



Priory News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and thank you for supporting the school over this term. Students and staff have worked incredibly hard since September and all deserve a well-earned rest. This term has once again seen a huge array of extra-curricular events put on, which allow our students to show what wonderfully talented young people we have in our school community.

I look forward to the start of next term on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Geraint Edwards

Dates for your Diary 2017

Thursday 5th January 2017

Back to School!

Start of the new term

Monday 9th January 2017

Year 13 Mock Exams begin

Year 11 Post 16 Pathway
Interviews start

Thursday 12th January 2017

Year 11 Parents' Evening
4.30pm - 7.30pm



Headteacher Commendations

Jessica Astill for coming in 1st place in the District Cross Country and Marshall Frost for performing exceptionally well in our recent trampolining competition.

JUNIOR CHOIR

On Sunday 11th December, The Junior Choir took part in a carol singing performance at Sainsbury's. We were raising money for a local homeless shelter, North Herts Sanctuary.

We sang well known carols such as 'Jingle Bells', 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' and 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. Some people also had solos in songs like 'All I want for Christmas Is You.' There were also our Polar Express songs from the Christmas concert. When we sang the 'Twelve days of Christmas' carol some of us held up posters with the numbers and symbols and let's just say there were some pretty interesting poses!

We all had a great time and were so proud of what we achieved. It was a great experience and was funny to see everyone in funky Christmas hats. We raised an amazing £624.37 for the North Herts Sanctuary! All together we had a great day and got everyone at Sainsbury's in a Christmassy mood. By Jessica Astill 7CA



Teaching and Learning...



On the 13th December the KS5 Drama students took a trip to London to visit a Performing Arts school, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, a leading centre of dramatic media. Our workshop started with a short question and answer session with the Head of Lighting, Sound and Stage Management. This is where we grasped an understanding that the school approached teaching with a hands-on and interactive attitude which we found refreshing and innovative. To gain a different perspective on the work we're doing in our BTEC Performing Arts Course, our workshop focused on the backstage element of creating a performance. After the brief introduction we were split into four groups where we mingled with other prospective students. My personal experience started by looking in the lighting department where we learnt about not only the equipment we use at school but also the lighting being developed for use in future large scale musicals. One of the facts we learnt was that there were over 270 lights used in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. We then

went on to look at sound, and got to speak with specialists from audio company, Autograph, who have designed the audio for many huge West End and Broadway musicals such as *Wicked* and *The Lion King*. We were then lucky enough to be given a tour of the premises where we got to see rooms that specialise in stage design from planning to production. We then had an interactive session where we learnt about edible props from canapes to sugared iPhones! After this we were given the chance to create our own props using dyed mashed potato as ice cream and lychees as oysters. We finished the day with a second session for questions, and learnt about the move to Peckham in 2018. Overall both the Year 12 and 13's had a great time looking around one of the leading Performing arts schools, and the surrounding areas.

Freya Gillard 12FP



Rotary Technology Tournament 2016

In November we hosted and entered two teams into the Rotary Technology Tournament. Schools came from all around to compete. Well done to our Year 10 team who won best Portfolio! Well done to Kirsty Brant-Wilcock, John Vere, Mia Deacon and Oliver Khan.

Rotary  SETPOINT Harfordshire

TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT 2016

HITCHIN PRIORY ROTARY CLUB

HITCHIN TILEHOUSE ROTARY CLUB

HITCHIN ROTARY CLUB

HITCHIN MIMRAM ROTARY CLUB



HELD AT THE PRIORY SCHOOL, HITCHIN ON 10 NOVEMBER 2016

Library News

#SHELF HELP

The launch of #Shelf help, a collection of books aimed at addressing a range of mental health issues and difficult situations for young people, took place in the Library on Friday 2nd December 2016.

The programme is organised by the Reading Agency, The Wellcome Foundation, Phase and researchers from the University of Westminster. This pilot project, the first of its kind in the UK, will look at the effect having access to these specially chosen books will have on students. Literacy leaders and Health Champions were invited to the launch and many of the books have

already been borrowed. We will let you know their findings next year.

Mrs Southall, Mrs Stovin and Mrs Plum



Music, Music, Music

The School Christmas Concert put us all into the festive swing on 6th December. Performing to a full house of friends and family, the audience were treated to a wide range of music from our various musical ensembles such as our three choirs (consisting of over 100 students in total!) and instrumental ensembles. In addition to this, we were also very pleased to welcome the choir from St. Ippolyts Primary School who performed for us too! We heard solo numbers from our youngest members of the school – right up to our Year 11 students and the whole event was wonderfully hosted by 4 of our students – Daniel Baverstock in Year 7, Laney Laws-Randall in Year 8, Kerry Higginbotham in Year 11 and Seb Gale in Year 12. The grand finale was our own rendition of 'Feed the World' where all the choirs from all schools were joined by our Australia Fundraising team¹ group of parents to draw the whole evening to a close. Many thanks to all of those who came and supported our students.

