

What's New?

Senior School

Fortnightly Newsletter

New Hall School, Chelmsford



Founded 1642

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Dear Parents

Proposal for Sixth Form Girls' Skirt

From September 2010, students should continue to dress according to the dress code listed in the Parent & Student Handbook. However, I would like to let you know that we are considering the introduction of a standard black skirt for Sixth Form girls at some point during the academic year 2010-11. This was debated at some length over the last two years by previous Student Council and Senior Prefect teams and the proposal had wide student support. I have also received feedback from parents and staff that indicates that it would be a positive move to introduce a Sixth Form skirt. This is currently being designed and I will let you know as soon as a decision is made. Girls may still wear black trousers of their choice but I would suggest that, in light of the possible change regarding skirt requirements, this is borne in mind if you are considering purchasing new skirts for September 2010.

Modern Languages

Year 8 Trip to Normandy

On 28 May, the Year 8 students travelled to the Château de Chantereine in Criel near Dieppe, France. On the way the students stopped at the Boulogne Aquarium and enjoyed a sea lion show, presented in French. After settling in the *Château* they took part in their first evening of activities including fencing, wall climbing and archery. On Saturday, they sampled the hustle and bustle of a French market in Dieppe going on to visit a farm in Neufchatel for a French lesson on the art of cheese making. They finished the day in the delightful orchard of a cider farm. On Sunday, after attending Mass in the picturesque village of Criel, our intrepid linguists were ready for a cultural visit to Rouen and its famous cathedral. Finally on Monday, after a last bout of fencing in front of the Chateau, there was time for a French shopping experience at a local supermarket before heading home. Au revoir la Belle Normandie...à l'année prochaine! To see photographs, please visit www.newhallschool.co.uk/gallery.



Critical Thinking

Year 8 Emergency Planning Exercise

On 7 June, Year 8 students took part in an emergency planning exercise at the "bunker" underneath the County Hall in Chelmsford. This location acts as a command and control centre for the county's emergency planners when they are dealing with major incidents. The main event was a table-top emergency response exercise in which each student was given the role of a Category One emergency responder. Students were involved in dealing with a challenging scenario in which a rail incident caused a dangerous chemical spillage which threatened a wide area. Working with representatives from the emergency services and other responders, they had to make difficult decisions to organise the most effective response. Pippa O Riley said, "It was really good of the Emergency Services to give up a day to do this exercise with us. It really demonstrated to me the importance of team work; it was hugely insightful into the role that all of the services play in a critical incident." Matthew Crawley said: "It was a very interesting day. I was in charge of the ambulance service and it made me realise the enormous responsibility of the emergency services in such a situation."



This exercise has been the culmination of a programme of work in Critical Thinking in which the students have been studying the Civil Contingencies Act and the roles of emergency responders. Students also visited the historic Council chamber in which they were welcomed by Cllr Rodney Bass, Chairman of the Council, who explained the workings of the Council and some of the history of the county.

Maths

Junior Maths Challenge

Students received the school's best ever Junior Maths Challenge results, achieving 5 Gold Awards (top 6%

nationally), 9 Silver Awards & 11 Bronze Awards in the National Competition. In total, 25 out of 34 Year 8 students won a medal; this is a fantastic achievement as they needed to be in the top 20% to do so. Oliver Morgan achieved Gold and also had the highest result in school. The other 4 Golds were awarded to Anna Maria Acevedo, Lucy Ashfield, Rebecca Coughlan and Pippa O'Riley. The Silvers went to Alice Baxter, Deborah Beach, Felix Flechtner, Hannah Gardner, Catherine Gilbert, Cherie Knight, Rebecca Maloney, Oluwamayowa Oriowo and Iain Porter. The Bronzes went to Coran Allen, James Anderson, Francesca Bazley, Matthew Crawley, William Freake, Alex Harker, Tara King, Thomas Macfarlane, Robert McKay, Tilly Robb and James Summers. Congratulations to all students on these superb results.

Anti-Bullying Research

In January 2009 Niamh O'Brien, a researcher from Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, began training a group of students in research. The aim was to begin a research project investigating the bullying definition the School currently uses. As this definition has been set by adults, the research group wants to find out what students and adults together (staff members and parents) think about it and whether they agree with it. The research is also investigating how students, parents/carers and staff, feel about the way bullying is dealt with in the school. The research group have called themselves **R4U** and are made up of three students - Hanik Kotecha (Year 10), Taha Khan (Year 10) and Patrick Gray (Year 9). Together they have written about their experiences of the group: "January, during the early times of our group, we started to learn each other's names but more importantly the different types of research - qualitative and quantitative research. Quantitative Research is when we use numbers to find data (information) such as 'how many people who did our survey are 14 years old?' This is useful as we can create statistics. Qualitative research is about finding more intricate answers and details from a person such as doing an interview and asking them how they felt about something. Both types of research are important as they lead in various paths and can answer our question in different ways." A questionnaire which is different for students, parents and staff can be found on the internet.

