

DECEMBER 2009

As we near the end of my first term I would like to thank the staff, students, parents, governors, the LHS committee and other members of the community who have freely given their support and encouragement to help me settle into the school.

Thank you very much for giving your time to complete the questionnaire issued with the October LHS matters. The groups consulted were students, staff and parents/carers.

Using the OFSTED system the results from the parents and carers survey are as follows:

QUESTION	Description and proportion agreeing
My son/daughter enjoys school	Overwhelming majority [97-100%]
My son/daughter feels safe in school	Overwhelming majority [97-100%]
My son/daughter makes progress at school	Very large majority [80-96%]
School helps to promote a healthy lifestyle	Very large majority [80-96%]
School keeps me informed about progress	Very large majority [80-96%]
My son/daughter is expected to work hard	Overwhelming majority [97-100%]
My son/daughter is set appropriate homework	Very large majority [80-96%]
My son/daughter is prepared for the future	Very large majority [80-96%]
School organises a range of trips and visits	Very large majority [80-96%]
Treated fairly and with respect	Overwhelming majority [97-100%]
School meets my child's needs	Very large majority [80-96%]
School deals with unacceptable behaviour	Very large majority [80-96%]
School has an effective complaints procedure	Very large majority [80-96%]
School acts on suggestions and concerns	Very large majority [80-96%]
School is well led	Very large majority [80-96%]
Humanities status is making an impact	Very large majority [80-96%]
I am happy with school overall	Overwhelming majority [97-100%]

Questions covered common themes and the results are in broad agreement.

In their written comments all groups expressed an interest in standards of uniform, the need for high expectations, and the importance of good behaviour. Each group also expressed satisfaction with the high quality support given by staff to students and in turn by the students for the many community initiatives in place at the school. In addition to this many participants added thoughtful comments and suggestions for development. These will be followed up in due course, in the meantime if you have anything to add about the issues mentioned above please contact me at school.

G I House

PARENT GOVERNORS

Following the recent ballot, we have appointed two new Parent Governors. Mrs Karen Anthony and Mr Adam Glyn-Jones. They join our Governing Body, made up of Staff, Parents, LEA representatives and Community Governors. Many thanks for your support in the recent election.

AWARDS' EVENING

Students, staff, parents and friends gathered recently to celebrate the school's achievements. Mr House, in his first Awards Evening address, stated that as well as celebrating academic achievements we should also acknowledge the students also take part in a vast number of extra curricular activities, including raising large sums of money for many charities.

The evening was interspersed with musical items and extracts from this year's poetry competition. The prizes were awarded by Guest of Honour, Elizabeth Banks, who is currently the Mayor of Kington.

Mrs Banks has just had the honour of being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire, and as part of this role she has

been asked by the Lord Lieutenant to take a further interest in Lady Hawkins' School.

Staff were delighted that the three students who shared the Shield for Outstanding Achievement had managed to make it back from Oxford, Cambridge and Birmingham Universities. Other prize winners came from higher and further education establishments throughout the country.

The evening concluded with an informal buffet attended by students, staff, parents and guests.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Four students from the Sixth Form attended a bioscience lecture entitled 'Sweetness and Light: Photosynthesis, Phloem and Pests' at Birmingham University on 11th November, 2009, funded jointly by the University and the Aim Higher initiative. The aim of the outing was to stretch gifted scientists, raise aspirations and attainment and enhance the teaching of the subject.

Several other outings are planned for Sixth Form students later in the academic year, including a Shakespeare Masterclass, a creative writing workshop and a lecture on 'Change Management and the Politics of Business Planning'.

GOTHIC HORROR AND JASPER FFORDE

Novelist Jasper Fforde (particularly well-known for his 'Nursery Crimes Stories' and 'Thursday Next' series) visited Year 7 English lessons on 11th and 12th November 2009 to talk to students about writing as a career and to inspire them at the outset of their creative writing assessment 'write a short story in the style of a gothic horror tale'. He gave the class some useful tips and discussed their work with them; even Mrs Williams had to take part in his activities and accept his constructive criticism!

FUNDRAISING FOR UGANDA TRIP

As part of our fundraising efforts for the Uganda 2010 project we have produced a range of high quality cards and 2010 calendars. All the profits will go towards the project. If you are interested please email Miss Barlow (jbarlow@lhs.hereford.sch.uk) or if you would like to know more about the project please have a look at the school website for more information.

