



Email: parentmail@hemelschool.com
www.hhs.herts.sch.uk

Website:

For years 7-11 absences please email absence@hemelschool.com or call 01442 390103, for sixth form absence please call 01442 251732 or email 6thformabsence@hemelschool.com this enables your message to reach our absence teams first thing in the morning.

The colour of the newsletter indicates which timetable week, blue or gold, follows the weekend.

A 'blackface' image can never just be dismissed, and here is why.

As a school community, we became aware yesterday of an image taken several years ago in which one of our former students was 'blackfaced'; meaning where a white person covers their face in makeup to imitate a black person. The image was captured by someone who is still a student here. Our first response was to work with and listen to our students. The headteacher and senior colleagues spoke with the parents of the child in the image and with the parents of those who she felt had been most affected by the image, now it has started to circulate.

It is now time for us to respond publicly.

This generation of young people are more committed to equality and inclusion than any generation before. Yet social media, for all of its benefits, can act as an amplifier when things go wrong.

This school completely condemns the image.

We recognise that blackface images are deeply offensive and cause considerable upset. Those who seek to dismiss such images as 'just a bit of fun' or 'children messing about' fail to recognise that every time we make such dismissals we chip away at the spirit of inclusion and fairness that our democratic society is based on. Every time we turn a 'blind eye' to what some might consider minor, we make it easier for the major to also be dismissed. To dismiss such images is to support the politics of division, the politics of difference, the politics of 'us' and 'them'.

This school does not condemn those who took the image.

We are all capable of making mistakes, sometimes really big ones. Sometimes ones that cause offence, hurt and anger. A big part of learning to be an adult is owning those mistakes, apologising for them and working with those affected to heal the hurt. Those who took the image are mortified by how unthoughtful and insensitive they were and fully recognise the offence they have caused. Both girls have returned to social media and made public apologies for the offence and hurt they have caused and committed to working with their peers.

This school is committed to working together to heal the hurt and to educate.

We are firmly committed to the view that bigotry in any form, be it on the grounds of race, religion, identity, disability or gender, can only be defeated through education. Some people on social media are threatening and encouraging hate against those who took the image. Some people on social media are threatening and encouraging hate against those who called out the image and said that it

was wrong. All of those people are part of the problem, not part of the solution and we call for them to stop.

This school is committed to working with all of our students to educate against bigotry in all its forms and will continue to do so. Any students who feel affected by this issue should contact Mr Heward who will be working with students to raise awareness and understanding.

Neil Hassell
Headteacher

Play it again, Sam - HHS Music Department

One aspect of school life that has been hit particularly hard by Covid restrictions is Music. Because of the limitations on singing and playing instruments, especially in large groups, there was no concert at the end of last term and, sadly, in December there will be neither a concert nor the traditional Christmas Carol Service.

Fortunately, all our concerts for the past few years have been filmed and so we have been able to put together some 'highlights packages' featuring some of the outstanding performances from recent concerts, and one will be made available to view every week until the end of term.

Featuring in this week's three minute concert highlights are:

- the Headteacher and Head of Music playing the Toolbox (yes, really!)
- two superb solo performances from boys in the Male Voice Choir, singing 'Nearer my God to thee'
- the Funk Band's exciting version of 'Proud Mary'

Click the link to watch it: <https://youtu.be/nsqMsJ7mtYA>

Miss R Saxby
Head of Music

The Hemel Hempstead School - Winner Amnesty International Competition - Use your voice!

We are very pleased to announce that Year 13 student Ella Tomkins has won a national competition run by Amnesty International. The competition, called 'Use Your Voice to Demand your Rights', asked young people to write about issues affecting them. Ella wrote about how she felt that the government's decision not to provide free school meals during the holiday break was a children's rights issue. Her thought-provoking piece placed her in 1st place in the 17-18 age group. The judging panel described Ella's piece as:

'particularly powerful, really demonstrating the importance of your concern, with a detailed analysis of the Human Rights that were being impacted. We loved your emotive language, and your detailed, well-researched argument. It was a real pleasure to judge!'

Ella has now been invited to take part in some advocacy training with Amnesty International. Her win will also help in her application to study Human, Social and Political Science at Cambridge University.

We all congratulate Ella on her success!

Miss Dayton
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

House Christmas Card Competition

We would like you to design a School Christmas Card that will be sent out to the governors, Mayor and other external organisations on behalf of the school.

Your design needs to be mature and corporate e.g no disney! In the past the cards have featured a stag, as this is part of our school logo, see examples below.

Your entry must be submitted by 27th November, it needs to be A6 size and the winning Christmas cards will be announced the following week.

As always, 5 points per entry. The top 3 will receive extra points

1st - 30 points 2nd - 20 points 3rd - 10 points.



Please submit your entries via email to Mr Shaw and Mrs Smith.

t.shaw@hemelschool.com and e.smith@hemelschool.com

Extracurricular Sports Clubs

Following an update from the DfE we are delighted to announce the resumption of extracurricular Year groups will follow the timetable as before, with each year group having a designated evening to ensure the integrity of year group bubbles.

The breakdown of days can be seen below:

Monday - Year 8
Tuesday - Year 7
Wednesday - Year 9

The following clubs will also resume:

Tuesday Lunchtime - Year 10 Badminton
Thursday after school - Year 10 Football

In a slight change to our previous offering, netball will move inside to the sports hall with table tennis running as an alternative to badminton.

The sports on offer and their location can be seen below:

Football - 3G Astro
Netball - Sports Hall
Table tennis - Main Hall

The PE Department is looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible next week!

Headteacher R4 Certificates

Excellent Achievement for:

Brilliant classwork, completing extra tasks and helping others in Computing:
Megan Mitchell

Excellent work on Python programming in Computing: **Oliver Leung**

Winning the Amnesty International, Use Your Voice Competition:
Ella Tomkins

A thoughtful and reflective presentation on Armistice Day: **Isabella Winship**

Services to the School Community for:

Supporting a new student with classwork and homework in Art: **Hollie Smith**

This year we have kindly been donated a fabulous 6ft Christmas Tree by



For a huge selection of quality Scottish Grown Non Drop Christmas Trees please visit Harry at 'The Bucks Goat Centre', Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5XJ. 6-9ft £25 or 3-5ft £20 - Mulled wine on purchase.

You can order on their website - www.harryfiskschristmastrees.com or call

Tel - 07415 180082

Help your local businesses during these uncertain times

Opening Friday 27th November



Year 9 Virtual University Awareness Session - 26th November 11.40am - 1.30pm

Year 11 NCFE Business and Enterprise Exam - 27th November 9am - 11am

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations - 3rd December

Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening - 3rd December 4.30pm - 7pm

Save The Children Charity Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 11th December

Gold Letters

Letter 43 - Year 11 Business Exam

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 20/21
Friday 4th September - Friday 18th December
Occasional Day - Friday 27th November
Day in Lieu of Open Day - Monday 30th November
Spring Term 20/21
Monday 4th January - Friday 26th March
INSET Day - Friday 12th February
Half Term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February
Summer Term 20/21
Monday 12th April - Tuesday 20th July
Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May
Half Term - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Attachment

1. Play your part poster



PLAY YOUR PART

Protect your
community



Wash your
hands



Keep your
distance



Wear a face
covering where
required



Isolate and
get tested
if you have
symptoms

For more information
on how to protect yourself
visit www.nhs.uk

NHS



Stay Safe Hertfordshire