History trip to France & Belgium for battlefields tour

T he House system is nearly ready to launch … Excitement has been building in school about the change from “year group” organisation to “House” organisation. From September 2012 students and staff will be organised into four Houses. The names of the Houses were chosen via a ballot where students and staff were asked to choose from the top three suggestions put forward and the result by a clear margin was to go with the spaceship series of Discovery, Apollo, Viking and Endeavour.

These names reflect the aspirational nature of the ethos we are supporting in school. We want all of our students to aspire to do their very best and achieve their potential in all that they do. Aim high; Achieve together is still the school vision – and we aim to do that through the House system. Ms Ward (Head of Care & Guidance) is leading this major change in our organisation and she said: “At Hethersett High we are implementing a system that is in use at many secondary schools – a House system made up of tutor groups where students from every year group are present. So each House will have eight tutor groups and each tutor group will have students from each of the five year groups in school. This increases the number of tutor groups across school which means that from September each tutor group will have slightly fewer students. There will be an increased focus within the new system for cross year communication and team working. Students will be encouraged to work as teams to gain rewards for their House and the rewards system will alter to recognise this team work. In the tutor groups there will be a range of opportunities for students to take a responsibility that will help them give something back to their House. Roles will include Head Boy, Head Girl, House captains, prefects, student listeners, peer mentors and council members.”

The Heads of House have been appointed to their role and they are actively working to ensure that the House system gets off to a great start. The two Care & Guidance Assistants are in place and they will support students in their allocated houses.

Frequently asked questions

How did you choose the names? Students and staff were asked for their ideas about the names for houses. These were reviewed and the best three ideas were then put to a ballot for staff and students. Both groups chose the same set of names and this is the set we have gone with.

When will I hear which House my child has been allocated to? Once we know the year 7 students joining us in September then we will be able to let each student know which House they have been allocated to. We anticipate that being in mid-July.

How will you allocate students to Houses? We have used a mix of information and requests from students and parents in deciding the rules of allocation. This includes:

- Friendship groups of students – in January each student named up to three friends they would like to be with – our commitment is to try and match them to at least one of those friends.
- Parental input – Parents were asked to contact existing Heads of year for consideration or comments about student placement in houses or tutor groups.
- Siblings – will be allocated to the same House, but to different tutor groups within that House.
- Skills – we will try to ensure a fair mix of abilities across all the Houses for all the skills (academic, sporting, music etc.)

Is there an appeal process if I want my child moved to another tutor group / House? We want every student to be happy with the group they are allocated to – just as we have tried to do in the past when allocating students to tutor groups in the “old” year system. We will have acted fairly in the allocation – and we understand the possibility that some students will not initially be happy with everyone in their tutor group. So we ask that you support the allocation and give it a fair chance to settle down – but of course if your child is not settling and this is affecting their learning, then you should raise that with your child’s tutor in the first instance. However, it is unlikely that a demand for a specific group will be able to be accommodated, as we strive to keep the groups “in balance.” Your support will be greatly appreciated in this transition stage.

How will the House colour be worn – will students have to wear a specific tie or something? Each student will be given a badge with the colour on it – that badge will be free. Replacement badges will be charged at £1 and will be available from student support.

Will incoming (year 7) students still have their own areas? For the first term, incoming year 7 students will be able to use specific lunch rooms if they wish. House lunch rooms will also be available. The lunch room situation will be considered again in January after Year 7 students have had time to settle in at Hethersett High. Toilets will continue to be allocated to designated year groups.

Will parent’s evenings be organised by House rather than by year? No. We will continue to have parent’s evenings by Year group. There are some educational events that will also be by year group – students and parents will receive advance notification to make sure everyone is clear on the events that need to be attended (e.g. choosing GCSE subjects takes place in year 9 – and there will still be a specific year 9 evening meeting about that).

House Name | Head of House | Assistant | Colour
---|---|---|---
Discovery | Mr Sparks | Ms Frary | Green
Apollo | Mr Stenton | Ms Ellis | Yellow
Viking | Mr Day | Ms Ellis | Blue
Endeavour | Mr Williams | Ms Frary | Orange
Battlefields Tour

T
he annual history trip for year 9 students took place in April. The trip focuses on First World War battlefields in France and Belgium. 48 students took part in the trip supported by 5 school staff.

