



## Some good news at half term:

- Unfortunately snow and frost led to the loss of 17 hockey fixtures in the first half of term. Despite this all teams are up and running with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, led by captain, Simon Lowen and vice captain, Joe Warren, making an impressive start. They currently have a 100% record including a win against Bishops Stortford College in the Hertfordshire U18 Cup Final. They are due to play in the East of England rounds at UEA, Norwich and hope to go one better than last year when they lost in the East U18 Final.
- The U16's have also had an impressive start, losing only once in six fixtures. Emulating the 1<sup>st</sup> XI they also defeated Bishops Stortford College in the Hertfordshire U16 Final. They will now play in the East rounds at Bedford just after half term.
- The U15's, U14's and U13's have also all made pleasing starts, with the U14's due to play their Hertfordshire Cup Final against Bishops Stortford College and hoping to make it a hat trick of cup victories!
- Well done to the following boys who have been selected for Hertfordshire Junior Academy Centres this term: Russel Barnet 9N, Jon Luke Summerfield 9T, Benedict Cross 9G, Dhiren Solanki 10N, Jeremy Swanwick 9G, Stephen Causbrook 10P, Laurence Armitage-Brain 11B, William Gage 10P, Tom Hall 11C, Aaron Mitchell 10G, Philip Ratliff 11F, George Thomas 11T, Mark Guest 11T, Harry Benjamin 6BBu, Edward Beak 6TBg and Daniel Joseph 6THn.
- The development of our Year 7 rugby players has been very much affected by the weather, with the A team playing only 3 fixtures and the B team 2. After losing the first 2 fixtures the A team had a very good win which will set them up for the second half of the term. The B team have been more successful winning 1 and drawing their other match.
- The second half of the term will be very busy for these 2 teams, with 10 matches scheduled and there will also be 2 matches for the C and D teams.
- Well done to William Donovan 11B who represented Hertfordshire in the U16 rugby squad.
- Congratulations to Jon Luke Summerfield who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the JCC Maccabi Games 2010 in Denver, Colorado in July.
- We are delighted to hear that ten Year 10 students were chosen to attend a Symposium on Justice and Fairness at Allen & Overy LLP in February.
- The MFL department put forward twenty-four of its top linguists from Year 10 to compete in the inaugural UK Linguistics Olympiad on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Boys solved a number of linguistic data problems in an effort to be among the top scoring candidates who will earn the right to represent the UK at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Sweden during July.
- The Watford 'B' Debating team of Michael Segalov (6RCy) and Mateusz Slomka (6NSW) have reached the National Finals Day in the Oxford Union Annual Debating Competition. Only six out of fifty school teams received this accolade in the North London Round, which took place at Merchant Taylor's School on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Charity Fundraising**

- Congratulations to Simon Gallow 6FDs who worked with Amar Bhatti 6GTa, Xin Fan 6NCh, Adam Renak 6BCo and Michael Segalov 6CRy to raise £600 to help the survivors of the Haiti earthquake.
- The Christmas Mufti Day raised a record £1,100 and this term so far donations have been made to Watford Mencap and The Poppy Appeal.

**Music Department News**

- The department had great success in the recent Associated Board Music Examinations and Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations. There were quite a number of merits and distinctions.
- This term, 60 students have been entered for their Associated Board Music Examinations from March 17<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>. The exact timings will be issued in due course. Rehearsals with accompanists will start after the half-term break along with some aural practice.
- All students who have instrumental lessons should be aware that a copy of their timetable is available on the Virtual learning Environment. Students will need to log on, click on Music and then choose Music Lessons. Copies can be printed from here. If students are not sure how to do this, please see Mr Hussey.
- Please come to our Sixth Form Chamber Concert on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Ten students will be performing their examination pieces and would very much enjoy playing to a packed audience.

Admission is free. The event would be most suitable for students in years 10 and 11 who are thinking of taking music beyond GCSE, but all are more than welcome.

- Later in the term we have our two Spring Concerts featuring our larger ensembles. The first of these is on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> and the second is the following week on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please apply for your tickets early. A letter will appear on Moodle in due course.
- This half term the Clarendon Muse has resounded to two fine chamber concerts, a string quartet concert given by the Wilhelm Quartet and a solo violin recital given by Katie Stilman. Please watch for opportunities to hear live music in the Clarendon Muse Auditorium. There are many leaflets in the foyer with details about forthcoming events.

### School Trips & Visits

- The **Battlefields** visit was another magnificent success. 48 students visited the sights of Ypres and the Somme and experienced a proper tribute to the many fallen staff and students of the school who served and the 97 who paid the ultimate price. Boys took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and at smaller services at Tynecot, Thiepval and St George's Chapel. Special thanks goes out to Mr Panter, Mr Pegler, Mr Shafe, Mr John and Mr McDermott for making it such a memorable visit.
- **Reminders: Yr9 Normandy visit in May and KS5 History Visit to Berlin in October 2010:** Please pass your balance cheques through to Mr McDermott
- The Geography Department took 60 gifted and talented boys from year 9 to the **National Maritime Museum and Thames Barrier** for a climate change study day in January.
- Forms 8N, P and T, along with half of 8G, spent a day at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich on 25<sup>th</sup> January studying the impacts of climate change on cities such as London and looking at practical ways of reducing our Carbon Footprint. Many of the students (and some of the staff!) were excited to cross from one hemisphere to the other during the course of the visit!
- A reminder that the rest of year 8, whose visit was disrupted by the snow in January will now attend the Museum in May. More information will be sent out via ParentMail closer to the date.
- On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, the English department took 50 Sixth Form students to **Language Live** where they enjoyed hearing a number of eminent speakers on the English Language, including David Crystal.
- A group of 17 boys and 2 staff leave on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to enjoy a week's skiing in the Austrian ski

resort of **Obertauern**. Please contact Mr Talbot if your son is interested in future ski trips.