For students: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BXVZFY2>
 For parents: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D5QDSXH>
 For staff: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D5TJGM8>

Based on the results of the questionnaire, New Hall's bullying definition and the way bullying is dealt with may change. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to tell us about your views. Any student wishing to tell us their views in an interview or group discussion can leave their details. You do not have to leave your details if you do not want to, as this questionnaire is totally anonymous. Any student interested in becoming a member of R4U should contact Niamh O'Brien on 0845 1964197 or niamh.o.brien@anglia.ac.uk.

Science

Year 7 Biology Trip to Colchester Zoo

On 21 May, students from Year 7 visited Colchester Zoo, to support their biology lessons on adaptation and classification. The day included a talk on animal adaptations, where the students also were shown stick insects and a cockroach up close. The warm weather brought many of the animals out of their shelters and gave the opportunity for students to observe and compare animals they saw during their time there. The new *Pygmy Hippo* and *Orangutan Forest* gave the opportunity to visit some of the newer arrivals at the zoo and to see the work the zoo are doing to develop their exhibits. The students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the vast range of animals to see at the zoo and applying what they saw to their studies.



Drama

LAMDA successes

We held the first of three LAMDA examination sessions at the end of March and are pleased to announce that the students once again achieved outstanding results. Six students hit the elusive 90%+ category: Claire Blythe-Tinker (Grade 5, Year 11), Catherine Gilbert (Grade 2, Year 8), Isabel Miller de Vega (Grade 2, Year 8), Alana Sahadevan (Grade 2, Year 8), Renee Panayiotou (Grade 2, Year 8) and Theodore Stevenson (Grade 1, Year 7). Well done to Claire, as Grade 5 is particularly difficult to pass and also to Sarah Barrett (Year 12) who took the extremely difficult *Speaking in Public* Grade 6 Bronze Medal and passed with an 86% Distinction. Congratulations to all of you. In June, students will perform their Acting pieces for a LAMDA examiner and we wish them every success.

GCSE Drama Performances

In the recent GCSE Drama performances, Lauren Sudders played an excellent Hamlet in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, an amusing take on the bard's work. All of the other performances were completely original devised pieces created by the students. The topics covered this year included *Air France*, *Flight 447*, *The Billerica Boys*; a stunning play about what it was like for the local lads to be on the front line during World War 1, *Tejas Verdas*; a play about General Pinochet's detention and torture centre and *The Seven Deadly Sins*. The students were examined by a visiting examiner and performed to a packed audience in DR1.

A Level Drama Performances

Sixth Form Drama students are required to perform an extract from a published play and a monologue before an

examiner and live audience. The play performed this year was *Top Girls*. Written by one of Britain's most important playwrights, Caryl Churchill, the play is set during the Thatcher 80s and explores the price of success for women who want to make it to the top of the corporate ladder. The central character, Marlene, invites *Top Girls* from history and art to join her in celebrating her promotion to Managing Director. As the play evolves, we discover that the price for Marlene's success is the sacrifice of bringing up her baby daughter, whom she left with her sister. The picture below is of the fantasy dinner party.



An important aspect of any performance is the set; we are grateful for the expertise of our DT specialists, Mr Earley and Mr Eyres, who built the set for us.

Dance

Chelmsford Dance Festival

On 22 May, the New Hall Dance Company took part in the Chelmsford Dance Festival. They were the only academic school that entered and competed against dance and stage schools of a high standard. They all danced well and were awarded 3rd place with 87 marks. The company were a credit to the school, the judge commented on how great their performance was and how they worked as a team.



Recycling

A new scheme set up by the student Eco Council has earned £20 for CAFOD and reduced hazardous waste by 10kg – all in less than a month! A recycling collection point has been set up in the Library for used batteries, printer cartridges and mobile phones. Phones and recyclable cartridges are

sent to The Recycling Factory for safe disposal or reuse, with £1 donated to CAFOD for each cartridge and £3 for each mobile phone. Batteries are taken to specialised drop-off points, to avoid the accumulation of harmful chemicals that occurs when they are thrown out with household rubbish and sent to landfill. All items can earn house points. At the moment, Fishers is well on its way to winning the competition, with a staggering 271 batteries and 3 cartridges recycled. Can you support our students in their bid to save the planet and gain house points? Miss Tait will happily accept used batteries, old mobile phones or suitable cartridges on behalf of the house of your choice. (Please note that we cannot recycle damaged Epson or toner cartridges.)