Students had been studying WW1 as part of the Year 9 syllabus and this included a specific case study on the Battle of the Somme. The tour took in areas of the Somme as well as a visit to the Ypres salient. This tour means that students can experience the real life location of the battle grounds, visit reconstructed trenches and visit cemeteries (including the largest Commonwealth war cemetery at Tyne Cot) housing the remains of British and German soldiers. The visit to the Ypres salient included the opportunity to stand in reconstructed German trenches from where the whole of the battle ground was laid out in front of the students so their understanding of the battle was significantly enhanced. The students also attended the playing of the Last Post at the Menin Gate in Ypres – a moving experience for all.

Other visits included a trip to Thiepval where two students located the memorial to their relatives. Sassy Holmes (year 9) said “It was really overwhelming. Before I went on the trip I had done some research with my Granddad into my Great, Great, Great Uncle who had died in the war. I am the only person from my family to have visited the actual memorial and that was really inspiring for me. The tour was a brilliant opportunity to find out so much more about the conditions of war and some of that was quite upsetting. I would recommend the trip to anyone interested in history”.

Mr Johnson (Head of Humanities) said “The aim of the tour is to enable students to enhance the learning they already had in the classroom with a real world experience. The work they did on the trip will help in the future study of history as they progress to GCSE. The one minute silence we held at Thiepval was really moving for everyone- all the more so because of the connection that two students had discovered to their relatives. We found some names on memorials that directly related back to the names on the Hethersett war memorial – and that made the connection even stronger. Our aim is to continue to provide an annual tour like this for year 9 students who have opted for History in their year 9 choices.”

Ski Trip

Over the Easter holiday 54 year 10 and 11 students supported by 8 staff took part in the school ski trip. Organised by Mr Shepstone the trip was based in Passo Del Tonale in the Alps region of Italy close to the Austrian border. It is a long coach trip but on arrival everyone agreed that the location was worth the effort.

The trip included 4 hours ski instruction / practice each day delivered by experienced ski instructors plus evening entertainment including karaoke, disco, quiz and games. While the weather was uncommonly warm, we were able to become simply looking at fantastic art! Things were very quiet on the way back in the coach – but I am sure that the students all benefited from the trip. Maybe next time we can do Tate Modern too!”

Students taking a break on the coach journey

London Art Trip

Students gather at the steps of the memorial

I
n March Mrs Everett (subject leader - Art) organised a great trip to London to view two fantastic exhibitions. Supported by Mr Cook, Mrs Lewsey and Ms Tooke, 50 students from years 9, 10 and 11 left Hethersett by coach at 8.00 and made their way to Trafalgar Square and the National Portrait Gallery to see the Lucien Freud exhibition. This featured 130 works from the artist and provided the opportunity for students to study the paintings close up and in detail. They were able to see how the artist developed his style and consider how some of the works are thought of as quite controversial.

Lunch was taken around the fountains of Trafalgar Square and then the group set off on foot to visit Tate Britain on Millbank. Then the group set off on foot to visit Tate Modern too!”

Students viewed works by Hockney and Bacon among many works on show. Students completed artist analysis sheets to record details and information about paintings they really liked, so that what they had seen and discussed can be used within their GCSE work.

Mrs Everett said “The students were great – they behaved impeccably and were trusted to roam the galleries in pairs and small groups. The quality of learning was very high with many students really studying ‘live’ art of this quality for the first time. The ability to view the picture and the artists’ technique has been installed and considered the management of erosion of the coastline.

The trip has been taking place with superb weather for 16 years so while wet weather was forecast, Mr Bignell was surprised by the rain. ‘People set out their washing based on the fact we have a trip that day knowing that the sun will shine’ he said. ‘Apologies if your washing got wet this year – it was entirely unexpected!’ Fortunately our long standing relationships with local businesses helped ensure that there were dry bolt holes and the Blue Sky cafe in Cromer proved to be a really supportive business allowing students to take cover in the worst of the weather. Despite the rain, our students behaved impeccably and many people commented to staff about how conscientious the students were, given the state of the weather.

The benefit to students of seeing the issues for coastline management themselves cannot be underestimated – it really makes the subject come to life. The practical nature of the trip, where students collect their own data, helps embed the learning already gained through classroom activities.

So once again this trip was a successful and enjoyable trip. We are all hoping that our ‘normal’ weather resumes for the 2013 Cromer trips.
The QED Course

Among the very many excellent entries was one from Nadine Gage (year 11) who had taken the theme of Inspiration. Her poem was based on the inspiration that Glenn, her 10 year old cousin who suffers from cerebral palsy, gives her in the way he deals with his difficulties and illness. Nadine said “I didn’t think I would win – I just had a feeling in my heart and an idea in my head and wrote it down. I feel really happy that I did it – I am delighted!”

