



HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 26 February 2010—Issue 16 Wk B

HEADLINES *from* ANDREW HUTCHINSON

Greetings!

I would like to start by thanking you all so much for the overwhelming messages, cards, letters, gifts and facebook messages that have encouraged me over recent weeks during my illness. Thank you!

As we start a new half term I have been deeply impressed by the hard work and community spirit at our College and the success of many of our students to achieve the very best they can, in our words 'be the best you can be'!

It came as quite a shock for me to be in hospital over the Christmas holidays and I know that many of you shared that surprise. Over the last couple of days of the Autumn term, I suffered some rather nasty headaches that would not go away which led me to see my doctor, who then referred me to hospital for tests during the holiday. As you will now know this came on very suddenly, as I can still remember enjoying the Christmas shows on the last Tuesday of term, a great time for all of us!

Since coming out of Queens' Hospital, where they diagnosed that I had a tumour in my brain, I have been preparing to receive treatment to reduce the size and impact of the cancer. I now need to attend Colchester Hospital every day for specific treatment, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. These treatments can make you feel even more ill but should reduce the size of the tumour. As you will know, I am very keen to be in College to see all students doing their best with their learning, but this may prove difficult for a while.

I have been delighted by the welcome I have received from all students and their encouragement for my improved health. I look forward to being able to continue to encourage all students to 'be the best you can be' in all their studies and in life.

STUDENT NAME

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM
4 January—1 April 2010
EASTER HOLIDAY
2—16 April 2010

COLLEGE OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Visitors Reception

8.15 am - 4.15 pm Mon-Thurs
8.15 am - 3.45 pm Friday
Student Reception
8.30 am - 3.25 pm Mon-Fri

STUDENT ABSENCE HOTLINE AND E-MAIL

We would be grateful if parents reporting absence would use our new service:

Tel: 01376 559356
jackie.jackson@alechunter.essex.sch.uk
Text: 07781474810

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The information contained in the Herald and any other communication can be made available in large print, electronically or audio format. Please simply let us know.

LINE MANAGEMENT

Please find below our line management arrangements for students. The first point of call for enquiries should be your child's tutor and then their Pastoral Manager. Our Achievement Co-ordinators focus on your child's progress in lessons. Also included are the Leadership Group responsibilities for each Curriculum Area to help parents in knowing who to approach for assistance.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Form Tutors				
Mrs Barnes Pastoral Leader	Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader	Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader
Mr Moreno Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Ogilvie Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stringer Achievement Co-ordinator	Miss Jones Achievement Co-ordinator	Mrs Stalker Achievement Co-ordinator
Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher – KS3 Director			Mrs Hills Assistant Headteacher – KS4 Director	

Miss T Leack	Child Protection
Mrs J Jackson	Attendance Officer

Should you have a subject-related query, for example, homework, e-folio, the first port of contact should be with the class teacher. Listed below are the Heads of each Curriculum Area.

Subject	Head of Curriculum Area	Senior Leader
English	Mr Ellams	Mr Birley
Maths	Mr Govender	Mrs Hills
Science	Mrs Stevens	Miss Leack
Geography/History/RE	Mr Guilford	Mr Birley
Technology and Art	Mr Todd	Miss Leack
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Bradley	Mr Lawn
ICT	Ms Walker	Mr Birley
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mrs Richards
Citizenship	Mr Barber	Mr Birley
Personal Development	Mrs Artus (Co-ordinator)	Mrs Richards

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CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

SIT SENSIBLY ON CHAIRS

VISITOR'S CAR PARK

We would like to remind parents that the Visitor's Car Park is closed between 3.10 pm and 3.30 pm to enable the safe departure of our students.

SPRING FAYRE

We will be hosting a Spring Fayre at Alec Hunter on Saturday 15 May 2010 and wondered if anyone would like to support by either donating toys, white elephant items, cakes (nearer the time), bottles for our bottle stall or a raffle prize.

Additionally, if anyone is interested in holding a stall then please contact Mrs Artus on 01376 321813 or email at lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk.

Please note advertisements regarding the Fayre will be issued nearer the date.

HEADTEACHER'S SURGERY TIMES

There will be no surgery with Mr Hutchinson for the foreseeable future. If parents would like to speak to a senior member of staff please contact Mrs Bootle in the College Office who will arrange an appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball Team who beat Maltings Academy in the semi-finals 5-2 and are now through to the final.

