



Richard Hale School Headteacher's Update

26th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Examinations

Well done to all the students who have sat exams so far. They have done brilliantly.

Year 8 Herts Team Maths Challenge

Two of the questions taken from last Thursday's final of the Year 8 Herts Team Maths Challenge - with just 90 seconds to work out each answer, no calculator allowed and just a pencil and paper, could you work them out?

- 15 Teams compete in a hockey tournament and every team plays every other team once - how many matches are played in total ?
- 4 Consecutive numbers multiply together to give 1680 – what is the smallest of the four numbers ?

Building on their success in the qualifying round earlier this month, our Year 8 team of four (Samuel Cole, Vojtech Hammock, Tobias Hulbert and George Nuttall) were in competition last Thursday with teams from 18 other schools drawn from around the county, in a series of rounds combining communication and teamwork skills with their considerable mathematical expertise. In a fast-paced event, our enthusiastic quartet performed impressively, achieving 133 points over the four rounds in a closely-fought contest eventually won by the Priory School. Well done.

Answers

105 hockey matches
5 ($5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 = 1680$)

Covid Vaccine Talk, University of Oxford

Our GCSE science classes are named after leading scientists, one of whom is Dame Sarah Gilbert who developed the Oxford/Astra Zeneca Covid-19 vaccine. Recently we were extremely lucky to have a virtual visit from Dr Sean Elias from the Jenner Institute in Oxford. Dr Elias is the Public Engagement with Research Leader and represents Professor Gilbert providing talks to students in schools.

Dr Elias engaged a large group of year 12 and 13 biology, chemistry and BTEC Science students with his enthusiastic presentation on the development of the Covid-19 vaccine. He explained how the vaccine could be developed so quickly and the international partnerships involved in the development.

He answered students' questions about the initial design of the new type of vaccines, the costing, clinical trials and the long term review of vaccines. He also described the various routes that a student may choose to take to become research scientists.

The students were particularly taken with the virtual tour of the laboratories at the Institute, seeing the set-up of the different laboratories and the roles of the scientists working in Oxford. They were also impressed with the level of technology and equipment that is used on a daily basis.

It was a very informative and interesting way for our aspiring scientists to spend a Friday lunchtime and the students were very appreciative of Dr Elias' time and thought provoking seminar.

Year 8 Industrial Cadets Science Project

Many congratulations to Year 8 students Eoin Conway-Baker, Jack Gleed, James Price, Jonah Scott, Leo Homer and Samuel Cole who have been working on a Bronze Industrial Cadet project in collaboration with GSK for several weeks. Last week they were assessed by a panel of judges from various STEM industries across the UK via zoom, for which they had prepared a report and presentation with the brief 'My school is an Island'. It was announced at the end of the Graduation Ceremony on Friday, attended by around 90 schools, that they have been shortlisted for the award of Best Team - we will find out if they have won the award at the regional final in June. The students had to come up with ways of providing energy, waste management, water, building design and communications and travel to and from Richard Hale School as if it were an island, a few kilometres from the mainland. Many thanks to Ms Aghedo and Mr Masters who lead the team at school, and Keshav Vaitha and Georgina Brown who were the team's GSK mentors.

Uniform

Please can I remind parents that students should be wearing shoes as part of their uniform as trainers are not permitted. I also confirm that blazers will be optional after half term. Please ensure your son transfers his locker key from his blazer to ensure he can still access his locker.

2023 Ski Trips

Further to last week's update regarding the 2023 ski trips, some parents have asked about the allocation of particular year groups to each trip. The Easter trip will predominantly be current Year 9 and 10 boys and some concern was raised about the proximity of this date to their exams. Based on the availability of resorts next year, this is the best option we could secure and the resort booked for February is much better suited to the younger year groups. As Easter is a two week holiday, the boys will have a week at home for exam preparation as well as the opportunity to take revision with them on the ski trip. We are also hoping to run some revision sessions on the trip, staff availability permitting. We are hoping to inform parents by the end of tomorrow if they have been successful in gaining a place. Unsuccessful applications will not be informed until after half term when all places have been filled as they may still be offered a place that has been declined.

Learning Resources Support Officer

We are looking to appoint a Learning Resources Support Officer to support our students during independent study time in the school library. The ideal candidate will be able to manage groups of students, motivate and support them in their study periods to ensure that they utilise the time they have in school effectively. The candidate will have responsibility for the school library, ensuring it is a safe, well-resourced environment for study and reading during the school day, including at break and lunch time, before and after school, when the Homework Club is based there and for the promotion of good study habits and reading across the school. The position is for 37 hours per week, term time plus one week, Monday to Friday with an 8am start each day. For further information, please visit the Vacancies section of the website <https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Teaching Assistant Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Teaching Assistants to either start as soon as possible or in September. For full details of the vacancies please follow the link below

<https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Covid

Information on latest guidelines for Covid isolation etc., can be found using the following link. Please continue to report any Covid cases via the attendance process in school.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

May 2022 Calendar

Friday 27 th	Year 8 Options Deadline
Monday 30 th	Half Term week

June 2022 Calendar

Monday 6 th	Return to School
Wednesday 8 th	County League Athletics
Thursday 9 th	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 10 th	House Swimming
Saturday 11 th	Bronze DofE Qualifying expedition to the 12 th Herts Athletics Championships
Monday 13 th	Year 8 Immunisations
Wednesday 15 th	County League Athletics
Monday 20 th	Year 10 Geography Day Trips to the 22 nd - TBC
Thursday 23 rd	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Tutor Meetings
Friday 24 th	Junior House Athletics
Sunday 26 th	Year 8 Bude trip to the 1 st July

Monday 27 th	Sixth Form Induction Week 1 to 1 st July Year 10 Geology Field Trip to 1 st July
Wednesday 29 th	Public Exams End
Thursday 30 th	District Athletics

July 2022 Calendar

Friday 1 st	Year 8 Bude Trip returns Sixth Form Induction Week 1 ends Year 10 Geology Field Trip returns
Monday 4 th	Year 12 Biology Field Trip to the 8 th Athletics – County league Plate Final
Tuesday 5 th	Athletics – County League Final
Wednesday 6 th	Year 6 New Parents Evening
Thursday 7 th	Leavers Ball Athletics – Nicky Morris Challenge
Saturday 9 th	Music – ABRSM Exams RHA AGM and Summer Lunch
Monday 11 th	Sixth Form Induction Week 2 to the 15 th
Tuesday 12 th	Art Exhibition
Wednesday 13 th	Summer Concert
Thursday 14 th	Year 6 Intake Day Year 12 Gold DofE Practice expedition to the 18 th
Monday 18 th	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 20 th	Stevensons Uniform selling event – 3.45pm – 5.00pm School vs RHA Golf Math
Friday 22 nd	Non Uniform Day Academic year ends School finishes at 12.30

Weeks

Monday 30 th May	Half Term
Monday 6 th June	Week 1
Monday 13 th June	Week 2
Monday 20 th June	Week 1
Monday 27 th June	Week 2
Monday 4 th July	Week 1
Monday 11 th July	Week 2
Monday 18 th July	Week 1

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