Mrs Gill, the literacy lead at Hethersett High said “Nadine really caught the mood and committed an excellent piece of work, deserving of the prize. The competition attracted a lot of interest from students from all year groups across the cluster and much of the work was fantastic”. The winning poems were displayed at Hethersett Village Library during April and May.

London 2012 Art Competition

The winning poems were displayed at Hethersett Village Library during April and May.

The QED Course

A
t the beginning of this school year 5 students (3 from year 9 and 2 from year 10) were offered the chance to take part in an extra languages course based at Norwich School, aiming to improve higher ability languages students. The QED (Quite Easily Done) modern languages scheme hopes to improve the uptake and retention of languages by Norfolk children. It is supported by the SHINE Foundation and Norfolk County Council and started in October 2011, hosted by Norwich School. The Spanish course ran on Saturday mornings and the students felt it would be a great opportunity to practise Spanish and widen their knowledge about the culture.

Liberty Crane (year 9) said “The teachers were the same each week and included a lady from Colombiia and a gentleman from Notre Dame School. Our first workshop was mainly an introductory lesson and there were some UEA students there to help. This involved us speaking to each other almost entirely in Spanish. The session was also about camping and involved playing games and activities to help us remember the necessary vocabulary to erect a tent following Spanish instructions. Then we learnt a little about Spanish traditions and Spanish speaking countries in a quiz. It was all really enjoyable!”

The next two workshops were held at Notre Dame School and involved cooking Spanish omelette (La tortilla de patatas) and Spanish cupcakes (magdalenas). Esther Jones (year 9) said “It was great to be able to cook the tortillas ourselves and taste it at the end. When we had completed the cooking, it was assessed as like the TV show Masterchef which was great fun. I really enjoyed making the magdalenas as they tasted great and we were able to dip them in our own mug of hot chocolate!”

The last workshop was a salsa class. Students were taught the steps and moves and at the end of the session a version of Strictly Come Dancing was held.

The whole event was based around learning through fun and Chloe Peterson (year 9) said “Overall I really enjoyed the fun activities and being able to try something new. As well as making new friends I learned how to dance and I believe my Spanish has progressed. The group who ran the course have asked us to come back again next year!”

Thanks must go to Miss Robinson who organised the opportunity for our students – clearly they had a great time with learning languages!

National Science Week family morning

Over the last six years Hethersett High School has invited our families and those from our six partner primary schools to attend a fun and educational morning during National Science Week (NSW). This year ‘All Started with a Big Bang’ combined physics and physical geography to explore ‘Our World in Motion’, the theme of this year’s NSW.

On arrival each child received a specially designed t-shirt and assisted by staff and student helpers, families set off to explore a variety of hands-on activities ranging from finding out how much they would weigh on the other planets in our solar system to making a sundial. In the ever popular science lab there was a demonstration of how a volcano erupts and hands-on experiments regarding motion. As always there were things to make and take away.

Refreshments were available throughout the morning and a lunch of soup with fresh bread made by Hethersett High’s own catering staff was served at the end of the morning.

“Overall an excellent morning” and “Had a great time, thank you” were two of the overwhelmingly positive comments from parents.

Congratulations to…

Heather Kelly (year 9) who has been successful via audition to take part in the English Youth Ballet production of Giselle in the Theatre Royal at the end of June.

Matthew Cott (year 8) who achieved a top 24 national tennis ranking and has been invited to attend a national talent identification process at the National Tennis Centre in London.

Light the fire within

To celebrate the Olympic torch coming to Hertfordshire has its Science Learning Centre (SLC) based at the University of Hertfordshire has its own cluster of schools maths and with science. The Science Learning Centre (SLC) based at the University of Hertfordshire has its own cluster of schools maths and science.

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The Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

UK school chess challenge

Once again the schools mathematics department hosted a first leg of the UK Schools Chess Challenge. Thirty-two of our students from year 7-10 groups and an additional 30 students from our partner primary schools, mostly from years 5 & 6, took part. This year our youngest participant ever, Joshua Bell, in year 1 at Little Melton Primary impressed us all with his chess skills.

Eight of our students and five from our partner schools qualified for the next round to be played in May at the Norwich Chess Club. A special well done to Moby Wells, from Little Melton for winning the first place trophy, in the primary group, for a second year.

