

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 18th March 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to our penultimate newsletter this Spring term; and spring is definitely in the air, bringing with it real optimism. Indeed optimism and hope are present in our school values!

However, the news is not all positive; we are still encountering covid cases and the greatest impact currently is on staff absence. Thank you for your patience again. Also we are all affected by the images we see in the media about the war in the Ukraine- this is why we, along with so many other schools nationally, are holding a day next week to reflect and also raise funds (see below).

Yet, we need to keep positive and active! When talking to other headteachers we all believe that the things we value are returning as before. During the last few weeks it has been incredible to once again see the wonderful talent and hard work of so many of our students as they performed in various musical events. We have been deeply touched by the comments and messages we have received from so many of you, as you have appreciated the high quality you have seen. The annual Big Band evening was inspiring and in particular, the "junior Big Band" who had only played together 3 times, so impressed the audience and gave a real sense of hope of what is to come! Since that evening the Big Band has played at two further venues- the Secondary Headteachers' Conference and the Mayor of Hertford's Evening Dinner. Again, people outside of our community have been amazed by what they have seen. Equally important has been the vocal event (including our adult choir) and various "primary" concerts. Music is alive and flourishing amongst our very youngest children; from the beginners in Year 2, to the Year 6 who are taking national performing exams from grade 1-5! Some of our talented musicians are learning 2 or 3 instruments!

International Women's Day

Across the all-through school it was an important celebration of International Women's Day (IWM) last week. Assemblies for all year groups marked the past (IWM founded in 1910); the present (celebrations discussed global female politicians, inspirational female figures including their lead on climate change, and female achievements from Afghan women in particular following the challenges of the resurgence of the Taliban in 2021); and the future - hope in the further work taking place to address inequalities. Students of all ages were highly engaged in discussions - thank you to all.

PSA thank you

We would like to thank the PSA for all their hard work in raising funds for the school. The Joules sale held on 2nd March was a great success and refreshments provided at our recent music events were much appreciated by our enthusiastic audiences.

Ukraine

Our 6th form students will be raising funds for Red Nose Day (Comic Relief) on Friday 18th March. Various activities have been planned. However, the student Parliament felt that it was important to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. Hertfordshire schools have come together to do something positive, with the principle of keeping it simple and collaborative.

The rest of the school will therefore be taking part in 'Reach out for Refugees Day' on **Monday 21st March**. Students, across the all-through school, can come to school wearing a blue/yellow item such as socks, a badge, scarf, ribbons, hairband - the colours of Ukraine but also Hertfordshire. Please use this link to make your donation <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-balle1>

Vacancies

We are advertising a number of teaching and non teaching jobs. Do you, or your friends, colleagues or family want to join our incredible community and make a real difference to the lives of the young people in Hertford?

We are currently looking for a music teacher, a teacher of Health and Social Care, a Head of Faculty (3-D design), an English teacher, a music teacher, a MCR Pathways co-ordinator and an IT technician. [Please visit the school website - vacancies](#) - to find full details and our application packs.

Parking

We are receiving more and more complaints from local residents about parents dropping off/picking up/parking in areas they should not be using. Both Mangrove Drive and Balls Park are private roads and must not be used. Nor should the space outside White Lodge be used as this blocks the homeowners exit/entry.

There is plenty of parking available at the Old London Road car park (next to the fire station for up to 1 hour free if you display the permit which can be obtained from the school).

Please have some consideration for our neighbours and please refer to our previous newsletter in relation to the walking bus if this could help to support your family.

