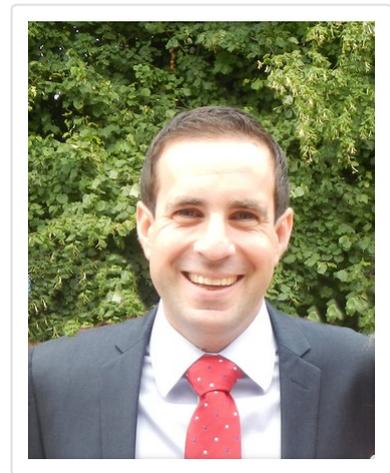


HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Welcome back

Firstly I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year and I hope you all had a fabulous Christmas. Last term feels like a distant memory and I can't believe how quickly the school year has gone so far. I'm sure our Year 9, 11 and 13 pupils, all of whom will be completing public exams this summer, are fully aware that the next term or so will go equally as quickly and that they need to ensure they hit the ground running straight away, and keep everything organised in preparation for their exams next term.



I would like to thank all of the parents who attended the schools events last term with a range of Parents Information Evenings, Yr.7 Aspirations Day, the schools Dance event, Carol Concert and Christmas Music Concert, as well as those who were able to join me at Parents Voice meetings, your presence and support at each of these events is much appreciated by staff and pupils alike. I would also like to congratulate those pupils who performed at these events or helped with Open Evenings and school tours. They are a credit to both the school and to you as parents.

A number of people asked me last term if I am enjoying being the Headteacher and if it is any different. I have to say the biggest difference is also the bit I have enjoyed the most, and that has been meeting more pupils and celebrating their successes. My favourite part of the term was receiving pupils with their work and discussing with them how well they are doing in school and I will continue to do so regularly.

Finally I would like to thank parents and pupils for their support during the snow at the end of term. Deciding upon whether to stay open is always a very difficult decision to make in terms of ensuring pupils health and safety, but the behaviour of the pupils was superb during the last week, and your flexibility in supporting the school in opening late and finishing slightly early on the 12th December was very much appreciated.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful and thank you to those parents who have sent in pupils achievements. I try to put as many in the newsletter as possible

but I will meet those who are not acknowledged within this document.

Mr D Leonard
Headteacher

A few reminders

Over the course of this week and next I will be holding assemblies for every House. I just wanted to provide parents with the same information and reminders that I am giving the pupils. There are some very simple rules that are easy for pupils to follow but that occasionally need reinforcing. These are as follows:

Mobile phones/earphones - these are not permitted at any time within the school building and will be confiscated immediately if they are seen. This includes for example using the phone to check the time or their timetable. Pupils are fully aware of this and have been reminded. If a pupil refuses to hand over their phone they will be internally excluded and still have their phone confiscated.

Coats - pupils are permitted to wear black, navy blue or dark grey coats only.

Skirts - Pupils skirts must be to the knee. If they are not, pupils will receive a warning and /or a uniform slip. Pupils who consistently flaunt this rule will receive further sanctions as outlined in the schools behaviour policy.

Piercings - pupils are not allowed nose or tongue piercings and only one set of stud earrings.

School shoes - appropriate school shoes as outlined in our school policy must be worn at all times.

For further information on these items and other aspects of school discipline please see the schools behaviour policy which can be found using the link below:

<http://www.westhatch.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=112>

Join our Sixth Form

We are still accepting applications for our **outstanding Sixth Form**. Recognised in the Times national newspaper as the 13th best results in East Anglia, there has never been a better time to stay at West Hatch for post 16 study. The closing date for applications is the **31st January 2018**. We will be holding interviews during our Year 11 Transition Day on the 9th March where we will also discuss option choices with pupils and parents.



Students take part in University of Oxford shadowing scheme

Last term, three Year 12 students from West Hatch visited the University of Oxford to take part in lectures and tutorials whilst shadowing a current undergraduate student.



Hannah Purton first visited Brasenose College where she shadowed an English undergraduate. She said: "I asked her lots of questions in relation to her Oxford experience overall and how she found the admission process; I learnt a lot about the life of a typical university student as well as the content of the English Literature course."

