

Richard Hale School

Science and Engineering Academy

DOCTRINA CVM VIRTUTE



28th April 2017

Dear Parents

This is the first newsletter of the academic year to be sent to 8 year groups. I would like to welcome the new Year 6 parents and I will now include all Year 6 transition events to ensure you are kept fully informed as the term unfolds.

Headmaster Appointment

[Message from Steve Goodair, Chair of Governors](#) - It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ian Hawkins, currently Deputy Head at Monk's Walk School in Welwyn Garden City, is to become Richard Hale's next Head in January 2018. This follows Steve Neate's decision to retire in December 2017. A panel of governors and advisors interviewed a strong field of candidates across two days last week. Ian was successful and we believe that his collaborative management style and belief that the student experience is paramount in school, will enable him to seamlessly take over from Steve Neate and take the school onto its next chapter in its illustrious life. While Ian has a tough act to follow, I know he will be assured of your support and he looks forward to meeting you early in 2018.

Chamber Music by Candlelight

Last night we held our second Chamber Music evening, with students performing to a packed audience seated at tables in the intimate and atmospheric candlelit recital room. It was an enormous success and a really pleasurable evening, with guests enjoying drinks and canapés whilst listening to performances from our choir, piano trio, quartet, jazz band, flute ensemble, and many solo and duet items. We were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Hertford and Chairman of the County Council to the evening, as well as Cllr Peter Ruffles and sponsors from Go Move. The emotion and finesse of the performances was palpable and all students contributed to a programme which really showed what musicians at Richard Hale are capable of. Combined with ticket sales, the monies raised from a prize draw we held during the evening now put us half way towards replacing one of our pianos, which we are all very excited about. Thank you to all who came, to Mrs Lynn for her fantastic catering, to staff who performed or led ensembles, and special thanks to Mr Camm for organising the evening.

Project Update

[Roofs](#) – I am pleased to report that we have again been successful with a Capital Improvement Bid. We have now received funding to replace the windows in the Art Block over the summer break.

[3G Pitch](#) – this project is benefitting from the good weather and advancing at some pace. It still looks like handover will take place in June.

[Sports Hall](#) – the Sports Hall project is currently at the planning stage. As part of this process members of the public can comment on the application either in support of or to object. I would like to encourage all of the School's stakeholders (i.e. staff, parents, governors, former pupils etc.) to lodge their support for the project. For the School this has been a very long term project and has only reached this stage because we were fortunate enough to receive a grant of £1.5m from the Education Funding Agency. The School has been fundraising for many years and we now have enough funding in place to complete these much needed facilities. Hertford, and of course Richard Hale, will benefit enormously from the sports hall which will provide space for badminton, basketball and netball. If funding allows we also hope to include a state of the art fitness suite. Your letter should be addressed to Lisa Page, East Herts District Council, Wallfields, Hertford, SG13 8EQ and should include the planning reference 3/17/0548/FUL.

Football

The U16 football team produced a tremendous display on Tuesday evening to win the County Cup against Verulam. The final was played at Hertford Town FC and many thanks to all concerned for hosting such a high profile game. The Mayor of Hertford attended and she was introduced to both teams beforehand and presented the trophy at the end of the game.

Headmaster: Stephen M Neate

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Hale took the lead in the first half thanks to a cool finish from Man of the Match Will Orton, this was followed up with chances at both ends in an entertaining game. The second half saw a more attacking approach from Hale and Harry Hunter was on hand to line up Ollie Skipp for a calm finish. The team unfortunately lacked a little concentration and let Verulam back into the game after an impressive breakaway goal. Nevertheless with time ticking down and the pressure on, Ollie Skipp had chance to dance around the keeper to set wild scenes of celebration off amongst the watching pack of Richard Hale students. Final score 3-1 to Hale. The game also raised £80 towards Macmillan Cancer Support. Many congratulations to the boys and to all the football teams that have played a very high standard of football this year. The school has won 6 competitions across 4 age groups, which is the best return in the school's history.

Hale students to become social media stars?

James Buckmaster who is Marketing Director of Go Move Estate Agents in Hertford spent Wednesday morning in school explaining his firm's use of social media in its marketing strategy to a combined group of Media and Business A Level students. Go Move is a recent arrival to Hertford but has already established itself with its distinctive approach to selling and renting homes, including running an office which doubles as a coffee shop. A number of our students helped with the making of the next episode of The Hertford Show which will appear on the firm's Facebook page on Thursday 4th May. As well as being fun, it also gave them a valuable insight into the role that social media can play in modern day business marketing. Many thanks are due to Sue Homan our 2017 Coordinator for helping to organise this valuable event.

Concerts next week

You are invited to join us for an afternoon tea recital on Thursday 4th May at 4pm in the recital room. For £3 (on the door) enjoy a hot drink, slice of homemade cake and half an hour of exceptional music from our piano trio and senior soloists. We are also holding a brass recital on Tuesday 2nd May at which students from all year groups will be performing solo items. There is no charge for tickets.

KS3 Talent Showcase

Boys in Years 7-9 will be receiving information about our KS3 concert on Tuesday 9th May at 7pm in the recital room. Students from these year groups will be taking to the stage to perform solo, duet and band items, alongside performances from our rock school bands. Students wishing to perform items should sign up outside the music office by Wednesday 3rd May. Tickets for the event are on the door (£3 adult/£2 children).

Teacher Training Opportunities at RHS

Under the School Direct Training Programme (salaried), Richard Hale School is recruiting to train teachers in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths & Computer Science, starting in September 2017. Successful applicants will be appointed initially for a training year, at the end of which, if successful, they will attain Qualified Teacher Status. Trainees are salaried by the school throughout their training. For more information please visit the school website and look under vacancies or contact admin@richardhale.co.uk.

