

What's New?

Senior School

Fortnightly Newsletter

New Hall School, Chelmsford



Founded 1642

Issue No 116

Friday, 27 June 2008

Dear Parents

Latin & Classics

Legion XIII visit

On the 20 June, Legion XIII paid their annual visit to New Hall. The Year 8 Latin and Classics students were entertained by a professor who was the technical advisor on weapons for the Hollywood blockbuster 'Gladiator'. He gave a fascinating insight into Roman daily life and weapons with the help of some students to re-enact gruesome deaths! In the afternoon, Marcus and Caius, two 'Roman' soldiers demonstrated Roman weapons on the playing field and the students were able to try their hand at hurling a javelin (at the cut out of a soldier not at their teachers!). The 'soldiers' also drilled some of our students with commands in Latin with Abbey Dixon winning the award for the 'best trained soldier'. The whole day was very informative and entertaining for students and teachers alike.

Old Fish Success

The Science Department were delighted to hear from Catherine Lawrence, who left New Hall in 2004, who has just completed a 4 year MSci in Chemistry at Nottingham University. She will be graduating in July with a First Class Honours degree.

Art Trips 2008-2009

The Art Department is planning two exciting trips next year. In the first week of the October half term, we are hoping to take Art students in Years 10 and 11 to Barcelona, where they will visit the Picasso and Miro museums, explore the architectural work of Gaudi and then take a day trip to Figueres to see the ever popular Dali museum. We also intend visiting the Roman village at Empuries. In March 2009, members of the Sixth Form will be going to New York. Whilst the trip will include many tourist attractions, such as the statue of Liberty and the Rockefeller Centre, we will also be attending seminars at the Museum of Modern Art and visiting at least one other New York art gallery. If you would like further details about either of these trips please contact a member of the Art Department.

Inauguration of the Chapel Organ

The weekend of 14/15 June was a feast of music, celebrating the opening of the newly restored Chapel Organ.

On Saturday, 14 June, world famous organist, Dame Gillian Weir, performed to a packed Chapel in the Grand Opening Recital. In addition to the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, we were delighted to see on this occasion the Brentwood Diocesan Director of Music, Andrew Wright, Assistant Director of Music at Chelmsford Cathedral, Robert Poyser, and other organ specialists, as well as parents, staff, Community, Old Fishes, Governors and friends of the school. The programme included works by Bach, Franck, Parry and Dupré. The concert was followed by a wonderful reception, which Dame Gillian also attended.

On Sunday, 15 June the Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, celebrated Mass with the school, Community and parish and formally blessed and dedicated the Chapel organ. This very moving occasion was greatly enhanced by the magnificent music. The procession was greeted with Parry's *I was Glad* - a very fitting start to such a joyful occasion. The Choir, conducted by Director of Music, Andrew Fardell, also sang Mozart's *Piccolomini Missa Brevis* and the organ was played by Duncan Archard, who has been associated with New Hall for many years. During the blessing of the organ, the choir sang Handel's *Zadok the Priest* as Bishop Thomas sprinkled holy water on the new nave and west-end organs. Bishop Thomas called the celebrations "a triumph!". The restored Chapel organ will play a central part in the school's services throughout the year and will give students the opportunity to study the organ. New Hall is also currently recruiting for its first ever Organ Scholar.

Thank you so much to all who so generously contributed to the Chapel Organ Appeal. I hope that you will all have the opportunity to hear the newly restored organ in action.

Music

ABRSM Examinations

The ABRSM practical examinations take place this weekend in Walkfares. If you have any queries please contact Sarah Stonehouse via Reception.

Young Chef Finalists

Congratulations to Phoebe Fardell and Max Curwen-Bingley, both Year 7, who have reached the finals of the Essex Chronicle 'Young Chef of the Year'. Phoebe and Max will be cooking before a panel of celebrity judges on Sunday, 29 June to compete for the title which will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in the Autumn Term.

Sports Day 2008

The level of performance and commitment from the students in their races on Sports Day was very commendable. The amount of support from parents and friends provided an enjoyable atmosphere for the event. There were many remarkable performances from students and Sports Day records broken that have stood for nearly 30 years. Many thanks to all those parents who were there to support this event and to the NHPA and Mrs Munro for the wonderful barbeque and refreshments.

Winning Houses

Years 7/8 Junior House Cup: Southwell House

Years 9/10 Intermediate House Cup: Southwell House

Years 11/12/13 Senior House Cup: Owen House

Marquis of Exeter Sports Cup (Overall House): Southwell House

Sport

Fencing

After two terms of hard work, many students are almost at a standard whereby we can have fencing matches against other schools. Lessons will continue next year on a Monday. The Fencing Coach, Tina Staples, will be contacting all those currently involved. There will be opportunities for new students to take up this sport from September. Congratulations to the Arthur Tessier, Benedicta Worsford, Alice Cockrell, Patrick Gray, Alexandra Marler and Phoebe Fardell for successfully passing their Grade One in the Foil discipline.