Arbor

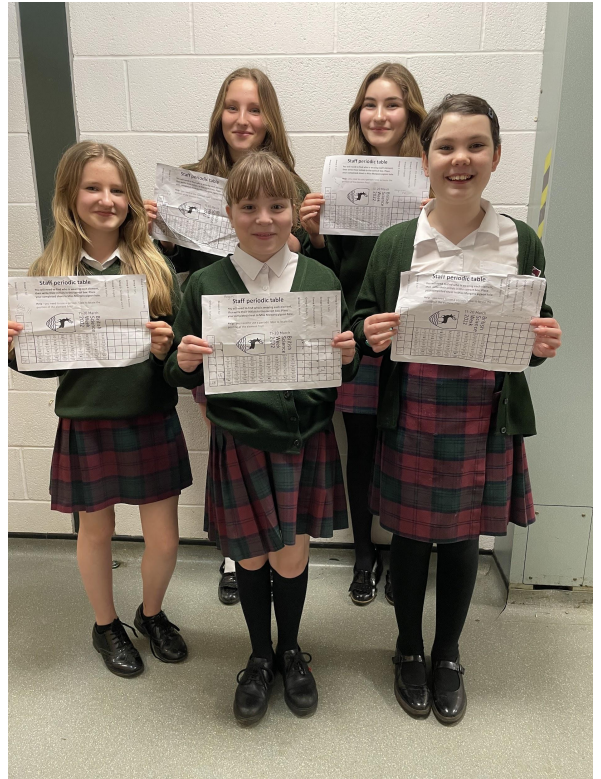
We are in the process of moving to a new Management Information System (MIS) called Arbor. The new system will go live straight after the Easter Holidays. Invitations to set up accounts will be sent to students and parents over the next few weeks. [You can read more about the changes on our website.](#)



Secondary News

Science challenge

To celebrate British Science Week 2022, Secondary students took part in a school wide scavenger hunt. Students were tasked with completing a Periodic Table by finding the staff member who represented each element, and filling in the blanks.



Reflecting on this year's theme of 'Growth', one of our Year 7 students said "this activity has helped me grow in confidence, I have had the chance to speak to staff that I haven't met before, and introduce myself, I really enjoyed the competition". House Points were on offer for all students taking part, with the overall winners taking home a Simon Balle Science pen. Well done to all.



PE news

What a great few months it's been for sport so far across participation, performance as well as our many sports leadership programmes.

Over the past 4 weeks our Sports Leaders have

supported and helped run the following events;

- District Year 7 & 8 Sportshall Athletics League at Wodson Park (**Year 10 sports leaders**)
- District Year 7-13 Cross Country Championships at Simon Balle (**Year 10 sports leaders**)
- The Herts & Ware Partnership Year 5 & 6 Hockey at Simon Balle (**Year 9 sports leaders**)

This coming Tuesday our highly successful Year 10 Sports Leaders will be involved in the leading and officiating at the Herts Schools Sportshall Athletics Championships for both Primary & Secondary schools, a very prestigious event. This is testament to all their hard work and hours of volunteering that they have completed so far. Good luck to all leaders.

It has also been fantastic to see both our Year 10 & 11 Sports leaders work with students in the Larch from Year 3 up to Year 6 delivering a wide variety of fun activities and games to our younger students. More information on our Year 10 programme below;

Y10 Leadership Programme

Throughout the spring term, our year 10 students have been developing their leadership skills and planning multi-sports sessions in Core PE. Over the coming weeks, each of our year 10 students will be visiting a local primary school to lead a group of younger students through their session. It has been fantastic to see their engagement in this programme and the progress they have made throughout and we are looking forward to watching them put all their hard work to practice over the coming weeks!

Netball

Our year 7 A and B netball team took part in the district tournament held at Broxbourne school. We had 17 students play across the two teams putting in some fantastic performances throughout the evening. The tournament concluded with our A team coming in 3rd and the B team coming in 4th. The year 8 team will be going to their district tournament on Monday 21st March.



Y9 Emerging Schools' Champions

On Wednesday 16th March, our Year 9 team went to the Emerging schools netball tournament at Wodson park. The girls played extremely well throughout the day (despite the drizzly weather!) making it through to the semi finals. A great game by Elizabeth in GA helped the team to win that game 7-4 and take them through to the final vs Leventhorpe. This was a very close game where our defensive unit, Molly, Ella and Imogen, really stood out, leading us to a narrow 4-3 victory to become emerging schools' champions. Well done to all the girls involved - what a fantastic achievement.



