

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 09th December 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All through news

I am sure that someone in your household is either counting the number of school days left or the number of sleeps until Christmas. Next week is our last full week; finishing on Wednesday 21st December (a half day) seems late but it does mean that our annual Christmas festivities are spaced out. Whilst the mocks continue for Y11, we can not use the school hall, but our new "Jubilee Suite" next year will allow greater opportunities. Our Christmas season starts with our very popular and amazing "Frost Fair" held on Saturday 10th December from 12pm - 4pm. This is a wonderful event for everyone - with craft stalls, tombolas, games, food and performances from our Larch musicians and dancers. Do come along; we need your support and contributions!

Next week we shall be at our local parish church "All Saints" on four occasions for secondary and primary carol services. The "day" services are for our children and young people but we invite you all to the evening services. Less than an hour long, with our own students playing and singing, you will be amazed by the quality and reverence of the event; a true way to start your Christmas traditions. Please note, the retiring collection is for the upkeep of the church; we value so much being able to use this special space so we do need to ensure that they too can pay their bills.

The secondary carol service is on Monday 12 December at 19.00; the Larch carols on Tuesday at 18.00hr. The posters are below on this newsletter.

Over the past few years, the school "Christmas Lunch" has become very much part of our Christmas celebrations. It is a huge task to feed so many children at one time and also to decorate the halls to create a spirit of festivity. On those days no other food will be served, and Christmas meals must be ordered. I am aware that information has already been sent out but this is just a reminder that those students not eating a Christmas meal will need to bring in their own food. The Larch Christmas lunch is on Monday 19

December and the secondary Christmas lunch on Tuesday 20th December. In lieu of Christmas crackers (given our ongoing focus on sustainability and the environment) all children eating a Christmas lunch will receive a candy cane (primary) or chocolate coins (secondary)!

Keeping all of our community safe is always of paramount importance. Next week we shall be sending home a briefing about the way in which the gates/ barriers will work from January 5th, to ensure that we control how cars come onto our school site. Secondary students have received briefings about the internal gates and we have now confirmed the details for parents who have to come onto the school site. Securing the site is just one example of how we keep students safe and we shall in future newsletters inform you of all of the many other things we are doing.

Our next newsletter will be sent out towards the end of term but I am sure that you can see that the community continues to focus upon teaching and learning, as well as providing a safe environment where students can flourish both academically and in terms of a wide menu of enrichment activities.

We thank you therefore for your support.

Staffing

It is somewhat unusual for us to be saying "goodbye and thank you" to several staff who are leaving us at Christmas this year. Miss Woolcott (Maths) will leave us, as will Mr Moloney (Computer Studies) who is going to a promoted post in Harlow. In addition, Ms Young (HOY 13 and Science teacher) is taking up a position in a sixth form much nearer to where she lives. We wish them all well.

Despite advertising, we have not been able to simply replace these staff. Both our maths and science teams have shuffled existing timetables in order to accommodate some of the teaching. This may affect a wider group of students but what it does mean is that

we are avoiding supply cover. We are pleased to let you know that we have managed to employ an IT graduate who has the specialist knowledge needed for our computer studies students. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Jones (History) to the sixth form team as Head of Year 13.

Please be reassured that at all times our priority is to ensure the very highest quality of education for all - and even in challenging times with recruitment, our staff team pull together in wonderful ways. Thank you to all.

Music news

Please take time to read through our latest music newsletter that is published online.

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

Our Larch and Secondary Carol Services are also next week at All Saints' Church - we would be delighted to see as many people who would like to join us for the evening services.



All-through SEND team

If you would like to make an online appointment to speak to a member of the SEND team (primary and secondary) a 15 minute appointment can be booked via the school website. Click on **Inclusion**, then select **SEND** and the link is at the bottom of the page. These appointments are available during term time on a Tuesday morning between 10 and 11.30. We look forward to meeting and speaking with you all, for we know that a strong partnership between home and

school is crucial for all students, and particularly those who have additional SEND.

Future Living Christmas Gift Drive



Thank you for all the contributions to the Christmas gift drive run by our partner Future Living. Giving is a theme we are focussing on this term and the presents will be donated to local families in need.

School Governor Recruitment - other Hertfordshire schools

We have been asked to remind parents that Hertfordshire continues to look for school governors, both at primary and secondary level. There are many governor roles, so a diverse team with different skills, and work/life experiences is important. Governors can also be parents, grandparents, or carers of a child in a local school. Help and support is provided every step of the way to becoming an effective school governor. For further information about becoming a school governor/trustee:

Visit

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors>
Call Governance team at Herts for Learning on 01438 544487

Email: governance@hertsforlearning.co.uk
local community

PSA news

Frost Fair - 10th December, 12-4pm

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our winter fair for an afternoon of festive fun. With over 30 external stallholders all offering quality items in our Festive Market, various games, licensed bar, giant inflatable snow globe, live performances and Secret Shopping Room (12-3pm) and more, we are sure you will find something to enjoy.