Professional development for science teachers and technicians

Being a host school for The Science Learning Centre (SLC) based at the University of Hertfordshire has its own cluster of schools maths and science.

The SLC supports teaching by enhancing professional skills. Learning more about contemporary scientific ideas and experimenting with effective teaching approaches and gaining experience of modern scientific techniques is their aim. Being a host school has also provided funding to send one of our teachers to CERN in Switzerland to see The Large Hadron Collider. These types of unique experiences are invaluable for giving students and staff a real understanding of applied science.

Next year we are fortunate to be hosting four days of physics for non-specialists.

London 2012 Art Competition

All the winners were invited to an awards ceremony at Castle Museum and held at Notre Dame School and Robinson who organised the event. The whole event was based around learning through fun and the students felt it would be a great opportunity to practise Spanish and widen their knowledge about the culture.

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Thanks must go to Miss Robinson who organised the opportunity for our students – clearly they had a great time with learning languages!

Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone who took part!

Oliver Clark
Third place in KS 3
Olympians Past and Present Prize: Book

Anna Wilson
First place in KS 4
Olympians Past and Present Prize: Artist in school

Max Bishop
Second place in KS 4
Olympians Past and Present Prize: Workshop & Book

Warwick Cooper
Third place in KS 4
Olympic and Paralympic Values Prize: Book
Athletics

Two members of the PE staff support team (Mr Scott and Ms Bunn) took 30 students from a range of year groups to compete in the South East Area Championships. Ellie Bensley (year 8) finished 2nd in the Shot Putt event despite never performing this skill before. Megan Bird (Year 9) won the 800m with a time of 2 minutes 24 seconds, qualifying for the next stage of competition which will be held in Austria in 1978. Megan Bird has now been selected for the Paralympic Games. We wish her well!

We also have 3 tennis squads in the school who have all started on a positive note.

Year 7/8 Boys - Matthew Cott, Stephen Fenn & Heath Kelly have won their first match 4-3 against Reepham.

Year 9/10 Boys - Stephen Jessop, Andrew Cott, Matthew Purnell & Sam River won their first match 5-1 against Reepham.

Year 9/10 Girls - Holly Inwards, Esther Jones, Annabel Kimberley & Heath Kelly have won their first two games by a most convincing score of 6-0, against Thorpe & Cliff Park. They are in a strong position now for the play-offs.

Football

Congratulations to the players from the Year 7, 9 and 11 boys' football teams who have all won their respective Football League Titles. The year 9’s were unbeaten champions winning 5 matches and drawing one, and the year 11’s were “perfect” champions, winning every single game. Players will be awarded with medals and certificates to recognise their success. Other successes included year 10 boys reaching the semi final of the City Cup and Year 7 boys narrowly lost the final of their City Cup.

Cricket

The cricket season is now underway with teams entered to the Norwich Leagues. The year 7/8 team started their season recently with a win in the “A” league over a top side (Northgate) by a commanding 30 runs. Stars were Owen Bryant (13) and Cameron Hart (15) with the bat, and Tom Lister with the ball (1 for 6, in 4 overs)

Cricket practice takes place after school each Wednesday.

Tennis

We have 3 tennis squads in the school who have all started on a positive note.

Year 7/8 Boys - Matthew Cott, Sam Bartholomew, Cameron Hart, Aaron Jones & Marcus Mawby won their first match 5-1 against Reepham.

Year 9/10 Boys - Stephen Jessop, Andrew Cott, Matthew Purnell & Sam River won their first match 5-1 against Reepham.

Year 9/10 Girls - Holly Inwards, Esther Jones, Annabel Kimberley & Heath Kelly have won their first two games by a most convincing score of 6-0, against Thorpe & Cliff Park. They are in a strong position now for the play-offs.

Judo

River Morris - National Champion for her weight group (4 fights in total) Gold Medal

Finn Morris - National Champion for her weight group (1 fight) Gold Medal

Taylor Morris - National Champion for his weight group (3 fights in total) Silver Medal

Golf

Tom Fox, Year 10 has just won the masters Golf competition at Bawburgh Golf Club. It was a day event open to every club member, children and adults.

Hethersett Village Garage Sale

Sunday 17th June 2012

9.00am - 1.00pm

Maps & Refreshments will be on sale from 8am at Hethersett High School, Queens Road, Hethersett

Car Boot Sale will be in the High School Car Park

Book Early! For more information call Karen on 01603 811543