We host several events and competitions throughout the year which are all the more successful because of the mature commitment of our youngsters.

As we prepare for Christmas there are, as usual, shows, concerts and presentations taking place and new staff to welcome to the school, as well as some to whom we are saying goodbye. For

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example, we are looking forward to our Drama Showcase evening on Tuesday 15th December and our Christmas Music concert on Tuesday 17th December both of which begin at 7.30 pm in the School Auditorium. These two events together with other details are covered in my letter to parents dated 11th December 2009.

School Population

Our large Year 7 cohort settled down very well in September. As usual, they were able to do this so quickly because of the excellent preparation for transition that we operate in close partnership with our family of primary schools. Harrow Way has increased in size once again this year and figures for 2010, although not yet finalised, indicate that the school will grow yet again next September. During the last five years there has been over a 90% increase in the number of families making Harrow Way their first choice of secondary school. I acknowledge the confidence and trust that the families of Andover are placing in us. We take our commitment to our school community very seriously and we are always looking for ways to improve our service.

Uniform

I continue to receive many favourable comments about the smart appearance of our students throughout the school. It might be worth reminding readers, particularly at this time of year when students need to wear additional clothing that, in addition to the wearing of trainers students are not allowed to wear hoodies or hoodie type garments. Nor is leather or denim clothing permitted in school. Outer coats should be dark in colour without heavy logos. Also, parents are asked to ensure that any scarves worn by students should be plain black. For information, the full school uniform list is available on our website as well as on relevant school literature. Please remember that students are required to wear full school uniform on the way to and from school as well as throughout the day.

Attendance and Welfare

We are always looking at ways of continuing to improve student attendance at school. I realise that taking holidays during term time may present an attractive proposition for some parents as holiday companies often provide discounted rates outside traditional holiday times. However, I know that readers will understand that this practice is very unhelpful from a school attendance and learning standpoint. Whilst all applications for leave of absence are considered individually, I must make clear to parents that any application for leave of absence for the purposes of a family holiday for students who are, or who will be in Year 11 at the time of the absence, are

normally refused. We ask for parents' unequivocal support of this, as with all school policies; clearly it is vitally important for students to attend school in order to learn and to make progress and this is even more especially the case in the final examination year.

I need to inform parents that although until recently the School Health Service provided Tetanus and Polio booster inoculations, normally for students in Year 11, this practice has now ceased. Therefore parents wishing their child to receive these immunisations should contact their GP surgery.

Staff

Leavers this term include Mr Markus Konrad, Teacher of Maths, who is leaving us to return to South Africa. Also, after only a very short time with us we say goodbye to Mrs Sinead Jones, School Receptionist, who is leaving us to take up a post at the Andover Education Centre. Finally, after 7 years' service, we say goodbye to Jonathan Land, our Student Support Worker, who has made a huge contribution to our students and to the school community. Jon will be leaving at Christmas to take up a new post in Suffolk. We wish Mr Konrad, Mrs Jones and Mr Land all the very best for the future.

We are currently in the process of recruiting new staff and I am pleased to announce that we will be welcoming Miss Kelly Mead as our new School Receptionist in the New Year.

Finally, as well as my end of term letter, I would like to draw our families' attention to an additional letter I am sending out at this time, providing details of our forthcoming Parent Consultation Day on Tuesday 12th January.

It just remains for me to wish all members of our school community a restful Christmas break and a peaceful New Year. We are already looking forward to continuing our developments and improvements throughout the remainder of this academic year and beyond.



Headteacher - Christmas 2009

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

It is most important that any change of mobile or landline number, or home address is reported to the school. Please ensure you notify the School Office as soon as possible of any changes to your contact details, particularly daytime telephone numbers, so that we are able to get in touch if the need arises.

