



@Harlington

The Harlington Upper School Family Bulletin

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Science



Healthy Schools



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Dear Parents,

We have had a particularly busy and productive start to the new school year and there is already much to tell you about.

The exam results were again the best ever. Overall, 80% of all students gained the benchmark of 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above. In value-added terms, our students made outstanding progress to GCSE. A level results were well above average as usual and Key Stage 3 results appear again to be the best ever, although these are still only provisional given the national difficulties this year. We are especially pleased with current year 11 students who took a Science GCSE one year early. A stunning 90% of the entry gained a grade C or better, which bodes well for Summer 2009.

Year 9 students have made a wonderful start to their life at Harlington and have settled in well to new routines. This year the transition has been even smoother than normal because of the enhanced collaboration between Harlington and our partner middle schools. We have taken this collaboration further with the formation of the Harlington Area Schools Trust with four other local middle and lower schools. One aim of the Trust is to provide a truly seamless education for all young people aged 4 -19 in our community. You will soon receive a Trust specific newsletter with more information about this exciting development.

We were also visited by Ofsted inspectors in September and we were delighted with the judgements and comments. I will send a copy of the report to all parents when it is published by Ofsted, but for now I have included some of the initial feedback on page 3.

The remainder of the school year promises to be as productive as the first few weeks and I look forward to welcoming you to school at some point for parents evenings or one of our many events, concerts or productions.

Shawn Fell, Headteacher

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents

The School has had a very auspicious start to the new academic year with the formation of the Harlington Area Schools Trust and a successful Ofsted inspection which has rated the School as Good with Outstanding features.

You will have read elsewhere about the Ofsted inspection and the whisker by which we missed being judged an Outstanding School. However, the pace of improvements in standards and achievement was noted by the inspectors and our capacity to improve is such that we have no doubts that we shall become an outstanding school during the course of this year.

The School's stunning success and our belief in an even better future derive partly from the increasing collaboration within our pyramid of schools, which we see as being formalised in the new Trust (HAST). The excellent Key Stage 3 results in Year 8 at Arnold and Parkfields were aided by the input from HUS staff. Those successful KS3 students now form the new Year 9 at HUS, and we intend to take full advantage of the "extra" year open to them by offering new curriculum opportunities and a wider introduction to GCSE subjects.

As a Foundation and Trust school we have needed to reconstitute our Governing Body. We retain a complement of 20 governors and these now comprise:

- 7 elected by parents,
- 6 appointed from the community,
- 2 appointed by the Trust,
- 1 appointed by the Local Authority,
- 3 elected by the staff and
the Headteacher.

This reconstitution, and the routine retirement of some governors, has provided four vacancies to fill this year - two parent governors and two community appointments. We shall be holding an election for parent governors shortly. This is an excellent opportunity to join the Governing Body and to take part in the leadership and strategic development of the School and the Trust at a very exciting time. The collaborative effort throughout the pyramid is set to continue as we create HAST project teams, including students, parents, staff, governors and partners to discuss educational, pastoral and administrative improvements to the delivery of education in this area.

I urge you to consider standing for election to the Governing Body. Should you wish to know in more detail what it means to be a governor at Harlington, please contact me at governors@harlington.org [governors' e-mail address] and I shall be pleased to email or telephone you to discuss.

Here's to an outstanding future!

Richard Holland

Chair of Governors

OFSTED: INITIAL FEEDBACK

Inspectors were able to give initial feedback. Although the precise wording in the final report may be slightly different, the main messages noted are as follows:

- This is a good school where the excellent vision and drive of the Headteacher and senior leaders coupled with the very high quality of care provided to students has led to rapid improvements in standards and achievement and ensured that the school has built an outstanding capacity to improve further.
- Over the last three years standards, which are high, have risen in examination and test results. The latest indicative GCSE results for 2008 and the school's analysis of standards of students in school suggest this trend is set to continue.
- Relationships in school are very harmonious and it is a calm and orderly environment. The behaviour seen by inspectors in lessons and around the school was good and often exemplary.
- The overall effectiveness of the sixth form is good. Standards in the sixth form are above the national average.
- Responsibilities, such as acting as peer mentors or house captains, are undertaken with efficiency and pride. The school council is a respected voice for students in the school.
- The great majority of lessons are good, and take place in a calm and orderly environment. Students show positive attitudes to learning, and lessons are characterised by respectful and constructive relationships between teachers and students, and between students themselves.
- The pastoral care is outstanding.
- Students' personal development is promoted well through the newly established vertical tutor groups which encourage supportive links between year groups and add to the family ethos of the school. The vertical groups tutor system has enabled older students to take on greater responsibility and develop maturity by taking younger ones under their wing.

