

Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Friday 28th May 2021

All-through news

Dear Families,

We now close for the half-term holiday, after what has been a longer than usual summer term 1, coupled with extraordinarily unseasonable weather. That said, this newsletter is full of celebration as our children and young people have continued to work hard, show our values so well and re-engage with great commitment to their learning and our exciting all-through school. Signs of tiredness are now apparent (students and staff!) and we all deserve a good break!

Covid-19

Whilst we are slowly returning to the normal patterns and routines, and indeed we continue to reintroduce our normal procedures, we are constantly reminded of the fact that mitigations against the Covid virus are still enforced in school with regular hand sanitising, the operation of bubbles, an emphasis upon being outdoors and restricted activities. There continue to be cases in East Hertfordshire so there is no room for any complacency.

Family responsibilities

We remind you that:

- Masks should be worn by adults in many indoor spaces
- There are rules about social distancing and indoor mixing
- Young people and children should also abide by these restrictions
- Hand hygiene is very important
- LFTs still should be used with secondary students x 2 a week

Travel

Please be aware when booking holidays that caution must be taken and risks weighed up should you be considering a foreign holiday. Quarantine rules are highly likely to change quickly, and self-isolation will be imposed. We, therefore, ask all families if booking a summer holiday abroad that they ensure that they are back in the UK by 22 August 2021, to allow for a 10-day quarantine. If children do not return to school, this is an unauthorised absence. Term-time holidays are not allowed. This, as we are sure you will understand, is beyond our control, and this message is given because we are so motivated to provide the highest quality of education for every student in our care.

Thank a teacher



Every year, teachers and others who work in schools across the country are celebrated as part of the Pearson Teaching Awards on National Thank a Teacher Day. This year it is being celebrated on Wednesday 23rd June and we would like to encourage everyone to take part. We know from the many messages we have received over the last year that lots of our school community are really grateful for the way we have worked together to ensure the students have continued to receive high-quality learning experiences.

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The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises **ALL** staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. We thought it would be a lovely surprise on Thank a Teacher Day for lots of the people who make our school such a special place to know how much of a difference they are making to the lives of our young people and how much they are appreciated. Anyone can send a card; children, students, parents, grandparents and colleagues can all say thank you.

There are a number of ways you can get involved but the easiest way is to send a card by completing the form on this link

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/> and Pearsons will send a card to the person you nominate.

We hope that as many of you as possible will join us in taking part in the celebration this year. In previous years our teachers have really appreciated receiving the cards, but I think this year they will be even more appreciative.

Yvonne Adshead
Assistant Head



Student leadership

Work with our all-through student leadership continues. This week we are delighted to announce our soon-to-be Year 6 student leaders as follows:

Larch librarians:	Sports ambassadors:	Music ambassadors:	Digital ambassadors:	Eco leaders
Lola Zachary Holly Summer Ethan Eva O Jenson	Orla Harry T Deputies: Dylan Xavian	Henry Erin Heidi Holly Summer	Sammy W Miles Deputies: George Sophia	Lily Ziva Deputies: Edith Lucia

On June 30th, all children in Year 5 will also be trained to be sports leaders so they can support their peers on the playground.

After a brilliant assembly on Monday led by the Simon Balle Head Boy and Head Girl, Ewan and Amelie, and their deputies Harry and Emily, applications for our first ever Larch Head Boy and Girl are open for Year 5. Responsibilities will include being role models to peers by modelling all the school values, representing the school at various events, communicating with staff, secondary student leaders and children in the Larch and showing visitors around the Larch, plus more exciting opportunities. Application information is available on Google Classroom, on Go4Schools and hard copies are available from Miss Hesketh and Miss Boyce. The closing date is Monday 14th June. Good luck to all who apply!

We are busy planning too for the re-launch of our all-through student parliament. More news to follow.

Finally, we congratulate 20 Year 3 - 5 children who have been successfully appointed as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Joining together with 20 children in Key Stage 3, they will have important roles in our school. Their

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training, with other primary schools and as part of The Diana Award programme, will take place on 8th June 2021.