Thank you to each and every [volunteer](#) that has contributed endless hours of time planning the event, those donating their time to help at the fair and to the sponsors for their generosity.



Simon Balle PSA

Frost Fair & Festive Market

Saturday 10th December
12-4pm

£1 admission, children free

Simon Balle All-through School
Mangrove Road, Hertford
SG13 8AJ

kings GROUP EDWINS **chirp** Thanking our supporters

Simon Balle Festive Gin

Created this Christmas by our friends at Spirit of Hertfordshire, our [artisan gin](#) is back by popular demand for the 2022 festive season. **Save on postage**, select Local Pickup at check out and note collection from Frost Fair. Available on all online orders placed by lunchtime on Friday 9th December.

<https://spiritofherts.co.uk/product/simon-balle-hertford-festive-gin/>

As well as the zesty notes of juniper and citrus, and the enigmatic perfume of bergamot and lavender, this gin also features the classic spice mix of clove, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. For freshness and tang, It also contains sprigs of real aromatic Christmas trees, hand picked by SoH's resident forager. Even better, Simon Balle All-through School PTA receives a contribution for every bottle sold!

18+



Festive Gin



18+

Created this Christmas by our friends, Spirit of Hertfordshire, to celebrate 2022/23.

As well as the zesty notes of Juniper and citrus, and the enigmatic perfume of bergamot and lavender, this gin also features the classic spice mix of clove, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. For freshness and tang, it also contains sprigs of real aromatic Christmas trees, hand picked by Spirit of Hertfordshire's resident forager. Even better, Simon Balle All-through School PSA Receives a contribution for every bottle sold!

Orders can be placed directly via the SoH website and prices start from £15.99

<https://spiritofherts.co.uk/product/simon-balle-hertford-festive-gin/>

Save on postage, select Local Pickup at check out and collect from the Frost Fair.

Available on all online orders placed by 12pm on Friday 9th December.

LAMDA lessons

We are also delighted to be working in partnership with Corinne Vallé, from The Vallé Academy of Performing Arts, to offer individual and small group LAMDA Drama lessons for students. LAMDA exams offer students the opportunity not only to build confidence in acting but also public speaking and speaking of verse and prose. It was amazing to see students engaging with their first lessons this week and we look forward to this continuing exciting partnership.

Should students be interested in signing up for LAMDA lessons in the future, we are operating a waiting list. Please contact the front office to be added to this should a lesson slot become available.

Food bank Jedidiah

Jedidiah's pantry provides free food to anyone: no questions asked. The pantry is open every weekday between 12pm and 1pm. All you need to do is head down there with a bag. It is located at 138 Fore Street (next to M&S). The food is collected from supermarkets and would otherwise be wasted.

<https://www.jedidiah.org.uk/locations>



place in this area of East Manchester. The talk at the stadium gave the students a fantastic insight into the changes that have taken place over time. Further fieldwork in the Northern Quarter and City Centre followed with an evening lesson to look at the different areas in Manchester in more detail. Our final day was based at Manchester Metropolitan University in Hulme, where Jo Baynham led a session with her students who are currently training to be geography teachers. The trainee teachers prepared a fantastic tour of Hulme with new fieldwork techniques for the students to learn.

Kids kick start

Kids Kit

A workshop for parents focusing on:
Routines & Boundaries

What will I learn in this workshop?

- Why we need to structure routines and create boundaries
- How this can make your child feel safe
- How to take back control of your relationship with your child

Together, we can build a tool kit for the hardest job in the world!

FREE session
10:00 - 12:00
12th December
2022
Vale House, 43
Cowbridge, Hertford
SG14 1PN

For more information
contact:
info@futurelivinghertford.co.uk
01992 537344

Registered charity Number 1155145

FUTURE LIVING

Overall this was a fantastic trip to develop the students' knowledge of Manchester and their understanding of how to use different fieldwork techniques. The students were a credit to the school, working hard and showing the school's values consistently.

Drama news

It has been a busy few weeks in the Drama department, with students partaking in a variety of trips and performances. A particular highlight was our A Level trip to see a modern adaptation of Ibsen's John Gabriel Borkman at The Bridge Theatre in London. Students have since had insightful class discussions to analyse the production in light of their written exam component on live theatre. Well done to all!