Inspectors also suggested that we now aim to increase the number of "outstanding" lessons and broaden vocational options in the sixth form.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT SUCCESS

Once again, as we start the school year celebrating by far our best examination results ever, I wish to raise a few points that will help your son or daughter be happy at school and achieve to the best of his/her ability. It is through secure and supportive partnerships between school and home that young people are clear about our expectations.

Clearly good attendance is crucial. We expect all students to attend and the minimum acceptable level is 95%. If attendance falls below this level, for whatever reason you are likely to be contacted by school or the Education Welfare Officer to look at ways to improve this. Also we use an electronic registration system and 'Group Call' which means that if your son/daughter is absent from school without prior notification, you will be contacted by text or email to ask for a reason. At times a student may arrive late for school and go straight to lessons without signing in – this will lead to worried parents receiving a message from us to say he/she is absent, so please ensure that if late, your son/daughter knows to sign in at Student Support.

Other ways that you can help us include:

- Not booking family holidays during term time. Following recent changes in guidance from the local authority and government, schools are no longer able to authorise absence for family holidays.
- Whenever possible, avoid making medical appointments during school hours. If this is unavoidable, please ensure your son/daughter brings a note or appointment card and signs in/out at Student Support.
- If your child is unwell, please telephone the school on the first day of absence and send them in with a written note when they return. If they are likely to be off for a prolonged period of time please request work to be sent home.
- Try to attend parents' consultation and tutor evenings. Your son/daughter's tutor will be inviting you into school to meet with them during mid November. They will act as a mentor for each young person in their tutor group and are a good point of contact for you.

- Ensure your son/daughter brings the correct equipment and a proper school bag to school each day – there is a trend for girls to use small handbags which are totally unsuitable as they lead to lost or damaged work, especially coursework.
- Update the school on any medical information, especially if your child has a care plan or needs regular or emergency medication. The Main Office are happy to store and administer such medication but will need clear information about dosage, etc. Please contact the Main Office with any medical queries.
- Ensure that your child eats breakfast before coming to school – even a glass of milk or a banana is better than nothing at all. Children's brains work best when they have been charged with energy from food.
- Be familiar with our uniform requirements (which you can find on our school website) – particular points of note are:-
 - We do not allow facial piercing of any kind (one pair of stud earrings only).
 - Hair should be of a natural colour and worn in a style which is inoffensive and suitable for a professional establishment (we do not allow very obvious highlights or shaved heads).
 - Trainers are not allowed (unless with a doctor's note or in a PE lesson). Students wearing trainers will be supplied with black plimsolls to wear.
 - Boys and Year 9 girls must have a school blazer (the jumper is optional, the blazer is not).
 - Sixth formers are not allowed to wear jeans of any kind or very short shorts – dress must be suitable for a professional environment.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very proud of our young people and their wide range of achievements, interests and activities.

Mrs Skinner, Deputy Headteacher

STOP SMOKING

It is not only against school rules, but illegal for anyone to smoke on the school site. For this reason we take a very clear line when dealing with any incident detected. Although it is a rare occurrence, any student found smoking **or** with smokers will receive a punishment. This is likely to be a detention in the first instance.

If your son/daughter smokes please encourage them to speak to our Pastoral Support Team about strategies to give up.

DEVELOPING OUR 'ACHIEVEMENT CULTURE'

The achievement agenda is at the forefront of our minds as we embark on the new academic year.

Our main priorities for the academic year 2008-09 include:

Mentoring programme:

Trained staff and student mentors will work with pairs of students once per week in order to support, coach and motivate vulnerable students through their studies. Student mentees will be selected on the basis of several criteria including detailed data analysis; teacher, tutor and student nomination and parental request.

If you feel that your son or daughter would benefit from this mentoring programme: please contact us at the school.

Intervention programme

These sessions will be run on Saturdays and school breaks and will be targeted at students who are in danger of underachieving.

A range of activities will be on offer to students including revision techniques, Learning to Learn and subject specific sessions such as English and Maths. We also plan to run sessions for Parents on how you can best support your son/daughter in the run up to their exams.