Cricket

Last week we took two teams of girls to the indoor chance to shine cricket tournament held at Hatfield University. Our U13 team played some brilliant matches despite it being many students' first time playing the sport. The students left the day with a real buzz and ready to take on some more cricket training and matches this summer.

Our U15 team also did very well, winning a number of their games and only being beaten by a handful of runs by some very strong teams.

Girls Football

Our District league matches continue for our U12, U13, U15 and U16 girls teams. We have been so impressed with the standard of football and attendance to clubs across all year groups. We have 5 more matches coming up before the Easter break and we look forward to watching our teams grow and improve as the season progresses.

Boys Football

It's been a wonderfully successful season this year with the Year 8 & 9 boys reaching the District Semi final stages as well as the Year 11 team reaching the Quarter final stage.

Last week the Year 8 boys, after winning their group, travelled to Chauncy to play their semi final against one of the favourites for the competition. After going 1-0 up they had a poor 10mins in the second half, going 5-1 down, however they scored a goal to finish

up 2-5, a gallant effort from the boys. The Year 11's were involved in a close contest against Goffs losing out 1-0 and the Year 9 boys were beaten in their semi-final against Freman College. Well done to all teams for getting so far in this year's District competition.

Saturday Football continues this weekend with Year 7-10 games against John Warner School and our final Saturday block fixture takes place next week against Sir John Lawes. Games usually kick off at 9am.

Rugby

Since February half term we have been running girls rugby on a Thursday after school. There has been a fantastic turn out each week with students going from strength to strength. Thanks to Miss Timpson and Hertford Rugby club for bringing their support and expertise alongside Miss Ansell and putting on some quality training sessions.

The Year 7, 8, 11 & Senior Boys teams have been involved in District and Herts competitions over the past 4 weeks.



Our Year 8 Boys played a closely contested game against unbeaten Chauncy this week, losing out 25-35, however with only one substitute available the boys effort and perseverance was commendable. Well done to captain Ollie C for leading the boys to a fantastic performance.

The Boys also competed in the recent Herts U13 7's tournament at Haileybury College. The boys beat a strong Bishop Stortford B team on the way to finishing 12th out of 16 teams. The team now participates in a District 10 a side tournament at the end of this week, which will be our final rugby of the season.

Our Year 7 boys placed 5th at a recent District tournament. In the District League they have won 2 out of 4 games. The boys now look forward to participating in the prestigious U12 Herts 7-a-side competition at Berkhamsted on the 29th March.



Finally both U16 & U18 Boys competed at the Herts 7-a-side competition at Woollams, both teams performed well and must be commended for their effort levels throughout, playing against established rugby schools of the calibre of Haileybury, St. Albans and Watford Grammar School to name a few. Well done to all students across all age groups who have represented Simon Balle this year after a break of two years.

Cross Country



This month we hosted the LVSSA Cross Country Championships at Simon Balle, the first time since 2019 and what a great day it was for Simon Balle athletes. Again many thanks to the Year 10 leaders who supported the running of the event as well as staff. The key highlights are outlined below;

Individual highlights;

- A Porter - Year 7 Boys District Champion
- S. Spencer - Year 7 Girls District Champion
- O. Porter - Year 8/9 Boys runner up
- A. Chen - 3rd in the Senior Boys



Team highlights were as follows;

- Year 7 Boys - 3rd
- Year 7 Girls - 3rd
- Year 8/9 Boys - 3rd
- Year 8/9 Girls - 5th
- Year 10/11 Boys - 3rd
- Senior Girls (Y10+) - 2nd
- Senior Boys - District Champions



Both Year 7 champions now as a result of their fantastic performances at the Herts Cross Country Championships earlier in February, are competing this weekend at the National Schools Cross Country Championships in Kent. We wish them both good luck and we will report their successes on our [simonballesport](#) twitter feed.