CALENDAR DATES

December '09 to July '10

Mon 14 Dec	Pantomime trip returning at 5.30pm	Thurs 1 Apr	Year 9 Top Link Conference
Mon 14 Dec	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm	Easter Holiday Fri 2 April (Good Friday) - Friday 16 April inc.	
Tues 15 Dec	Drama Showcase 7.30pm	Wed 21 Apr	AimHigher 'English Rocks' Taster Day (Yr10)
Thurs 17 Dec	Christmas Concert 7.30pm	Thurs 22 Apr	Year 11 GCSE Catering Practical a.m. (1)
Fri 18 Dec	End of term - School closes at 1.30pm	Mon 26 Apr	Year 10 Exams all week
Christmas Holiday Mon 21 December - Fri 01 January inc.			
Mon 11 Jan	QMC Interviews at HWCS (Yr11)	Thurs 29 Apr	Year 11 GCSE Catering Practical a.m. (2)
Tues 12 Jan	First Parent Consultation Day	Mon 3 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tues 12 Jan	Year 11 Study Skills	Fri 14 May	Year 10 art exam all day
Wed 13 Jan	Yr7 Girls' Football Tournament at JHS	Mon 17 May	Year 9 New Forest trip 1 day this week
Wed 13 Jan	Year 10 art students Drawing Day	Thurs 20 May	Key Stage 3 Superstars evening
Thurs 14 Jan	Yr9 Boys' B team Tournament at JHS	Fri 28 May	Year 7 reports home
Fri 15 Jan	Spelling Bee	Half term - Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2009 inc.	
Wed 20 Jan	Yr 8/9 Girls' Football Tournament at JHS	w/c 7 June	Creative Arts & Media Work Experience (Diploma)
Thurs 21 Jan	Ski Trip Parents' Evening - 1900	w/c 14 June	Calshot residential trip (Year 8)
Wed 27 Jan	Year 9 Consortium Taster Day	w/c 14 June	Year 7 reading tests all week
Thurs 28 Jan	Yr10/11 Girls' Football Tournament at JHS	17/18 June	Year 9 Leadership Camp
Fri 29 Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day	20 June	National Sports Week begins
Sat 30 Jan	Ski Trip departs - returning Sunday 7 February	Mon 21 June	Year 7 Charlton Lakes trip 1 day this week
Fri 5 Feb	Year 9 Reports & Curriculum booklets home	Fri 25 June	Year 10 reports home
Mon 8 Feb	Ex-students' Pantomime begins at Monxton	Fri 25 June	Leavers' Dinner/Dance
Tues 9 Feb	Year 9 KS4 Curriculum Evening - 1830	Mon 28 June	INSET DAY 5
Fri 12 Feb	INSET DAY 4	Tue 29 June	Induction Day/Evening - Parent Consultation Day 2
Half term - Monday 15 - Fri 19 February inc.			
Thurs 4 Mar	Year 10 Skills to Learn - Pds 1>4	Wed 30 June	Year 10 Enterprise Day (1)
Fri 5 Mar	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam - Day 1	Thurs 1 July	Year 10 Swanage trip
Mon 8 Mar	Year 11 GCSE Art Exam - Day 2	Fri 2 July	Year 10 Enterprise Day (2)
8-9 Mar	IBM Blue Fusion (Yr 10 x 6)	6/7 July	Year 5 Activity Days
Mon 22 Mar	School Show all week	8/9 July	Year 9 Enterprise Days
Wed 31 Mar	HPV 3 Year 8, 10, 11 girls	Wed 14 July	Summer Concert
Thurs 1 Apr	Year 8 reports home	Mon 19 July	KS3 Presentation Evening - 1900
		Fri 23 July	Sports Day - Last day of term
SUMMER HOLIDAY Monday 26 JULY - Friday 3 September inclusive			

STUDENT APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

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 ensure that an entry is made on the appropriate date, giving the time and reason for appointment and a parent/carer's signature. Thank you.**

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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.



This year's Christmas Fair raised over £1,500! The Harrow Way Community School Association (HWCSA) worked like Christmas elves preparing for this very successful event and students and staff pulled out all the stops to support the evening by running stalls and offering refreshments. Live music was provided by Mostly Harmless and many children visited Santa in his Grotto. The money raised will be used to support Harrow Way students in ways that will enhance their education but cannot be funded by Hampshire County Council. Students' suggestions will be presented to the Association in 'Dragons' Den' style with the best ideas being supported by the funds raised.

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PARENT CONSULTATION DAY

Please remind your child to make an appointment with his or her tutor for Tuesday 12th January.

ALL STUDENTS

If you miss your bus or your lift doesn't arrive within 10 minutes of school finishing, please come back into Student Reception and Mrs Preece will contact parents. Do not try to make your own way home.

BUS PASSES

If your child travels to or from school on a regular basis by bus (either school transport or public bus) they should carry a school identity pass with them. These can be obtained from Mrs Warren.

PARENT GOVERNORS

Have you ever thought about becoming a Governor? These are exciting and rapidly developing times for our school and we are looking for interested parents, who would like to make a contribution to our school community, to put themselves forward for a role as Parent Governor. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Governor and feel you may wish to take on this important position, please get in touch with Mrs Rebecca Burbidge, Chair of Governors, by leaving a message for her here at the school.

January 2010 GCSE Science Units Years 10 & 11

All students who have been entered for Science units in January have been given an individual timetable - if you have a query please contact your science teacher or Mr Parsons.

GCSE Science exams will take place on the following dates:

Date & Unit

Lesson periods

Thursday 14 January

A211 F / H CORE Unit 1
A221 H BIOLOGY Unit 1

Periods 1 & 2

Monday 18 January

P₁ A212 F / H CORE Unit 2
P₂ A321 H CHEMISTRY Unit 1
P₂ A324 F / H ADDITIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE Unit 1 (Life Care)
P₃ A335 F / H ADDITIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE Unit 4 (Chemicals)

Periods 1, 2 & 3
Break will not be affected

Wednesday 20 January

A331 H PHYSICS Unit 1

Periods 1 & 2

Monday 25 January

A215 F / H ADDITIONAL SCIENCE Unit 1
A222 H BIOLOGY Unit 2

Periods 5 & 6

Wednesday 27 January

A216 F / H ADDITIONAL SCIENCE Unit 2
A332 H CHEMISTRY Unit 2

Periods 5 & 6

Monday 1 February

A332 H PHYSICS Unit 2

Periods 5 & 6

All examinations will take place in the hall.

PLANNED ABSENCE - HOLIDAY FORMS

If you are aware that your child will be absent from school e.g. a holiday or operation, we will need to be notified of this.

Holiday forms can be obtained from Student Reception.

Parents are not entitled to take their children away on holiday during term time. If a child is away for holiday reasons in term time, up to 10 days in an academic year may be authorised at the discretion of the school providing suitable reasons are given and a 'Permission for Holiday' form is completed before the absence period. With students of compulsory school age all applications will be carefully considered on their merits given the importance of continuity of learning.

LOST PROPERTY

There are a number of coats, jackets and other items of lost property held by Mrs Preece in Student Reception.

If your child is missing an item of clothing it may be there!

Please ask your child to have a look.

All items of clothing should be clearly marked with student's name.