Mrs Richardson, Deputy Headteacher

Mr Martin, Deputy Headteacher

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CLUB

This is a club for year 9 students that meets every Tuesday to do a variety of activities over the year. These include taking part in the First Lego League Challenge (a global event which includes programming a robot to carry out certain tasks and a presentation on climate change), trips to the Space Centre at Leicester and to Monarch Airlines workshops in Luton and many more. The club is funded from outside school so there is no cost to students.

We hope to build on the club's achievements from last year which saw us reaching the semi-finals in the First Lego League.

Mr Sims, Teacher of Science

Mr Ireson, Teacher of Design & Technology

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Students who have gained their 1st Gold Awards:

Rhianna Camp 10EN
 Natalie J Cole 10MU
 Stefan Hughes-Brand 10AO
 Kelly Inns 11PG
 Daniel Jefcoate 10PG
 Laura Millard 11PG
 Lucy Onyango 11AN
 Emily Pearce 10MU
 James Randall 10PG
 Eleanor Rooke 11PG
 Yasmin Smith 11HH
 Matthew Stock 10MG
 Kolbra Sveinbjornsson 10EA
 Emily Tillet 10AN
 Charlotte Waldock 10TG

Congratulations to the following students who have gained their 2nd Gold Awards:

Liam Dyke 11AO
 Karen Vincent 11AN

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have gained their 3rd Gold and 1st Platinum Awards:

Lucy Harvey 10HT
 Connor Whelan 10TG

HARLINGTON FILM ON FRIDAY

19th Oct *French* - **36 Quai des Orfèvres** 110 mins

7th Nov *French* - **Angel-A** 87mins

21st Nov *French* - **The Officer's Ward** 134 mins

5th Dec *French* **Le père Noël est une ordure** 87 mins

16th Jan *French* **Les choristes** 97mins

30th Jan *French* **Madame Bovary** 136mins

13th Feb *German* **Keinohrhasen** 111mins

13th March *French* **Tell No-One** 126mins

1st May *French* **Le Placard** 85mins

SIXTH FORM NEWS



We ended our Summer term on a high with a trip to Cambridge University. 11 of our Year 12 students, who were considering applying to Oxbridge, spent a day sampling the life of a Cambridge university student. As well as exploring the

accommodation and sampling the catering facilities, we also experienced a seminar on Medieval Chemistry, which certainly tested us all, particularly non-scientists such as myself. Several of our students are currently in the process of applying to Oxbridge and we wish them and all our students who are applying through UCAS and other routes, all the very best in the coming months.

Yet again we have had a fantastic number of students joining us in Year 12. It has been great to welcome not only students from Harlington, but a large number from other local schools. We hope that all our students are feeling settled and are enjoying their new courses and also all the other opportunities that are on offer to them here at Harlington.

Mrs Symonds, Head of Sixth Form

MEDICAL INFORMATION

If a student is feeling unwell during school, their planner must be signed by their teacher and they should go the Main Office. **STUDENTS SHOULD NOT CONTACT HOME BEFORE GOING TO THE MEDICAL ROOM.**

If your son/daughter suffers from an allergy that requires an epipen or anapen, it is vital that we keep one in school.

If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office on 01525 755100.



Bare Facts — a parents' guide to talking to their children about sex, love and relationships.

If you have children between the ages of 11-16 years old and would like information and guidance on where to begin, you can get expert advice at bbc.co.uk/barefacts

MFL DEPARTMENT

We would like to hear from any parents who are native speakers of French or German who might be willing to come in to the school for some oral practice with our exam groups. Please contact me in the first instance.

Year 9 trip to France

Friday 7th November 2008.

Thank you to all those who have already paid the full amount for the trip. Could I please ask those who have just paid the deposit to let me have the remainder as soon as possible as I have now had to pay the coach company?

I would also like to have details of passport numbers from those who have not already given me this information.

Mr Goldsmith, MFL & Business Faculty Leader

FOOD & TECHNOLOGY

The staff would like to thank parents who have completed the slips and returned them with the necessary monies which has allowed their children to start their courses with the appropriate materials. The outstanding returns should be sent into school as soon as possible.

Thanks

Mrs Martin, Food/Textiles Subject Leader

CASHLESS CATERING CARDS Year 9

The contractors who run the catering service are looking into an alternative cashless system as the current software is not supported after January 2009. Year 9 will therefore not be issued with cashless cards at the moment and can continue to pay for food with cash.