YEAR 9 NETBALL SUCCESS

On Saturday 14th November the Year 9 Netball team became county champions for the third year running. As they are now at U14 level their win means that they go through to the West Midlands regional finals in January, representing Herefordshire. The squad have been together since Year 7 and continue to work successfully as a team. They are looking forward to the next round in the West Midlands and are trying to gain sponsorship for new kit. All the girls are a credit both to themselves and to their school, not once did they complain about the awful conditions for playing on Saturday and are now all set for the extra training in preparation for the competition in January. The squad is as follows;

Ellie Smith (Captain), Marianne Thompson, Charlotte Dwyer, Laura Betts, Jess Cotton, Kayleigh Jones, Kizzie Fitwilliams, Alice Coppock and Abi Griffiths (Year 8).

We wish them the very best for January and hopefully beyond.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Under the direction of Mr Dinsdale, staff and students took part in a very moving Service of Remembrance. Glenda Allaway on violin, accompanied by Mrs Gadfield, started the service by playing the theme from *Schindler's List*. Members of the Sixth Form gave an address and the 2 minutes silence was preceded by Ian Allaway performing The Last Post. Emma Powell finished the service by singing the World War 1 song *Roses of Picardy*. We were also joined by WW2 Veteran, Ben Woolley which, together with the wonderful performances by the students, made it a very special service.

GUITAR JAMMING

We currently have a large group of guitarists enjoying regular jamming sessions. The students are really thankful for the time and opportunity they have to work together on new and exciting music with students they rarely get time to socialise with during school hours. Expert advice and support is given by Mr Clive Williams and the Music Department.

Any student eager to join in the guitar jamming sessions are more than welcome to attend after school on Thursdays until 5pm, please bring your own guitar and amplification if possible.

TEAM CHALLENGE

On Saturday 14th November the local feeder primary schools came to Lady Hawkins' School for the annual Team Challenge. This year the theme was James Bond and the Armageddon Capsule. Ten teams worked hard to solve puzzles, collect materials and build their container to help James Bond protect the Armageddon Capsule.

Following loud and enthusiastic testing, the overall winner was team Stromberg from Pembridge Primary School, who were ably supported by Chris Croose of the Sixth Form. Congratulations to them and thanks to everyone who supported the day, especially the LHSA.

CREW RECRUITED FOR JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME!

Auditions took place for singers, dancers, animators, designers, astronomers and even roller skaters for the school production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, which will be performed in February. The play is based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and should prove to be an exciting experience for all involved. Full performance details and tickets will be available after the Christmas break.

PINK DAY

School was awash with pink on Monday, 9th November, when staff and students dressed in pink to raise money for Haven Breast Cancer. A whole school assembly was held with the theme of Breast Cancer Awareness, cakes with the breast cancer logo were sold at break time and at lunchtime an assault course was set up in the Hall. A fantastic total of £546 was raised for the charity.

CHRISTIAN UNION

Lady Hawkins' School Christian Union is now in full swing. The students are enjoying exploring the theme of food in the bible and they have had the opportunity to taste various modern day equivalents for biblical food. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Maureen Weston from St. Mary's Church Kington, for planning and leading our extremely enjoyable sessions. The group travelled to Birmingham on Friday, 27th November to see the famous Christian group "Delirious?" perform in their final world wide tour before they split after a successful 15 year career.

Any student eager to join our Christian Union group is more than welcome to attend meetings in the Music Room on Wednesday lunchtimes; bring your own bible and lunch and enjoy the fellowship of other students.

SHOE BOXES

Over 30 shoe boxes were filled with goodies for girls and boys in deprived areas in Eastern Europe for the annual Samaritan's Purse appeal. The boxes were collected and are on their way to Azerbaijan ready for Christmas, to put a smile on the faces of children who have very little. Many thanks to all those who made up a box.

IPODs/MP3 PLAYERS

Please note that students are not to bring MP3 players or other items of value to school. The school is not insured for personal items such as this and can take no responsibility for them.

CAR PARKING

In the interests of safety, please could parents ensure that when collecting students they do not park in the bus bays or on the cross hatches. Thank you.

End of Term Events

Thursday, 17th December 2009

School Christmas Celebration
Performance Hall 7.00pm

Friday, 18th December 2009

Non Uniform Day	£1 per pupil
Concert	50p per pupil

(NB Lunch will be at 12 noon this day)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Term Ends - FRIDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2009
Return - MONDAY, 4TH JANUARY 2009