Hannah also toured the area and took part in one of her undergraduate's lessons and then went on to Merton College where she met other Year 12 students and undergraduates and was given a tour of Merton College before attending a workshop.

Seb Weller said: "I was given a tour of the whole university - which I found out to be very large indeed". Seb then joined an economics and management lecture.

Fellow West Hatch student Natasha Watts said: "I was able to gain an insight into university life and in particular receive knowledge from a current undergraduate of a study of interest to me".

"From this once in-a-lifetime experience I can strongly say I am much more confident in my decision to go to university and more motivated to achieve my goals at Sixth Form to allow me to continue on the path I am going down."

Christmas Jumper Day

On the last day of term we held the annual Christmas jumper day and I'm delighted to say that we raised £935 for charity. Thank you for supporting the school; this money will be donated to Save the Children.



New rules related to lunch time

During my assemblies this term I will be outlining our new rules for lunch time relating to pupils using classrooms. As a result of feedback from pupils last year and in line with some other schools, we will be making a number of rooms available to pupils during lunch time, where they can sit in the warm and talk. We will also have a number of quiet rooms where pupils can go to work. I have made it very clear to pupils that this can only work on trust as we do not have the ability to staff every room. I have outlined to them that rooms must be left in the way they found them and that they are not permitted to eat or drink from disposable bottles inside the building. We will be running this trial from Monday 15th January. Please impress upon your children the need to be sensible and behave appropriately so that we are able to continue to allow pupils to use the schools classrooms during their lunch time.

Christmas Concerts

At the end of term we held two fabulous music events; the Christmas Carol Concert with Year 7 and the Christmas Music Concert. We managed to run the Carol Concert despite the snow and I'd like to thank those parents who were able to join us. There were some amazing solo and duet performances and also some wonderful readings by Tobi Macaulay (Yr.7), Harristone Mayemba (Yr.7), Paige Crandley (Yr.7) and Rумыana Ivaylova (Yr.7).

Well done to all those pupils who performed so brilliantly at both events and thank you to the staff who were involved in organising and supporting them.



Tobi (Yr.7) and
Harristone (Yr.7)



Jacques Van
Praagh (Yr.10)



Yr.7 Choir

Attendance matters!

As you know, pupils attendance directly relates to how well they do academically in school. There is a direct correlation between attending school and achieving well. I'm delighted to say that the schools attendance for last term was significantly higher than the same point last year and I just want to thank parents for their continued support with this. It really will make a difference to the pupils progress and achievements.



PPE's

Last term saw our annual pre public exams and an opportunity for the school to see how well the pupils in Year 11 and 13 are doing in the run up to the summer examination series. We had new systems put in place to address previous concerns regarding the start of exams and the behaviour of a very small minority of pupils and these worked extremely well. Overall we are pleased with the picture we are seeing and when comparing to last years results at the same time, current pupils are on track to perform equally as well as 2017's record breaking students. There is a long way to go and a lot of hard work and effort to put in but well done to those pupils who saw a positive result for all their work. There will be a second round of PPE's for certain subjects in February for Yr.11 and March for Yr.13.

Sports Results Term 1

Our fabulous PE department have worked tirelessly over the first term with a huge amount of fixtures having been played. Below are a few of our successes during the first school term:

Netball:

All of our teams play in the District League made up of the following schools: Davenant, Debden Park, Roding Valley, Epping St Johns, King Harold and The Ongar Academy. Below

are the final results after playing each school once:

Year 7s - 2nd

Year 8s - 1st

Year 9s - 1st

U16 - 2nd

Year 7, 8 and 9 are all still in the Essex Cup competition.

Football:

Year 7s - won 2 of 3 District games and made it to the Essex Cup 3rd round where they narrowly lost to Woodlands.

Year 8s - are through to the 4th round of the Essex Cup having beaten Beal in round 3.

Year 9s - lost on penalties to Langdon School in the 2nd round of the Essex Cup.

Sixth Form - are in the 3rd round of the Essex Cup having beaten Champion School in round 2.

Year 7 Girls - Runners up in WESSA tournament

Year 8 & 9 Girls - Winners in WESSA tournament

Rugby:

Year 7s - through to the West Essex final

Year 9s - through to the West Essex final

All other Year groups will play in the Essex Plate this term.