Pupil News

Congratulations to the following students:

[George Albone](#), Year 12, was extremely successful in the Hertfordshire Schools Rose Bowl scratch tournament (Golf) before the Easter break. George shot 72 gross, beating lots of lower handicap players to lift the trophy.

[Sébastien Blériot and David Ellis](#), Year 7, have been selected for the Hertfordshire County U12 Cricket Squad.

[James Hall](#) (Wallace 2005–2012) – attended his passing out parade recently at the Sovereigns Parade, Sandhurst and is now commissioned in the Royal Engineers.

[Max Hartwig-Green](#), Year 8, took part in the East of England U14 boys regional JAC tournament as hockey goal keeper for the tournament winners Hertfordshire Hockey U14 boys squad.

[Rob Holman and Luke Kennedy](#), Year 10, represented Hertfordshire in U15s Hockey recently in Norwich at the East of England County Championships. The Herts squad won the tournament for the second year running, beating Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and drawing with Lincolnshire and Norfolk. [Finn](#)

[Kennedy](#), Year 13, volunteered as the county umpire for the tournament and gained Level 1 accreditation (assessed) in the process. Rob and Luke also coached and umpired at the Quick Sticks tournament for Herts and Ware Sports Partnership for the U11s on Tuesday at Simon Balle School. A total of 16 schools took part and over 100 pupils. They did a great job both officiating and coaching the eventual winners of the tournament

[Steffan Jones](#), Year 12, has been selected to represent the Welsh Exiles in an international tournament, where he will be up against national teams from Ireland and Sweden.

[Sonny Kirby](#), Year 7, who, as part of the cast for the West End production of 'School of Rock' picked up an award at the recent Oliviers ceremony for 'Outstanding Achievement in Music'.

Year 7 students [Sébastien Blériot](#), [Hugo Creasey](#), [Issac Deacon](#), [George Parry](#), [Charlie Perring](#), [Angus Pringle](#), [Luca Turner Goodwin](#) and [Noah Verdin](#) all played for Hertford RFC in the London Irish International Festival 2017. They played teams from England and across Europe, winning all their matches to become the U12 Champions.

Year 9 students [Ben Kiernan](#), [Jack Watson](#), [Finlay Robb](#), [Alex Omole](#), [Alastair Murray](#), [Mace Bothroyd](#), [Rhys Coker](#), [Will Ross](#), [Miles Holding](#), [Freddie Hunter](#), [Lennie Ahern](#), [Henry Ready](#), [Freddie Perring](#), [Josh Woodward](#), [Jacob Sanderson](#), [Jacob Thompson](#), [Mason Parsons](#), [Joe Hibbert](#) and [Rory Foster](#), represented Hertford Rugby Club at the County Finals. Hertford A U14's won against Bishops Stortford and Hertford B U14's won against Royston/Stevenage. Both teams secured their position as U14's County Youth Champions for the second year running.

Parent Association appeal for second hand uniform

The Parent Association require new stock for their next second hand uniform sale on Saturday 20th May. We especially need PE/Rugby tops, shorts, socks and blazers. Please leave at reception in a plastic bag marked Second Hand Uniform.

Blue Whale Challenge

We have been informed by Hertfordshire Children's Services of a social media challenge called the Blue Whale Challenge, that originated in Russia and is currently spreading to many other countries. It involves an Internet-based "curator" setting 50 challenges to an individual, many of which involve distressing activities and self-harm and, allegedly, end up with suicide. One of the activities is to carve the shape of a blue whale on to yourself using a razor. We would ask all parents to be vigilant and if they have concerns to contact the School, Police or Children Services. More information is available from this BBC hyperlink: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-39729819>

Stephen M Neate
Headmaster

Forthcoming Events

May

Monday 1 st	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 2 nd	AS French Orals to the 4 th Senior House Athletics Field Events
Wednesday 3 rd	Senior House Athletics
Thursday 4 th	Year 8 Options Evening
Friday 5 th	AS / A2 Art Exam Year 8 Options Assembly
Monday 8 th	AS / A2 Art Exam MLF Visiting Theatre Group
Tuesday 9 th	Year 10 DofE Interviews to the 9 th AS / A2 Art Exam

Wednesday 10 th	Year 7 Bude Parents' Meeting
Thursday 11 th	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Saturday 13 th	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 1 to the 14 th
Monday 15 th	Public Exams start through to the 29 th June
	Year 7 Exams start through to the 26 th May
	Timing of the School Day changes
Tuesday 16 th	House Bake Off
Wednesday 17 th	House Bake Off
	Year 10 History Trip Parents' Meeting
Saturday 20 th	Year 6 Treasure Hunt
	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 2 to the 21 st
Monday 22 nd	Year 9 Exams start to the 9 th June
Tuesday 23 rd	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 24 th	Leavers' Lunch
Friday 26 th	Year 7 Exams End
	Year 8 Options Deadline
Monday 29 th	Half Term Week
June	
Monday 5 th	Return to school

Forthcoming Weeks

Tuesday 2 nd May	Week 1
Monday 8 th May	Week 2
Monday 15 th May	Week 1
Monday 22 nd May	Week 2
Monday 29 th May	Half Term
Monday 5 th June	Week 1
Monday 12 th June	Week 2
Monday 19 th June	Week 1
Monday 26 th June	Week 2
Monday 3 rd July	Week 1
Monday 10 th July	Week 2
Monday 17 th July	Week 1