As we approach the end of Spring term we continue to look forward to a packed fixture list with the following upcoming championships to look forward too;

- Fri 18th March - District Trampoline Championships
- Mon 28th March - District Swimming Championships
- Tues 29th March - U12 Boys Herts Rugby

Music

There is so much happening in music at the moment. Do please click on this link for much more information about what has been happening as our events return.

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-18-03-2022/>

PSA News

25th March - Doughies Pizza and Cookie Event
Final weekend for orders. Order by Tuesday 22nd March

We look forward to Doughies returning to Simon Balle with their 12" regular and vegan home pizza making kits next week (25th March).

These artisan kits are of exceptional quality and you can now add pepperoni as an optional extra to your kits. Please order directly via the Doughies website, including name and form/class.

<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Doughies have launched delicious bake at home cookie dough kits* too.

Choose from: Chocolate Chip, Chocolate Brownie and or Oat and Raisin.

Please see [website](#). *Please note, cookie kits are not vegan.

Regrettably, Doughies are unable to offer gluten free kits.

Important information: Larch Centre orders will be distributed via classrooms and sent home with the children. Orders for the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on 25th. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted after 4.30pm. They will not keep unrefrigerated over the weekend and we are unable to offer home deliveries or refunds.

Volunteer opportunities

We've had an amazing time with the return of events at school. These are always fantastic opportunities to meet new parent volunteers who kindly give up their time to support the PSA with providing a bar and refreshments or other activities. A huge thanks to everyone who recently volunteered at the Big Band Evening and the Vocal Showcase - your support is greatly appreciated!

If you'd like to get involved, more helpers are needed please with the setting up and running of the bar at two upcoming events and with pizza kit packing and distribution (secondary phase) for our Pizza and Cookie event:

Doughies Pizza - Friday 25th March

Drama Showcase evening (Secondary) - Wednesday 30th March - .

Wind and Brass Concert - Saturday 23rd April

As a volunteer, you get to meet and chat with other parents within our school community, feel directly involved in fundraising for the school's future projects and even build life-long friendships and you are guaranteed to have a great time. The list of benefits to getting involved is endless - why not give it a try? We're a very friendly bunch!

No need to worry if you've not been involved in a bar event before - a briefing and guidance will be provided beforehand and on the day.

Please follow the link below and volunteer for as much as you can do. We'll be in touch to discuss the rest.

Signing up for any of the above is quick and easy,
and can be done via:

volunteersignup.org/WT7KY

Dates

Tuesday 22nd Mar	Y7 residential trip
Thursday 24th Mar	Y12 parents evening
Friday 25th Mar	Y7 residential trip returns
Wednesday 30th Mar	Drama showcase evening
Friday 1st Apr	End of term - normal finish time
Tues 19th April	Inset day
Wed 20th April	Students back in school
Sat 23rd April	Wind & brass evening
Fri 25th Mar	Doughies Pizza
Wed 30th Mar	Drama showcase evening
Mon 2nd May	Bank holiday
30th May - 3rd June	HALF TERM
Thurs 21st July	End of term (early finish)

GET CREATIVE

WITH JAM ARTS

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11AM - 3PM

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SG14 2DG

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YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL TO JOIN OUR CAMPS!



JAM ARTS



CATALYST
COACHING
CLINICS

EASTER RUGBY CLINIC DATES

April 2022

4TH

1 TO 1 SKILL DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS: PLAYER POSITIONAL GUIDED
Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 60mins Sessions
Age: U10 to U18

PRICE:
£25

April 2022

5TH

1 DAY SPECIALIST SKILLS CLINIC

FOCUS: HALF BACKS & BACK 3 DEVELOPMENT
Venue: Hertford Rugby Club
Time: 10AM to 2PM
Age: U12 to U18

PRICE:
£35



Scan Me

For More Info

Contact:

info@catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk
www.catalystcoachingclinics.co.uk





PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order your pizza & cookie making kits and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan margherita pizzas (**regular or vegan**), and warm gooey cookies in your home oven.