West Hatch High School students take part in Epping Forest Youth Conference

Students at West Hatch High School gained an insight into local democracy at the Epping Forest Youth Conference.

The conference, held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices, Epping, featured guest speakers including Epping Forest District Council Chairman David Stallan, Brentwood and Ongar MP Alex Burghart and Deputy Police Commander Tom Mitchell.

Students also took part in a debate over whether Epping Forest should have a Police Liaison Officer.

The students found the day very informative and agreed it encouraged them to engage with local and national politics.

It certainly got them talking and thinking about politics.



Important dates for your diary (all dates are published on the schools website)

Important events

Parent events

Wednesday 24th January - Parents Voice meeting

Thursday 8th March - Year 8/9 Options Evening

Friday 9th March - Year 11 Transition Day and Sixth form interviews

Wednesday 14th March - Parents Voice meeting

Pupil only events

Wednesday 28th February - Year 9 Option Taster sessions

Thursday 1st March - Year 8 Transition Day

26th - 29th March - Year 11 Option Subject Revision Days

Parents Evenings (Thursday's)

18th January - Year 11

31st January - Year 13

22nd February - Year 8

School exams/PPE's

19th February - Year 11 Core PPE's commence

16th April - Year 13 PPE's commence

Jack Petchy Awards

Each term the school is invited to nominate pupils for this nationally recognised award for which pupils receive a certificate and badge, a sum of money to spend on an area of their choice in school and an invitation to a prize giving event. Below are the winners for last term and the reasons for their nominations. Well done to all three pupils.



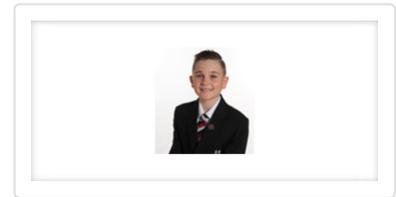
Jacques Van Praagh (Yr.10)

The main reason for Jacques' nomination is due to his involvement in Music and Dance, both inside and outside of West Hatch: especially his involvement with the Royal Ballet. He has recently auditioned to perform with the London Children's Ballet and has been accepted. He will be appearing in *Canterville Ghost Story* the ballet at the Peacock Theatre London in April. It's a great achievement, 350 children auditioned and there was only 60 places.

Alongside this, Jacques was also nominated for his positive attitude and willingness to help both staff and other students. We are privileged to have such a talented and pleasant individual as part of our West Hatch family and look forward to celebrating even more of Jacques' successes in the future.

James Stevens (Yr.7)

James has had a really positive start to his time at West Hatch and this has not gone unnoticed. His behaviour and attitude is impeccable and we are very pleased to have James as part of the West Hatch family.



He was also nominated for his involvement with various clubs and sports at West Hatch. In addition to this, his involvement with Tottenham Hotspur is another amazing achievement. The fact that he somehow manages to balance all that whilst remaining on top of his homework and studies is very impressive.



Will Fitch (Yr.12)

A popular and well-respected student with both his peers and members of staff. Will is a genuine all-rounder: high predicted grades, sporting ability and a polite and pleasant young man. Will has played Rugby for Essex and the school, as well as representing West Hatch in football and various other sports. He was also a Prefect in Year 11; providing service to the school community. He is a role model to the younger years.

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS



Chris Ashwell (Yr.11)

These photographs are of Chris winning the IKU World Championships in Ireland in October, the UWK English National Championship where he won 3 golds including the mens team and the UWK World Championship event in Italy, where he won individual gold. This makes him a double World Champion.

The UWK World Championship was a competition that he had to qualify for by competing in several National Championships with the reward of competing for one England team, therefore this result was even more significant as other countries did the same and the competition standard was higher. He beat Romanians,Italians and English fighters to win.

Chris is extremely humble and had to be convinced to allow us to celebrate his achievements. Well done Chris we are all very proud of you!



Joshua Lord (Yr.8)

In my last newsletter I explained that Joshua Lord in Year 8 had made it through to the finals of Factor EsseX, a talent contest based on the ITV programme X-Factor. Joshua performed over a series of weeks in front of audiences of around 250 people.