CONNEXIONS

Just a reminder that a Connexions Personal Adviser is based in the school 2-3 days per week offering advice, guidance and information on a range of issues from career choice, end of year 11 options and university choice to any personal concerns. It is a confidential and impartial service. To arrange an appointment, students need to ask their form tutor or speak to Mrs Bricknell in student support.

Trudy Hankin, Senior Personal Adviser

LIBRARY

URGENT request for all books borrowed last term to be returned to the library

'You know who you are'

Fines amnesty until 30th September.

Many Thanks

Mrs Horler, Librarian

Library Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

Thursday - Thursday 8.30 am to 3.00 pm

Please note the Library is closed from 12.40 pm until 1.10 pm every day.

CAREERS

Are there any parents willing to come into school to talk to students on our Year 9 Careers Day next July? This is an annual event and we invite people to come into school and talk to small groups of students about their work for about ten minutes. If you are interested please contact me at school.

The main work related learning event for Year 10 students this year is Work Experience. Students and parents should now be looking for placements. Paperwork will be issued very shortly to all year 10s which needs to be completed and returned to school by Christmas. If you have any queries about work experience, please contact me at school.

For Year 11 students we have a careers morning in January when teachers from school and visitors from colleges and universities talk to students about their options after GCSE.

Finally, as well as the year 9 careers day, we invite parents, employers and employees in to talk to students about their work. These talks are held at lunchtimes to students who are interested in that particular job or career. If you would like to present one of these talks, please contact me at school.

Mr Sims, Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator
ssims@harlington.org

NON UNIFORM DATES

For the academic year 2008-9 we are asking each house to nominate and support a chosen charity. Money will be raised throughout the year for their chosen charity through non-uniform days and other fund raising initiatives. The three non-uniform dates for this year are:

**Friday 24 October; Friday 19 December;
Friday 22 May**

SPORTS NEWS

As we start a new academic year we reflect proudly on the successes achieved by our students last year and in true competitive style aim to further improve the quality of sport offered at Harlington, within this coming year.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all award recipients in the end of year Sports Award Assemblies that took place in the summer term. The healthy number of students who commit themselves to a range of sporting activities, training, and competition, and achieve commendable success whilst balancing academic demands, never ceases to impress us!

Congratulations to all the GCSE PE and A Level PE students who conducted themselves in an exemplary manner throughout the demanding examination period. Yet again we were commended by the external examiners on our high standards. We achieved 100% pass rate in both the GCSE and A Level PE courses, with a record number of A* grades at GCSE and three students at A Level achieving full marks in a module exam – well done to you all.

Congratulations to all students and staff who made the schools Sports Day in the last week of the summer term such a great success. This saw a major overhaul of the sports day format with all students taking part, supported by the whole school staff. The change reflected our move to vertical tutoring - tutor groups and houses competed against each in a range of physical activities which included athletics, badminton, dodgeball, orienteering, team problem-solving, football and rounders throughout the day. The positive comments received from both students and staff, and the atmosphere around the school was truly awesome and inspiring - many thanks to all involved!

Outstanding achievement!

Congratulations to Josie Huckle (12TA) on being selected for the U19 England Netball Squad. We wish Josie well with her training and travels all over England to play at this exciting level.

It's that time of the year in which sport trials are occurring at school, county and regional level - good luck to all those who are due to trial in the near future.

We are always keen to hear about the sporting successes of our students both in and out of school. If you have any news please forward this information by email for my attention at swareing@harlington.org

Did you know that in order to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, you should be taking part in 5 hours of physical activity a week?

How do you measure up?

It is a national target that all school children should reach this level of participation by 2010. PE lessons only account as part of this; how can you make up the remainder? The PE Department offers a range of extra opportunities during lunch time and after school (please see the PE Extra-curricular Programme below), you might even like to join a local sports club (ask you PE teacher for details), or you could simply go for a swim, bike ride, jog etc in your own time!

All students should start to prepare themselves to account for how they spend their 5 hours of physical activity a week.

Wishing you all an active and successful forthcoming year.