HERALD ONLINE

If you want to receive the Herald online, visit our website:

www.alechunter.com

Then enter your email address into the box on the left, it's very simple.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Danielle Lincoln	Year 7
Rebecca Kooyman	Year 8
Joe Scotting	Year 8
Chelsea Green	Year 9
Summer Monro	Year 9
Gemma Plank	Year 9

LISTENING CHAMPIONS

Ellis Haselden	Year 7
Ellie Phillips-Huxley	Year 8
Megan Day	Year 8
Jordan Edrington	Year 9
Laura Rose	Year 9

LIBRARY / MEDIA SUITE

The Media Suite is open for students every morning from 8.00 am—8.45 am and the Library is open every evening for students from 3.20 pm—5.00 pm.

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**YEAR 8 BEING SAFE PROJECT
TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

Year 8 were involved in the above activity all day on Tuesday 9 February 2010.

They learnt about:

- Knife crime
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Anti-Social Behaviour

All students were exceptionally well-behaved and were congratulated by the organizers as being one of the best year groups they had worked with.

Here are some of our students' comments about the day:

"Being Safe" - I learnt loads of interesting facts and the workshop I most enjoyed was the knife crime. We learnt what kind of situations can involve knives and to never carry one around with you" **Lucy Carpenter**

"My favourite part about today was the knife crime workshop. It was fund, but disgusting because some of the victims of knife crime had horrible scars and cuts".

"Today was very educational and fun, it was also nice to be with our friends and to learn something new, I also liked all the videos. I personally liked the racism class, at the end of the day, it was also fund voting and using the voting pad. Overall it was an enjoyable day" **Chloe Blayney**

BABYSITTING COURSE

Babysitting Club is held every Monday after College starting on Monday 22 March 2010 in A3

The course covers:

- Introduction to babysitting, rights of the babysitter and the employer and the law on child employment
- Accident prevention and fire and safety
- Looking after babies and children
- First aid and knowledge of infections that young children and babies may incur
- Dealing with challenging babysitting situations

If you would like to attend the course, please contact Mrs Artus by the end of half term.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Come along with a pad, pen and imagination

Thursday's 1.15 - 1.45

***Alec Creative Writing Club
L5***

The chance to write and develop your writing for fun and competitions

YEAR 10 EXAMS

Attached is a copy of the Year 10 Exam Timetable. Please note that students should be in normal lessons when not in exams.

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PERSISTENT ABSENT STUDENTS

The Government is taking a keen interest in reducing the number of 'persistent absentee' children who miss more than 20% of school sessions. In pursuit of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, the Local Authority is keen to support all schools in the drive to reduce this level of persistent absence and expects all schools to set targets accordingly.

A Persistent Absent student is defined as having at least 64 sessions (32 days) of absence in a full attendance year regardless of whether these absences are **authorised or unauthorised**. In real terms, this relates to students with attendance of below 80%.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR STUDENTS DURING COLLEGE TERM TIME

Due to a recent influx of applications we feel the need to clarify our position in approving requests for leave of absence.

Parents **do not** have a statutory right to 10 days leave of absence per academic year, although many believe this to be so. The college may consider approving a request for leave against criteria given by the Local Authority and only if there are exceptional circumstances. For any leave event to be considered a student's attendance must be very high.

Whilst we understand that holidays are cheaper during term time, this cannot be considered as a valid reason for approval, nor can odd days off for long weekends.

We would politely request that parents do not put the college in the position of having to decline approval for a leave of absence, which may lead to a referral to the Education Welfare Service. We greatly value the success of our students and any absence can be to the detriment of a student's learning. It is therefore imperative that avoidable absences like holidays are discouraged.

We greatly value the positive relationship between parents and the college and we would hope that you share and support our views regarding this issue.

OPERATION READ



We Want You!!

Students from Years 7 and 8—don't groan about reading or books any more - sign up for an exciting new competition—you will be given your own Unit Commander and missions to accomplish—great national and internal school prizes.

Are you up for the challenge?

Can you lead your unit into battle and win?

See the 'Operation Read' board outside the library and sign up inside your unit will be advised to you before half term.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

**Is English your second language?
Do you want to improve your English
Language skills?**

If so, Alec Hunter Humanities College
Will be holding **Free** classes from 5.30—
6.30 pm
Every Thursday
Starting 28 January 2010
(Except school holidays)

To enrol, please contact Mrs Lisa Artus
Alec Hunter Humanities College
01376 321813
Email lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk

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Anglia Ruskin
University

Cambridge & Chelmsford



BritishRedCross



IMPERIAL WAR
MUSEUM



LOTTERY FUNDED

CAD/CAM
IN SCHOOLS

humanities

Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust

EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Healthy Schools

FREEPORT
BRAINTREE

OUTLET SHOPPING VILLAGE

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