Thames Bridge Bike Ride for the Stroke Association

Well done to Freya Pelling (Year 7), who completed a 30 mile charity bike ride in just 5 hours. The ride crossed 13 bridges and she had to cycle on quite busy roads. Freya raised £105 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you to all of those at school who sponsored her.

Art



Sport

For full write-ups please see: www.newhallschool.co.uk.

Riding

Extra-Curricular Riding Lessons

From 12 July 2010, lessons will be moved to Runningwell Equestrian Centre in Warren Road, Rettendon. Extra-curricular riding lessons will therefore cease at Park Lane Riding School on the last lesson of term during the week Monday 28 June 2010. Ruth Dowie, the proprietor of Runningwell has arranged an opening evening exclusively for New Hall families to visit and view the facilities on Friday 11 June, 5.00-8.00pm. Please contact Katie Hamilton-Farey, Head of Riding if you would like to attend (k.hamilton@newhallschool.co.uk).

Princethorpe-Kingsley two day event

Four members of the school's equestrian team travelled to the Princethorpe-Kingsley two-day event held at Offchurch, near Leamington Spa over the last Bank Holiday. The event is a huge test for horse and rider and involved dressage and show jumping on the Saturday and roads and tracks, steeplechase and cross-country on the Sunday. This was the first time that Scott Taylor (Year 5), Rosie Oxlade (Year 7)

and Gabriella Oxlade (Year 9) had attended this event and they all performed very good dressage tests and rode extremely well – achieving some fantastic personal bests. Madeleine Taylor (Year 9) received an amazing dressage score – the highest in her section and was placed 3rd overall after completing all five events.

Swimming

The New Hall team are mid-Essex Swimming Champions. Throughout the year, New Hall has taken part in a swimming league, competing in galas against other schools in the Mid-Essex area. The Chelmsford league results are as follows:

Year 7 girls	New Hall 1 st
Year 8 girls	New Hall 1 st
Year 9 girls	New Hall 1 st
Year 10/11 girls	New Hall 1 st
Year 7 boys	New Hall 1 st
Year 8 boys	New Hall 1 st
Year 9 boys	New Hall 1 st

This is a tremendous achievement and is the first time that New Hall has won every age category entered. Congratulations must go to all of the swimmers for their dedication and commitment to galas and training.



Tennis

U19 Boys Glanvill Cup v Norwich Results

New Hall v Norwich won - 3-3 (won on championship tie break 10-6)

Player of the Match: Thomas Styles

Congratulations to the U19 Boys team who have progressed to the Regional Finals after a fantastic win over Norwich School on 8 June. The match was 3-3, with Ben Mynard and Thomas Styles winning the championship tie break shoot out 10-6. This is a great achievement and New Hall is now one win away from the National Finals, which is exclusive to the top 16 schools in Great Britain.

U18 Boys & Girls Essex League v Grove Tennis Club Results

U18 Boys v Grove Tennis Club - won 4-2

U18 Girls v Grove Tennis Club - won 3-3 (won on games count back)

Player of the Match: George Styles & Annabel Schwier

On 22 May, the U18 teams completed an impressive win, beating Grove Tennis Club in the Essex Tennis League.

Summer Tennis Camp

The summer Tennis Camp will be taking place from Monday 12 to Friday 16 July. The camp offers players from Years 7-9 the chance to develop their tennis skills under the

guidance of experienced LTA Licensed Tennis Coaches. For more information and to download a booking form, please visit: www.newhallschool.co.uk/events.

Triathlon

On 5 June, Arran Rae took part in the East Essex Triathlon Club's annual triathlon. This is the first of 4 key events in the Eastern Region League. Arran finished in 2nd place.

Travel

Early departure time on Fridays

Please note that, starting from September 2010, all coach services on a Friday will depart from school at 4.45pm.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jeffrey

PRINCIPAL

Forthcoming Events:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 14 June		Year 12 Higher Education Week
Tue 15 June		Years 8,10,11,12,13 Girls' HPV Vaccinations
Wed 16 June	1.45pm	Lunchtime Concert in the Eaton Theatre
Fri 18 June		Years 8-10 Toulouse Exchange Return Visit

BRAIN CHALLENGE

Brain Challenge Number 12 Solution

How many cats are in a small room if in each of the 4 corners a cat is sitting, and opposite each cat there sit 3 cats, and at each cat's tail a cat is sitting? *There are 4 cats in the room. Congratulations to Thomas Macfarlane who was the first to solve the challenge*

And here is the next challenge:

Where is the hottest and the coldest place on the Earth?

See Dr Thomas with the first correct solution to win a prize.