- **Mainz Exchange 13 – 24 Feb.** Thanks a lot to all parents involved for your help and support with this trip. I am sure everyone is looking forward to a world of wurst over Half Term!
- **Classics trip to Italy** (7-14 April). Thank you all for getting payments in. The trip is all ready and information packs will be sent out near the start of next half term. The Parents Information Night will be at 7pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall. Further details will follow.
- **Classics trip to Greece** (23-30 October). Thanks to all parents for getting payments in promptly.
- **Latin Model Competition.** Congratulations to James Evans of 8C for his Fishbourne Roman Palace model in the Year 8 category and to Alex Eliad of 9F for his outstanding Statue of Zeus at Olympia model in the Year 9 category. A selection of excellent models has been on show in the school library. A big thanks to all parents for their help with the project (but not too much help hopefully).
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 10 gifted and talented RS students from Years 9 & 10 attended the **Holocaust Memorial Day** event at Northwood Liberal Synagogue.
- Michael Segalov & Richard Miah in L6CRy visited **Auschwitz** with the Lessons from Auschwitz project.
- All of year 7 visited **Neasden Hindu Temple** on 10<sup>th</sup> February as part of their RS studies.
- The RS talk to Year 9 by Harry Bibring has been rescheduled to 12<sup>th</sup> May 8.40 – 10.10am.

Year 10 will be out on **work experience** in June. They should now be selecting their placements via webview or organising their own private placements. For more information consult Moodle.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** will take place in the canteen from 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March when all fruit juices on sale will be Fairtrade.

### Free Computer Scheme – Home Access Grant

There has recently been a very exciting announcement by the Government regarding a free computer for all qualifying homes/families. To qualify you need to have a son or daughter who is in years 3-9 and to be eligible for free school meals, or similar. The application process is very straightforward and you simply need to call 0333 200 1004 and request an application pack. If you would like help completing the form then we will be running some sessions after half term.

### **eSafety – Social Networking Update**

Please take time to read the attachment giving tips on the safe use of social networking sites and school procedures on eSafety and behaviour.

Claire Ward MP is holding an open meeting for parents who have concerns about their child's use of the internet and online safety at St Michael's Catholic High School, High Elms Lane, Watford, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 7-8pm. If you would like to attend, please email [cracknellp@parliament.uk](mailto:cracknellp@parliament.uk).

### **Friends of WGSB**

As you've read here before, we have a **Treasurer vacancy**. We are urging parents who have a background in accountancy, finance or budget management to let us know if they would be happy to volunteer their time to this role which helps support our boy's education. If you are interested please contact Effie Stevenson on 07789 653288 or email [stevensone@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:stevensone@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk).

### **School Lettings go Online**

If you, your friends or family would like to use a value for money, quality venue for your social, business, sporting or community event, details of all the school's facilities available for hire and an online booking form is available on our website [www.watfordboys.org](http://www.watfordboys.org).

Have you ever wanted to try Rock Climbing, but never had the opportunity? Well now you can have the thrill and excitement on the **WBS 10m Climbing Wall**, suitable for all ages and abilities. The wall will be arriving soon and available to hire. Further details to follow.

The Geography department is planning to host a **Climate Change Conference** in July, inviting other schools to debate some of the important post-Copenhagen issues. If you have an interest in climate change and would like to be involved, please contact [carreraaj@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carreraaj@watfordboys.herts.sch.uk).

We will again be involved in the **Sainsbury's Active Kids** promotion from 17<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> June. Through your support we have been able to exchange our vouchers for sports equipment to supplement our budget. Vouchers can be handed in to your son's form tutor. Thanks for your support.

**Father's Book Club** will be meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm, in L08 in the Muse, to discuss *The Best Short Stories of Guy De Maupassant* (Wordsworth Classics).

### **Revised Dates**

Please note an amendment to the term dates for Autumn Term 2010

**End of Term - Fri 17th December, not Tues 21<sup>st</sup> December** (as previously published)

**The Year 8 Parents' Evening** has been rescheduled to Tues 27 April

### **Diary Dates 2010**

**UCAS Finance Talk** – Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Gym Induction** – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 5.45pm

**L6 Chamber Concert** – Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Spring Concerts** – Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> & Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March

**Hockey Supper** – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March (*not 31<sup>st</sup>*)

**Start of Spring Term** – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

**End of Spring Term** – Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April 12.30pm

**Start of Summer Term** – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

**Half Term** – 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

**End of Summer Term** – Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July 12.30pm

### **Study Leave & Exams**

**Year 11 Study Leave** starts – Monday 17 May.

**Revision classes** – students to attend as directed starting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Year 11 Clearing Up Day** - Thursday 1 July.

**GCSE Results** - Tuesday 24 August 10am – 12pm.

**GCSE Results Surgery** – Thursday 26 August 10am.

**L6 Study Leave** starts - Monday 17 May

**L6 return to school** - Monday 14 June.

**U6 Study Leave** starts - Monday 7 June.

**Leavers' Lunch** - Friday 2 July 1pm

**A Level Results** – Thursday 19 August 10am

*Best Wishes  
Martin Post*