Secondary news

Year 12 Geography Trip

On the 30th November, the Geography Department took the Year 12 students on a field trip to Manchester. This trip is a vital part of the A level, providing the students with valuable fieldwork techniques which they can use in their upcoming coursework as well as deepening their understanding of Manchester as a case study for the regeneration unit.

The students started the trip with a visit to Salford Quays to observe the changes in the area and rebranding since the BBC moved to 'Media City'. We completed a range of fieldwork techniques and the students were able to share their knowledge on changes in Manchester over time. An evening walk around the city centre with a visit to the Christmas Markets was a fantastic way to end the first day. On Thursday, we visited the Etihad Stadium to hear about the sports-led regeneration that has taken

390 Bus

We have received an email from the Watton at Stone Parish Council. They have put together a short survey about the 390 bus which runs from Stevenage to Ware via Watton at Stone and Hertford. Many of the secondary school children in that area rely on this service to get them to school. Unfortunately the 390 is not very reliable so the Watton at Stone Parish Council are hoping that if this survey is filled in by enough parents, they might be able to get the service improved.

Please fill out the survey below if it is applicable:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUVaN9a8Al0WtwO8cQ86noEXEV0soJDKz9ekMpu36yijZB9w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Year 9 Preferences

After Christmas Year 9 students will be starting their preference journey and thinking seriously about their subject combinations for study at GCSE level. We will run two student sessions during school time, where Heads of Department will relay information regarding the GCSE course in their particular subject area. They will talk about the content of the GCSE syllabus and the types of examinations and assessments that the students will undertake in that subject. They may point out any links to careers or to the skills set that the subject lends itself to and tell the students exactly what is expected of them to complete that GCSE to their best ability. This will be delivered alongside any other relevant information. The students will be able to ask questions there and then or take more considered questions back to their subject specialist teachers over a short period of time. This information will also be available on the website in the form of a booklet. We will send you the link after Christmas so that you can sit down with your child and have a look at each course together.

During some form periods, students will be looking at Unifrog and researching any interested pathways in terms of careers and post-16 studies, to help guide them to making the right choices for themselves.

The Senior Leadership Team will also be conducting interviews with students to guide and support them through the process.

Parents and students will be invited to a Preference evening on **Tuesday 24th January 2023**, so please keep that date free. More details will follow.

PE news

It's been another busy half term with teams participating across all year groups in District and County competition as well as the school games. This half term has also seen us celebrate the world cup through a variety of activities which included a week of inter house football across Year 7-10 and Year 12.

Netball

The Year 9 & 11 Netball teams have performed well in the county league and have recently played against Sandringham and St Albans High School. This week the Year 7 A and B teams competed in a Netball friendly tournament at Broxbourne school. Both teams played fantastically, showing great improvement from the beginning of the year. Both the A and B teams finished third in their round robin competition. This was good preparation for the district tournament coming up in the new year.

Rugby

Our Saturday Rugby season has come to a close where last weekend our Year 7 students competed at the annual St. Edmunds Year 7 Rugby tournament and showed plenty of enthusiasm and resilience against schools of the calibre of Watford, St Albans boy's, Hitchin boys, John Warner and St Edmunds. In November we also hosted Birchwood in a very competitive Saturday fixture.

Congratulations to the Year 8 Boys team who have progressed to the last eight of the County trophy beating Adeyfield school 20-5 and now play Sir John Lawes in January. The Year 9 Boys are due to also play Sir John Lawes in the next round too.

Football

Congratulations to the Year 10 Boys who have reached the third round of the County Cup, they have St Michaels in the next round.

The Year 11 boys play in the next round of the County cup in January after a strong win over Bushy Meads School. They also recently participated in the annual District 6-a-side tournament at Haileybury Turnford.



The Year 9 Boys played Marriotts School from Stevenage in the second round of the County cup. After a great start and a very close game, Marriotts scored 2 goals in the final 5 mins to win 3-1. E Dampthey, player of the match, scored for Simon Balle and hit the crossbar twice.

Our Year 7 boys are also through to the next round of the County cup and also recently finished third in a District Football tournament at Broxbourne.

The year 8 football team are through to the next round of the county plate after beating Longdean 4-2. A 25-yard bullet into the top corner from A.Porter was the highlight of the game. The team now face

Onslow St Audrey on the 15th December in the next round.

As previously mentioned the Senior boys face Sandringham in the 3rd round of the County Cup on the 20th December. The senior football team are through to the next round of the district cup beating Haileybury Turnford 3-2. They will now face Richard Hale.

We now look forward to a very busy fixture card in the Spring term when our Saturday block fixtures start as well as preparations for our Easter Sports Tour to Holland.