'A huge well done to our musicians who have sat grade exams this term. We look forward to hearing about the results – please don't forget to bring in a copy of the certificate (or email a photograph of it to us) so we can put it on the 'Celebration Wall' in the Music department.

Well done to the two results we already have for Lauren Wyatt who has passed her Grade 2 Drum Kit exam with distinction and to Jamie Milne who passed

his Grade 8 Singing with Distinction. Hopefully we will be able to publish more successful results by the publication of the next newsletter. Our musicians have been really busy over the past few weeks. We have performed in the Consortium concert on 10th November, our school Christmas concert last week and last weekend, Miss Gresser took our Junior Choir to perform in Sainsbury's in Hitchin to raise money for the Homeless Shelter. They helped to raise over £600! On Friday 16th December, a small group of our Senior choir will be performing at the Rotary Christmas breakfast. Carols at 7.15am will be a new experience for them! Monday 19th December will see our students perform Christmas songs at the school Christmas dinner – we hope they enjoy it! Zac Cash is performing at the Presentation Evening on Tuesday 20th and our Junior Choir will be performing The Traditional Carol at each of the three end of term assemblies on Wednesday 21st December.

It's been a busy few weeks for us all – thank you to all the parents for their continued support. We wish you a restful Christmas.

The Music Department.

Other Music Exam Successes!

Mia Deacon – Grade 7 Trumpet – passed with MERIT

Ellie Tonge – Grade 5 Singing—passed with DISTINCTION

Jessica Halford – Grade 3 Piano with MERIT

Sports, Clubs, Activities and Results....

YEAR 8 £1 CHALLENGE

Grand total raised £2,150!

Students in Year 8 were given £1 each and the task to raise as much money as they could in two weeks. Students were given a careers lesson and were taught about planning. They all produced a business plan to help them work out how much money they might be able to raise.

As well as the above list on the right, there were 5 cookie sales, 15 cake sales, a green screen event and students made stress balls.

Students raised so much that we decided to split the money between Phase and the Hitchin Foodbank.

So students could actually see where their money was going, Mrs Emler took 7 students to Waitrose in Hitchin to spend £220 of the money raised.



It gave the students a great insight in to budgeting and getting the most out of their money.

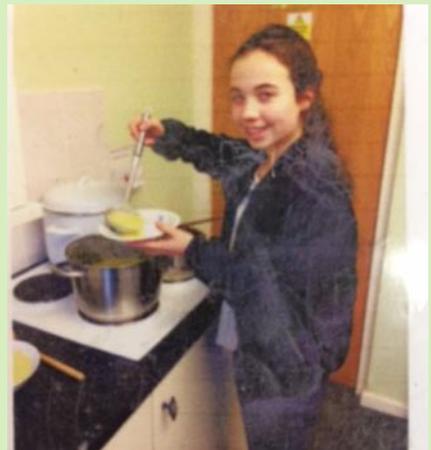
The students raised a massive £2,150 which is an incredible amount of money.

Overleaf is a thank you letter from the Hitchin Foodbank who were overwhelmed by our generosity.

Well done Year 8!

What went on?

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| How many sweets in a jar | Taking out the rubbish |
| Dog walking | Shoe polishing |
| Car washing | Doing chores |
| House cleaning | Making fire kits |
| Washing up | Sweeping leaves |
| Raffles | Making Christmas decorations |
| Baby sitting | Selling caramel |
| Food & Drink Sales | Juice Stand |
| Street magic | Hot Chocolate stand |
| A Sponsored walk | Charity bucket |





Letchworth foodbank
St Paul's Church Office
179 Pixmore Way
Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 1QT

T 07580 184586
E info@letchworthfoodbank.org.uk
www.letchworth.foodbank.org.uk

Serving Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock

19 December 2018

Dear Staff & Pupils of the Priory School, Hitchin,

Recently you were kind enough to visit the local Waitrose Supermarket to purchase food for our Warehouse and Distribution centres. You also organised a collection of money to help us fund our costs, which include rental of our warehouse, and the costs of heating, lighting etc. at our Distribution Centres. We (myself & our Driver, Donald Spivey) came to collect the food and financial donation on Friday 16th December. Donald counted the boxes of food, as we loaded them into his car. There were 22 boxes! The Cheque which your Finance Officer (Mrs. S.Hawkins) gave us was for £1,000 !! When I left the School, I went to our Hitchin Distribution Centre to show this to our volunteers. Charmaine Ball (the Manager of the Hitchin Distribution Centre) said that this was the most generous single donation of food and money from any donor organisation (School or Church) !!

We would like to thank everyone in the Priory School for such a generous donation to the Foodbank. Our unique red voucher system ensures that only deserving people, who are having real difficulty in putting food on the table, receive our (and indirectly- your) help. If we did not have people like yourselves making financial donations & contributing food, then there is no doubt that our Charity would cease to exist, and desperate, needy people would go hungry.