I'm delighted to inform you that Joshua came 3rd out of 35 finalists. This was not a children's contest and the 1st and 2nd places went to 20 year old performers. The production team and Judges all said he has an amazing future ahead of him and is a born entertainer.

Joshua has also recently won a Young Stars South East Entertainment Award in the 10-13 year old solo vocalist category.

Once again a fantastic achievement and we very much look forward to seeing how Joshua's performing career progresses in the future.

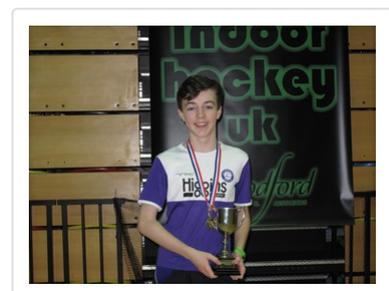


Hockey success

In December Zak Bowyer (Yr.11) and Matthew Lewis (Yr.11) took part in the regional round of the under 16's indoor hockey. They won all of their matches and became East of England Champions; they are now looking forward to going to the National Finals in Wolverhampton later this month. The boys also took part in an indoor UK Hockey 2018 tournament at the Copper Box during the Christmas holidays, and again won all of their matches to become under 16 Champions. Well done boys and good luck in the National Finals.



Zak Bowyer
(Yr.11)



Matthew Lewis
(Yr.11)



Students receive Young People Awards

Two West Hatch High School students received Investors in Young People Awards at the YES Partnership awards ceremony held at the Marriott Hotel, Waltham Abbey.

Hanah Kourtaa (Yr.10) was recognised for her positive attitude and conduct dealing with business people while Ismail Wood (Yr.11) received an award for the positive impression he made during his work experience placement.

Roller Queen

Emily Williams (Yr. 11) is an artistic roller skater. She skates for London and Essex and recently entered the National Winter Solo Championship in November, where she came 8th overall in the solo compulsory dance and 11th overall in the solo free dance.



Some quick snippets

George Moss (Yr.9) was successfully selected for the County Rugby team last term. He was also presented with a Jack Petchy Award by his Rugby club.

Maryam Khan (Yr. 9) attended an invite only event, held by Prince Edward, to which she was invited to represent the youth undertaking the DofE Award. Well done Maryam and thank you for representing the school so wonderfully.

Finn Cusack (Yr. 11) passed his Level 2 England Rugby refereeing award and qualified as a referee last term. A gruelling programme and assessment process undertaken, well done Finn. For the last ten months Finn has also been volunteering weekly at his club, Eton Manor, in Wanstead - he assists the u11 team coach with both training and development.



George Moss
(Yr.9)



Maryam Khan
(Yr.9)



Finn Cusack
(Yr.11)

Aaron Gelkoff (Yr. 7) was successful in auditioning for a musical to play in Kids of the West End at Christmas in Leicester Square. He was successful against over 200 others who auditioned.

Melisa Ozelci (Yr. 11) passed, with merit, her Grade 6 Oboe award from the Royal School of Music last term.

Amy Watkins (Yr. 13) recently qualified as a lifeguard following a 16 week intensive course.



Aaron Gelkoff
(Yr.7)



Melisa Ozelci
(Yr.11)

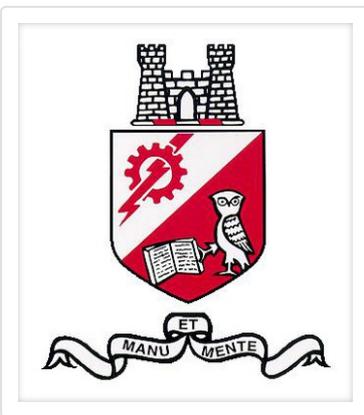


Amy Watkins
(Yr.13)

Well done to all of our pupils for all of their successes
both in school and outside of school

And Finally....

We are delighted to be able to celebrate the achievements of our ex pupils as well as our current ones. Freddie and Lydia Bright both attended West Hatch and have been raising considerable sums of money for charity and volunteering in countries where people are less fortunate. Freddie is currently travelling with an organisation called Challenges Worldwide as a Challenges IVS Volunteer. I hope that our current pupils are inspired to give something back to society when they finish school themselves. Well done to the Bright family.



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