Congratulations to:

Year 3: Megan, Cara, Harrison M-H, Zoe, Rosey, Summer, Layla and Isaak

Year 4: Oliver, Thomas, Seraphina, Annabel, Lucas D, Zach, Jazz and Jessica

Year 5: Harry O, Abbie, Brody and Sam J

Travel to and from school

Governors have been reviewing site safety and site security. One of the joys of this campus, compared to many in the inner cities, is the wealth of green space that we have. Unfortunately, at this current time, the campus is being abused by a minority and this is resulting in vast expense which we believe should be used for children's education. We are seeing daily local dog walkers using the site, and out of hours visits by young people. And perhaps in terms of safety, parents who are still picking children up, parking on-site and driving carelessly, where we have explicitly been clear that driving to Simon Balle is not possible. Added to this we have recently received a number of complaints from local residents about parents parking with little or no consideration, particularly around Balls Park. Please use the car park in Old London Road and walk to the school, as we have asked for so often. We ask you to please, please support us! It is so important that our own community shows respect - a value that we promote so clearly with our young people. Thank you in anticipation of your consideration.

Vacancies

Please remember to look at our vacancies tab on the school home page. These are updated regularly and you or someone you know may be interested in applying.

Hertford Trail

Hertford Town Council has organised two free half term trails for children to enjoy, please see the [posters](#) and the [additional information](#) attached.

Secondary news

Covid 19

We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. Nationally over 40 million tests with staff and students have now been conducted as part of the education testing programme.

Please continue to test twice-weekly over half-term - this is very important.

The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results is easy. Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. You must also remember to report your test result direct to the school as via the link which has been sent to all students. Track and Trace is equally important, especially during half term when everyone is out and about more.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Assessments

A huge thank you to Y11 and Y13 students and parents for their steadfast efforts with their assessments and the whole process in the light of no public exams this year. It has been a testing and stressful time for everyone. It has been lovely this week to wish the year groups well as so many continue with their next steps in education, either away from Simon Balle or staying with us into the sixth form.

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After half term a few reminders and information to parents:

We are reverting back to using the changing rooms for Y7, Y8, Y9 but NOT Y10. This means that on a PE day, students should bring in their PE kit to get changed into. Covid 19 mitigation measures will be in place. Separate emails have been sent to everyone regarding arrangements for lockers.

Uniform

Can we remind everyone that full school uniform must be worn and this includes correct footwear. Trainers are not allowed. Students wearing trainers will be asked to change into plimsolls while in school.

Lunches

We are reverting back to one lunch time. All students will now have lunch (1.05-1.45pm) after lesson 4 and school will finish at 3.10pm every day.

Fire Cadets Scheme

“Herts Fire & Rescue Service are currently looking for young people aged 14-17 with an interest in the Fire Service to join our amazing Fire Cadets scheme. Our Cheshunt unit has spaces for new cadets to join when we start again in September. Cadets meet once a week during term time on a Tuesday evening from 6.30-8.30pm at Cheshunt Fire Station.”

The scheme is a really good opportunity for young people to develop their skills and confidence whilst working alongside operational staff, learn more about the Fire & Rescue Service and make new friends. Please find the leaflet attached below.

[Cadet's Leaflet](#)

Canteen

During the next half term Accent Catering will be putting on a number of special food events including Celebrating Beetroot and Italian Day. Please click on the links below to find out more and encourage your children to taste something new!

[Beetroot Day](#)

[Italian Day](#)

[Environmental Facts Poster](#)

[Cupcakes for Alzheimers](#)

Email Scams

National online Safety have published a useful guideline to which parents and carers need to know about EMAIL Scams.

Click on the following link to download the guideline or copy and paste and search on your browser.

<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/download/16d1aba41abd5bcccd1bdf5a152ccdltw0ftc2xymxbdsjm1kf8aah2gudz6rgev2moy9tobcg2b48vjspinlde8y5fo6vo9txiz4llqf51ccl4ox2eytds07dstocl.pdf>

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful half term, with hope for a little more sunshine!

Best wishes,

Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)