Finally I would like to wish everyone in your School a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year. Your generous donations are much appreciated along with all the contributions from all Churches, Schools, Supermarkets and individuals. Please share/display this letter so that the whole of your School can see it. God Bless

Keith Catchpole
(liaison between Hitchin Schools, Churches and the Foodbank)
Hitchin Distribution Centre,
Church of Our Lady Immaculate & St.Andrew,
16,Nightingale Rd.
Hitchin Herts.
SG5 1QS

Letchworth foodbank is a project run by Churches Together in Letchworth
Registered charity number: 1149864 | Registered in England & Wales



Success at the Eastern Region Schools Trampoline Competition

On Sunday 4th December nine students from The Priory School participated in the Eastern Region Schools trampolining competition at Brentwood. The students were an absolute credit to the school. They faced some very tough competition in all age groups. Congratulations to all students that competed with a particular mention to Liberty Ewer in year 10. Liberty won the U19 Girls Intermediate competition and has now qualified for the next stage in the zonal competition. The U19 intermediate and the U14 intermediate girls' teams both finished in third place. A huge thanks to Mrs Churchman and coach Charlie Jeffries for preparing and supporting the teams.

Results:

Under 14 Boys Elite

Marshall Frost 11th place

Under 14 Boys Novice

Hari Henderson 8th place

Under 14 Girls Intermediate

Kayleigh Gray 9th place

Tia Robinson 10th place

Molly Sharp 11th place

Under 19 Girls Intermediate

Liberty Ewer 1st place

Emily Cox 10th place

Leah Duffy 16th place

Sarah Fleetwood 17th place



U14 Girls Team



U19 Intermediate Winner
Liberty Ewer



U19 Girls Team with Coach Charlie

Local band raise money for our Priory School Young Carers

The Young Carers at the Priory School would like to say a massive thank you to local band Strontium Dog, who organised at Charity gig, and donated half of the money to them. Each of the students received a £15 gift voucher just in time for Christmas. One of the students said " this is such a lovely gift, it's made my day!"



World Challenge Fund Raising



Mia and I are busy raising funds for our World Challenge 2017 and have had some lovely jute bags printed.

We have managed to be sponsored by local companies and they are on sale for £5 and can be bought from 'What Sarah Did' in Hitchin (opposite Next). (Bag measures 35 x 40 x 14cm)

We just wondered if anyone at school would like to buy one?

If you do and would like one, please contact my mum Valerie on 07961 426268 or email valeriefrances@hotmail.co.uk

Many thanks

Lily

Talent Show

On Friday the 2nd December, Jamie and I organised a Talent Show in aid of our Year 13 prom. The hall was packed and full of excitement and for that we were so grateful! The acts were amazing, there was such a variety! Whether they were singers, songwriters, magicians or even a science class, they took to the stage performing with such talent. The audience loved it and left everyone feeling ready for Christmas. We are so happy to announce we have raised £230 and can finally put the deposit down on our venue! We're so happy to be part of such a talented and supportive school. Thank you to everyone who participated and came to watch, we couldn't have done it without you!

Molly and Jamie – Year 13





North Herts' Football Facility

In conjunction with Hitchin Town Football Club

Christmas Holidays

Drop 'n' Shop

Football Courses

Prizes & Certificates
HTFC Match Tickets

5-12 year old
boys & girls

22nd & 23rd
December 2016
9.30am-3.30pm



FA Qualified & DBS
checked HTFC coaches &
1st Team Players

To book, please download a registration form from our website
and return with your payment to us at the address below.

£20 per child per day. EARLY BIRD OFFER: £15 per child per day if payment received by 16/12/16.



For more information call
01462 720088 or email info@htcfc.co.uk
www.northhertsarena.co.uk

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Our undercover,
floodlit Driving Range
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coaching bays



Calling All Brass Players

Would you like to be at the start of something new?

**Are you an ex brass player,
a rusty brass player,**

a young or old brass player?

*Then why not come along on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month
(starting February 8th 2017, 7.30pm to
9.30pm)*

and have a blow with

**Hitchin
Community Brass
Hitchin Rugby Club, Old Hale
Way, Hitchin SG5 1XL**

*Choose what you would like to play from
our extensive music library.
A small donation of £1.50 per session
would be welcome.*

*To register an interest or for more infor-
mation please contact
Allan Hooker on 07947 007764 or hitch-
incommunitybrass@gmail.com
www.hitchinband.co.uk*



The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership is launching a new campaign to 'put it away' as many drivers are continuing to use their handheld mobile phone while driving. However good your driving is, checking a text, browsing, scrolling through your music means you not paying attention to the road, things happen that you cannot react in time to. Remove the temptation and put your mobile away in a bag, in the gloves compartment, out of reach – it is just not worth the risk.
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/putitaway

Soon the penalties for using a handheld mobile phone while driving are doubling to £200 fine and six points on your licence – an immediate ban for new drivers.

Thank you for your support #putitaway – follow on social media