Orders to be placed via the Doughies website by Saturday 19th March
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Orders to be collected on Fri 25th March. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

Come and play with
THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH
ORCHESTRAS

We are currently recruiting talented players grade 7+ who wish to play in our most advanced symphony orchestras during their Easter courses: 5 - 8 April 2022.



Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra

Conducted by: Peter Stark

Required standard: Grade 8.

Age range: 14 – 21 years.

Repertoire: Malcolm Arnold Symphony No. 5 and
Grieg Peer Gynt Suite No. 1



Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by: Patrick Bailey

Required standard: Grade 7.

Age range: 13 – 18 years.

Repertoire: Beethoven Eroica Symphony No. 3, Debussy
Petite Suite and Manuel de Falla El amor brujo

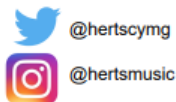
Date: 5 - 8 April 2022

Venue: St Clement Danes School, Chorleywood

Email countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

or call on 01438 843987 to sign up NOW!

Hertfordshire Music Service
www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk



THE HERTFORD & WARE Flyer

Issue 2 March 2022

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Hertford Heath

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Stanstead Abbots river view by Stephanie Adams

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Community News, Local Comment and Special Features

Safer Schools Newsletter March 2022



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

CYP GANGS & SCHOOLS TEAM



Welcome to our newsletter from the Herts Police Gangs & Schools Team. We are a dedicated team that work with local Officers and partners to prevent youth related crime. We conduct a range of prevention and engagement work to raise awareness of knife crime, gang & criminal exploitation to keep you safe.

What are 'county lines' and Child Criminal Exploitation?

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks who bring drugs into an area and sell them using dedicated mobile phone lines. The perpetrators are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.

Children as young as 12 years old can be exploited or used by gangs to courier drugs in and out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range. Both males and females are at risk of being exploited. Social media is often used to make initial contact with children and young people.

Criminal exploitation can be broader than just county lines and can include children forced to commit theft or take part in sexual activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if they appear to be taking part consensually.

For more information about the work that we do go to [@HertsCYP](#)

Hertfordshire is a very safe place. Overall, crime in our area is down from last year.

Possession of drugs

You may be charged with possessing an illegal substance if you're caught with drugs, whether they're yours or not.

If you're under 18, the police are allowed to tell your parent, guardian or carer that you've been caught with drugs.

Cannabis

Police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine of £90 if you're found with cannabis.

Khat

Police can issue a warning or an on-the-spot fine of £60 on the first 2 times that you're found with khat. If you're found with khat more than twice, you could get a maximum penalty of up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both.

[Talk to FRANK](#) has help, information and advice about drugs.



LIVES NOT KNIVES

event brought to you by
Hertfordshire Constabulary CYP Gangs & Schools Team



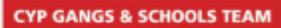





An opportunity to listen live to a variety of inspirational speakers with real life experience of serious violence and gang affiliation.
Are you ready to hear the TRUTH behind the headlines, think it's about excitement, money and status?

Think again... tune in to our inspirational speakers with experience of narcotics and serious violence and have the unique opportunity to hear their stories & ask them questions about their experiences.

Wednesday 23rd March 2022 | 6pm - 7.30pm

To watch the event live - @hertspolice

There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions at the end of the event.


Young people can report crime 100% anonymously at www.fearless.org

If you need to contact the Police please call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also speak to us online and find more info at www.herts.police.uk.

HAPpy Camps are back!

this Easter, all over Hertfordshire!

From 4th to 14th April, school aged children eligible for benefits related free school meals, can enjoy **free food, free sports and free craft activities!**

Get your **HAPpy Booking Code** from your child's school now, to access all this and more!

Bookings open on **Monday 14th March**

All camps are free!






Hertfordshire's Holiday Activity Programme
HAPpy

HCF sports

Book your child's place at: sportinherts.org.uk/booking