Table tennis success

Over the past month we have entered Year 8 & 11 Boys and Girls teams into District Table tennis competitions where both our Year 11 teams have won silver medals alongside the Year girls team. Congratulations to all that took part and we look forward to lots of lunch-time table tennis in the new year.



Trampolining Success

Holly C (Y8) represented Simon Balle at the Eastern Region Schools Trampolining competition on Sunday 27th November. The competition was open to all

schools across Hertfordshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Holly was entered into the Year 7&8 Novices, for which there were 44 entries, by far the biggest entry of the day. This was split into four heats of eleven and Holly was in the first heat. First up was the compulsory routine which put Holly in third place in her heat. Holly did better in the second routine, and was one of very few to start with a somersault, and finished in second place in her heat. As the heats progressed, she dropped down the leader board a couple of places with each heat and the very last competitor in the competition knocked her out of the top ten and she finished 11th overall. This was a great achievement out of 44 entries.

Inter House Football



Inter House Football took place last week to celebrate and promote this year's World cup in Qatar. Year 7-10 & Y12 students, boys and girls took part and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Each form was allocated a team and they then played the competition in those colours. Alongside this there were quizzes and competitions. The overall results of this year's Inter House Football competition were as follows;

Stevensons christmas opening hours

STORE OPENING TIMES

Monday: 9am - 5pm
Tuesday: 9am - 5pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 9am - 5pm
Friday: 9am - 5pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed

**We're closed From 19th December until 2nd
January for the festive period.
We reopen on the 3rd of January**

Director of Public Health

Prof Jim McManus, D.Sc, FFPH, CPsychol, FBPsS,
CSci, FRSB, CharteredFCIPD



Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
CHO231
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DE

Date: December 5th 2022

Dear Parent,

Increase in Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus (GAS) cases

I am writing to update you of a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which is above expected levels for the time of year. I have also previously written to all schools and early years settings across Hertfordshire regarding this matter and will be writing again with advice and guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs and symptoms of scarlet fever. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include

- a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with
- a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel which is rough to the touch
- On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will still have a rough, sandpapery feel.

Please Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and you will have seen the recent media reports of some tragic deaths as a result of iGAS. Sadly, Deaths do occur each year due to iGAS however this year has seen a slight increase which could be related to the increase in scarlet fever cases.

Currently, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. The increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

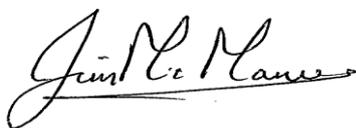
Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene (cough and sneeze into tissues and washing your hands regularly) are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

We wrote to Schools and early years settings such as nurseries in September to advise them of Scarlet Fever and GAS, and advise on actions to take. I am writing to them again today with further information and advice.

Yours sincerely



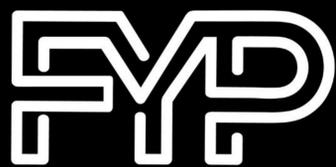
Jim McManus
Director of Public Health

**HARTHAM
COMMON
FOOTBALL PITCHES**

**EVERY
THURSDAY
6-8PM**

11-18 YR OLDS

FREE



**FOREVER
YOUNG
PEOPLE**



**MOONLIGHT
FOOTBALL**



Ware Musical Theatre

formerly **Ware Operatic**

presents

LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS
BY LIONEL BART

Ware Musical Theatre (formerly Ware Operatic) is looking for talented young performers, both boys and girls, between the ages of 8 and 16 years for our lead characters (Oliver and the Artful Dodger) and to form our kids chorus (workhouse, Fagin's gang and so on). We are holding a kids workshop on **Sunday 18th December 2022** at 2pm (until approx. 3.30pm) at Leaside Hall, High St, Ware, SG12 9BT. There is no need to book, please just arrive with a bottle of water and lots of talent, energy and enthusiasm!

The afternoon will involve everyone being taught a short excerpt from a song, a short movement routine and they may be asked to read from the script. The next stage will be individual auditions based on what has been learnt at the group session (kids unable to attend the workshop will still be able to audition). These auditions will be held on **Sunday 8th January 2023** from 2pm - 4pm at Southern Maltings, Kibes Lane, Ware.

The show performances will be **28th March to 1st April 2023** (including a Saturday matinee) at The Ware Drill Hall, Amwell End, Ware.

Rehearsals will primarily take place on Sunday afternoons at Southern Maltings, Ware from January 2023 up until the show but a full rehearsal schedule will be available soon.

If any adults are interested in getting involved (on or off stage) or if you have any queries, please contact our secretary Jo: joanne.griffin3@icloud.com

Musical Director Keith Willis

Director John Hebden

Book, Music and Lyrics by LIONEL BART

Orchestral arrangements by William David Brohn

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk