

**Weekly bulletin for students of Hayesfield Girls' School,  
their parents, guardians and families**



[www.hayesfield.com](http://www.hayesfield.com)

Week commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010

**No 18 09/10**

**Week A**

From the Headteacher:

**Update on Performing Arts and Sports Building Project**

I am conscious that it has been some time since I provided you with an update on the progress of this exciting development.

The inclement weather has unfortunately meant we have not progressed at the rate we expected; the rather large holes have turned into swimming pools and the ice prevented the foundations being laid! I never thought I would be happy to hear the sound of diggers, but work resumed in earnest last week. We shall be organising an open evening for parents and neighbours in March when we hope to be able to present you with the detailed interior plans and hope you will be able to help us make the final decisions about the internal décor and landscaping.

Erica Draisey

**Assemblies:**

Monday:	Year 8 – Mrs Brown
	Year 11 – Mrs Beasley
Tuesday:	Year 12 and 13 – Mr Taylor
Wednesday:	Year 7 and 8 – Mr Taylor
Thursday:	Year 10 and 11 – Mr Taylor
Friday:	Year 9 – Mr Taylor
	Year 7 – Mrs White
	Year 10 – Mr White
	Year 9 – Mr Price

**Forthcoming Calendar Events:**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	-	Governors' Personnel Meeting, 4.30pm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	-	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.15 – 6.30pm, Upper School
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Year 7 Science Rainforest Show, P3 – 5, Lower School Hall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Intermediate Maths Challenge, 1.20pm, Upper School Gym
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	-	PTFA Meeting, 7.00pm, Lower School Library
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Wizard of Oz Dress Rehearsals, All Day, Lower School Hall
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Saturday Detention, 9.00 – 11.00am, IT3 Upper School
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Year 12 Oxford Colleges Visit
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Wizard of Oz Performance to Primary Schools
	-	All Week Y12 Health and Social Care Work Experience
	-	Governors' Resources Meeting, 5.00pm, Upper School
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Governors' Curriculum Meeting, 5.00pm, Upper School
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Wizard of Oz Performance, 7.00pm Lower School Hall
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	-	In Service Day

**Christian Union**

New! There will be Christian Union meetings at Upper School in Room 11 on Wednesday lunchtimes. All welcome.

Mrs Mathias and Mrs Burden

### **Prize Poetry Competition for Year 9**

Write a poem on any aspect of World War I and submit it to your teacher. There are great prizes to be won! The winner will be announced in two weeks time.

Mrs Mathias

### **Intermediate Maths Challenge, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1.20pm**

Congratulations to those who have been selected to take part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A total of 90 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 are to have the chance to pit their wits against the finest minds in the country. The Challenge lasts 1½ hours and will take place in the Upper School Gym. Students chosen from the Upper School should make their way to the gym and be registered there. Students chosen from the Lower School should meet in the foyer at 1.05pm to be walked up by Mr Bent. Students will return to lessons for the end of Period 5. Mr Bent

### **Young Writers' Competition**

The Bath Literature Festival is running a writing competition again this year. The theme is FOOD and the closing date is 12<sup>th</sup> February. The English Department and the Library have leaflets with all the details. The prize is an iPod Nano. Let's have lots of entries! Mrs Bevan

### **Safe Places for after School**

#### Lower School

The ICT room is open daily from 8.00am until 8.30am and after school until 4.15pm, for students to access the internet and work on their homework.

The Library is open daily at lunchtime for students' use.

#### Upper School

The Library is open daily from 8.15am until 5.00pm.

We do have a variety of After School Clubs for students to attend.

For more information about the clubs running at school, please visit the Community and Clubs section of our website ([www.hayesfield.co.uk/community.asp](http://www.hayesfield.co.uk/community.asp)) to see a PDF file with all listings for each year group. If you do not have access to a computer, black and white copies are available from the Lower School Office.