Mrs Wareing
Head of PE

Day	Club	Location	Time
Mon (Day 1)	Rowing (Concept 2) Badminton	Room PE 14 Sports Hall	Early Lunch Yrs 10, 12 & 13 Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11
Weds (Day 3)	Dance Club 6 th Form Football <u>Inter House Sports Competitions</u> Netball Dodge Ball	Dance Studio Sports Hall Sports Hall Activity Studio	Early Lunch Yrs 10, 12 & 13 Early Lunch Yrs 12 & 13 PM Tutor Time 1.40 to 2.00
Thurs (Day 4)	Badminton Dance Club <u>Inter House Sports Competitions</u> Netball Dodge Ball	Sports Hall Dance Studio Sports Hall Activity Studio	Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11 Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11 PM Tutor Time 1.40 to 2.00
Fri (Day 5)	Table Tennis	Activity Studio	Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11
Mon (Day 6)	Rowing (Concept 2) Badminton	Room PE 14 Sports Hall	Early Lunch Yrs 10, 12 & 13 Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11
Wed (Day 8)	Dance Club 6 th Form Football <u>Inter House Sports Competitions</u> Netball Dodge Ball	Dance Studio Sports Hall Sports Hall Activity Studio	Early Lunch Yrs 10, 12 & 13 Early Lunch Yrs 12 & 13 PM Tutor Time 1.40 to 2.00
Thurs (Day 9)	Badminton Dance Club Badminton <u>Inter House Sports Competitions</u> Netball Dodge Ball	Sports Hall Dance Studio Sports Hall Sports Hall Activity Studio	Early Lunch Yrs 10, 12 & 13 Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11 Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11 PM Tutor Time 1.40 to 2.00
Fri (Day 10)	Table Tennis	Activity Studio	Late Lunch Yrs 9 & 11

Day	Club	Location	Time
Monday	Hockey Club (All age groups) Basketball Club (All age groups)	Miss Ward Mr Wade	3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm
Tuesday	Netball Fixtures (All age groups) Badminton Club (All age groups) Football Club (All age groups) Fitness to Music (Yrs 10,11,12 & 13 girls)	Miss Wiseman Mrs Wareing Miss Appadoo	3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm
Weds	Hockey Fixtures (U16 & U18)	Miss Ward	3.15-5.45 pm
Thursday	Hockey Fixtures (U14 & U18) Netball Training (All age groups) Rugby Club (All age groups) Spotlight Dance (Yrs 9 & 10 Girls)	Miss Ward Miss Wiseman - -	3.15-5.45 pm 3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm 3.15-4.15 pm
Friday	Running Club (All age groups)	Mr Lumley/ Mr Redding	3.15-4.15 pm

2008/2009 DIARY DATES

- Wednesday 8 October Prospective parents' evening
- Thursday 9 October Years 11,12 and 13 Textile Exhibition
- Friday 10 October School Photographs
- Friday 10 October Year 11 Music Day, St Andrew's Church, Bedford
- Monday 13 October - Friday 17 October Year 12 Geography Fieldwork trip to Swanage
- w/c 20 October 'Think Pink' week raising funds for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Wednesday 22 October Parents' Forum Meeting, 6pm. Contact Mrs Skinner if you would like attend
- Thursday 23 October Years 10 and 11 Trip to the Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton – for students studying Lord of the Flies text for English Literature exam
- Thursday 23 October Year 11 Interim progress checks issued
- Thursday 23 October Year 12 Drama theatre visit
- Friday 24 October Non- uniform day
- Monday 27 October Half Term - return on Tuesday 4 November**
- Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October Silver Assessed / Gold Training expedition Peak District
- Monday 3 November – School closed Staff training day**
- Tuesday 4 November & Weds 5 November Visit to Imperial War Museum
- Thursday 6 November Year 13 Drama theatre visit - Shakespeare RSC Romeo & Juliet
- Tuesday 11 November Year 12 Drama trip
- Tuesday 18 November Year 11 Drama trip – Woman In Black
- Friday 5 December Technical rehearsal – school production 3.00 p.m.
- Monday 8 December Dress rehearsal – school production 3.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 10 December Rehearsal all day – school production 8.35 am - 3.00 pm
- Weds 10 December - Fri 12 December School Production – MACBETH
- Friday 19 December Autumn term ends**
- Tuesday 6 January Spring term begins**
- Monday 16 February Half term week – return Monday 23 February**
- Friday 3 April Spring Term ends**
- Tuesday 21 April Summer Term begins**
- Monday 25 May Half Term week – return on Monday 1 June**
- Monday 29 June - Friday 10 July Year 10 Work Experience
- Friday 17 July Summer Term ends – return Thursday 3 September**