District Athletics

The Mid-Essex Athletics trials took place throughout May. As a result of the trials, the following students were chosen to be reserves at the district Athletics competition on 7 June: Luke Pordum (Year 7), Phoebe Last (Year 9), and Ayomide Afolabi (Year 10). Jenny Spindler, Year 10, was chosen to compete in the hurdles but was unfortunately unable to attend. Natalie Davis, Year 11, competed in the javelin and threw over 29 metres. Natalie competed against 17 other participants and came third; she has now achieved a personal best distance. Charlotte Burnham, Year 7, took part in the 600m race in which she ran a personal best time in the heat and gained a place in the final. Overall, Charlotte came 8th out of 12 runners in the final. This was an excellent achievement given the best runners in Essex were participating.

Hockey

Congratulations to Kate Maxey, Year 11, who has been reselected to play for the U16 England Hockey Team at the European Championships in The Hague. Kate was selected after training in Manchester over half term and this highly prestigious event is the biggest competition that she has competed in since joining the squad two years ago. We wish her and the England Squad every success.

Riding

Congratulations to Katie Ockendon-Evans, Year 7, and her pony Ashanti, who have qualified for the National Side Saddle Equitation Championships at Addington, Bucks, in August. They gained the necessary points with a win at the Colne Valley show in April and the Area 4 championship show at Bury St Edmunds, where they finished the day reserve champions. This was competing against riders from Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, many of whom were adults. Katie has also been selected as the only junior member of the Area 4 display team which has been invited to ride at some major shows over the summer season. This is Katie's first full season competing in open classes and she is thrilled to have achieved her dream of reaching the National championships with 'Ashanti'.

Congratulations also go to Madeleine Taylor who represented New Hall at the Princethorpe and Kingsley 2 day event and was placed 7th on Lofts Simply Red & 8th on Dakota IV. This is a fantastic achievement as there were two hundred riders competing from all over the country. The competition comprised dressage and show jumping on the Saturday and roads & tracks, steeplechase and cross-country on the Sunday.

Rounders

On Tuesday, 10 June Year 7 and 8 took part in the Mid-Essex Rounders Tournament. Year 7 won all five of their matches and gained a place in the semi finals against Boswell's School. It was a close game and New Hall got knocked out by only one rounder. Annabel Hockley gained player of the match, after catching the majority of the opposition out. Year 8 won 2 games and lost 2 games and just missed out on the semi finals. Player of the match was Imogen Ovenden, as she continued to play despite an injured finger.

Rugby Representative Success

Congratulations to the Year 7 rugby players who attended the Essex and Saracens School of Rugby trials this term. The standard produced by the New Hall players was excellent and as a result Luke Pordham, Miles Fletcher and Casey Morgan have been chosen to attend the Essex and Saracens School of Rugby for elite players. Conor McCaffrey and Ciaran Moore have been selected to attend Essex County Development training. This is an outstanding achievement for these boys who were up against the best players from all of Essex. Congratulations also to Darius Roohi and Joshua Jones who performed very well at these trials and who have been asked to attend trials during next season with a view to gaining entry into these development groups.

Sailing

Well done to Owen House Captain, Natalya Eyre, Year 12, who came 3rd in the Pico National Sailing Competition on Saturday, 21 June 2008. This is a tremendous achievement and we hope to hear more of Natalya's sailing successes in the future.

New Hall girls win the Mid-Essex Swimming League

New Hall girls rounded off an excellent year for swimming as they were crowned winners of the Year 7 Mid-Essex swimming league. The league, which has run since September, has seen New Hall compete in galas against Brentwood School, Chelmsford County High School, St Martin's School, The Boswells School, Great Baddow High School, Moulsham School, Shenfield High School and The William De Ferrers School. Overall, New Hall remained unbeaten as a team, for the whole year.

The girls swimming results for each individual year for 2007-2008 have been finalised and are as follows:

Year 7: 1st, Year 8: 4th, Year 9: 6th, Year 10/11: 2nd.

Year 7 have done especially well this year, becoming the Eastern Regional Champions and winning the Mid-Essex league by six clear points. Team members include Darcie Imbert (Captain), Ellie Dhanjal, Georgia Ellis, Elizabeth Hatch, Annabel Hockley, Courtenay Mee, Gabriella Oxlade and Helen Winterbone.

The Year 10 team have also had an excellent year. The team achieved first place in the Mid-Essex relay competition back in January. In the league, the Year 10 team achieved joint first place with Chelmsford County High School. However, as it was a draw, total points were used to decide first place. This left New Hall in second place. Team members include: Halina Fisher (Captain), Charlotte Fawdry, Harriet Fenton, Gemma Girvan, Heather Porter, Katie Roberts, Annabel Schwier, and Lenan Zhang.

The Year 8 and 9 teams have performed very well this year and have been up against particularly tough competition. Congratulations to Evangelina Fisher, Year 8, who has won every race in which she has competed. The relay teams have also been outstanding throughout the year. The team spirit and determination from all team members has been impressive this year. The future looks very promising for New Hall swimming.