There is also a link on the Community section to see opportunities available to students, families, parents and the community, as well as further links on the website to other outside providers of after school and outside of school care.

Mrs Nye, Extended Schools Co-ordinator

## **LITERACY SPECIAL**

The purpose of this 'Literacy Special' is to inform parents about the exciting developments in the School, to support and improve the levels of literacy of Hayesfield students.

All Secondary Schools are responding to the changes in Primaries' Literacy Hour. This work has raised standards in reading, writing and speaking and listening greatly and now it is up to Secondary Schools to continue and build upon these improvements.

At Hayesfield, we have identified three areas we would like to work on this year to support literacy right across the School's curriculum and to promote reading.

1. We want our students to produce better non-fictional writing, so we are teaching them how to write different kinds of texts in each subject area. This is really important so that students recognise that good writing isn't just for English lessons.
2. In line with our whole school focus on Assessment For Learning, we also want our students to take more responsibility for their own literacy, so we are promoting proof-reading of all work throughout the school to develop good habits and resourcefulness.

3. Finally, we want our students to become more active readers. We are encouraging wider use of the library and in the New Year we will be starting many initiatives and events to promote reading. The first of these will be **World Book Day** on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, when we will be encouraging all staff and Lower School students to dress up as their favourite character from a book.

### **What can you do to help your daughter?**

As a parent, you already spend time monitoring your child's homework. We would like you to continue to do this and, as part of this process, you might also focus on reinforcing our key literacy objectives.

Here are some practical ideas for ways in which you might support your child:

1. Ask your child to explain to you the **audience, purpose and form** (who, why and how) of her writing. It is really important that our students recognise that we write for many different reasons and in many different ways. This might be supported by encouraging your daughter to read a wide range of different texts, such as newspapers, magazines and even some internet sites.
2. Ask your child to **proof-read written work**, before submitting it. Highlight any errors which are featured in 'Mr Powell's Literacy Tips', reminding your child of the patterns and conventions of English spelling and grammar.
3. Look for the **literacy symbols** being used in every subject. These are explained in your daughter's Planner (page 14) and help you and your child identify where errors have occurred and perhaps identify recurring mistakes.
4. Encourage your child to **read widely outside of school**. Research shows that regular, wider reading is directly linked to increased performance across all subjects.

New books are often expensive but there are many other ways to find a good read:

- Use the school and local library
- Look in second hand book shops or charity shops
- Share books with friends
- Ask for books (or better still book tokens) for presents from family and friends

For ideas on what are the most exciting and appropriate books to read, talk to the librarian, book shop assistants or look on the **Love Reading** website which can be found linked to the school website.

### **Why The Literacy Tips in the Bulletin?**

We will be publishing a weekly 'Literacy Tip' feature to extend students' opportunities to improve aspects of their written literacy. Each week a spelling or punctuation issue will be examined. The issues are chosen because they have occurred in the writing of some students.

The aim is to explain why certain groups of words are spelt in a certain way or how an item of punctuation is used.

Many parents will help their children to proof-read their written work and will draw their attention to errors, without always being able to explain the rule or principle underlying the error. The 'Literacy Tip' aims to provide parents with that knowledge, so that they can support their children's literacy development at home.

In future weeks, we will be examining easily confused words, such as homophones and strategies that students can use to learn spellings more effectively.

Parents might consider keeping the 'Literacy Tips', to build up a collection of learning aids, which can be referred to regularly.

### **Mr Powell's Literacy Tips**

*(The first in a regular series, in which aspects of English spelling and grammar are explained)*

- Confused about the rule for adding "s" to words, which end in "y"? Read on.
- If the word has a vowel before the final y, (boy; day; donkey), just add s.  
Boy + s = boys  
Day + s = days  
Donkey + s = donkeys
- If the word has a consonant before the final y, (baby; jelly; lorry), add ies.  
Baby + s = babies  
Jelly + s = jellies  
Lorry + s = lorries