Felsted Tennis Challenge

On Sunday, 15 June, New Hall travelled to Felsted School to play in the Felsted Tennis Challenge. New Hall competed exceptionally well across all age groups and were crowned champions in the following classes: U13 Boys: Joseph Clark and Thomas Styles, Year 8 and U13 Girls: Leticia Delage Estevez, Year 9 and Elizabeth Nelmes, Year 7. Congratulations to the whole team.

U18 Essex Tennis League

In the U18 Essex league the boys' team won their final two league matches against Writtle Tennis Club 6-0 and Thorpe Bay 5-1, making the boys winners of Division 3 and winning promotion into Division 2 next year. The girls' team also won their final league match at home to Avenue Tennis Club 5-1. The teams consisted of Richard Barber (Year 5), Catherine Crawley (Year 9), Leticia Delage Estevez (Year 9), Ella Dziewulski (Year 9), Clara Spicer (Year 9), Michal Anderle (Year 13), Adam Harris (Year 13) and Tristan Moseley (Year 13).

Nestlé Nationals Schools' Tennis Competition

The boys' team played St Martin's School, in the semi-finals of the Essex area Nestlé Nationals Schools' Tennis competition. The boys played exceptionally well with Thomas Styles, Year 8, and Richard Barber, Year 5, winning their singles matches and Joseph Clark, Year 8, showing some brilliant touches and shots but narrowly losing out 6-3. Timothy Hodson, Year 7, also competed exceptionally well but lost out in his singles. The match was 2-2 after the singles matches. New Hall then went on to win one of the doubles but were defeated in the second match. This resulted in the match being 3-3. However, on games count back New Hall narrowly lost out by 3 games.

Save the Children Tennis Competition

The Year 8 girls and the Year 7 & 8 boys have now completed their *Save the Children Tennis Competition*. This event was a huge success, with over 40 children taking part in the competition. The students were split into two groups with the top two teams playing out semi finals and then a final. The eventual winners of the Year 8 girls' competition were Joanna Wells and Hester Catchpole, with the runners-up being Portia McEwan and Sophie Summers. The boys' competition was won by Thomas Styles and Harry Pratt, with the runners-up being Joseph Clark and Tobias Tay-Smith. Congratulations to all the students who have taken part. Across Middle School, over 120 students have taken part and helped to raise money for *Save the Children*. Please could all students who have taken part ensure they bring in their sponsorship forms and money as soon as possible.

Literary Dinner

A reminder that tickets are now on sale for the annual Literary Dinner. The event with Guest of Honour, Alison

Weir, will take place on Saturday, 4 October 2008. Please contact Mrs Phillips for more information.

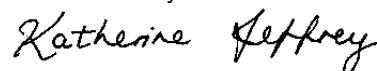
Complaints

I would like to remind parents that we have a Complaints Procedure, which is published in the Parent and Student Information Booklet. We are also reviewing the information available to parents on the school website and we plan to create a policies section ready for the new academic year. This will contain key policies such as Bursaries & Scholarships, the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Complaints Procedure. If you feel that a complaint you have raised has not been resolved by the first stage of discussion with the relevant member of staff or the line manager, please could you contact me directly for a meeting or write to me to set out your formal complaint.

Travel

There are a few spaces on the Chelmsford Station Minibus for September 2008 which operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Mrs Phillips for further details.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Jeffrey

PRINCIPAL

The next edition of *What's New?* will be issued in two weeks. If you have any news which you would like published in an edition of *What's New?*, please email a.brown@newhallschool.co.uk.

Forthcoming Events:

| Date | Time | Event |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Sun, 29 June | 2.00-8.00pm | Poppins '08 Rehearsal |
| Tue, 1 July | 4.30pm & 7.30pm | Poppins '08 Dance Show – Civic Theatre, Chelmsford |
| Wed, 2 July | 7.30pm | Poppins '08 Dance Show – Civic Theatre, Chelmsford |
| Thu, 3 July | 6.30pm | Boarders BBQ |
| Fri, 4 July | 6.30pm | Year 13 Leavers' Dinner |
| Sat, 5 July | All Day | Exhibition Day |
| Sun, 6 July | All Week | NHVS Children's Holiday |
| Fri, 11 July | 8.30am | Lourdes Trip departs |

Chess News

In the last puzzle there was no immediate checkmate available, but the best move was Rxh6. Because of an immediate checkmate threat, Black takes gxh6, and then White will move in with the Bishop to f6 and Black is powerless to prevent Qg3 check, without loss of material.

This is my last chess column, and I want to thank all the contributors who have made it worthwhile and fun for me. My final advice for any aspiring player is the following: three things are important to win a game of chess; tactics, tactics and tactics! That is why I have presented chess puzzles in these pages, so that you will hopefully remember the patterns shown and apply them in your own games. Good luck! *Mr Peck*.