



# HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 5 February 2010—Issue 145 Wk A

## HEADLINES *from* TREVOR LAWN

Dear Family

It's been an exciting week at Alec Hunter, with a visit from the BBC. **Megan Tuck** (Year 10) explains more:

Students in Year 8 have taken part in a practice run for the BBC School Report, helping to create a website full of video reports, audio clips, and written text reports on school news, local news, national news and international news. Two members of the BBC, Penny Spiller, a news writer, and Gil Roberts, our video woman for the day, came in to guide the Year 8 pupils and make all the students feel famous for a few minutes, reporting in front of the camera.

Students worked hard to get all reports ready and proof-read on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, with the help of Ms Whitaker, Mr Hammond and Mr Whitwell, throughout the entire day. Then they were off, recording, writing, printing and taking pictures, working together as a team to create the best possible website they could, for the BBC. Throughout the day the 'Live Events' team linked up with other schools from around the UK and shared ideas and stories. The overall day was a complete success, and again the talent of Alec Hunter Students shone through. The impressive results can be viewed at [www.alechunter.com](http://www.alechunter.com), and have prepared the students well for the real School Report Day on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**SPTC DAY**— Students should have come home with a letter for SPTC day on 11 February 2010. This day is for appointments only, so College will not be open for normal lessons. Students do not have to wear uniform. If you need to change your appointment time please contact the tutor via the College.

**INSET DAY**—Friday 12 February is a non-pupil day.

## STUDENT NAME

## TERM DATES

SPRING TERM  
4 January—1 April 2010  
HALF TERM  
15—19 February 2010  
INSET DAY  
12 February 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

**'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'**



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



FREEMPT  
BRAINTREE  
OUTLET SHOPPING VILLAGE

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
<b>Form Tutors</b>				
<b>Mrs Barnes Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Mrs Porter Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Mr Deeks Pastoral Leader</b>
<b>Mr Moreno Achievement Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Mrs Ogilvie Achievement Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Mrs Stringer Achievement Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Miss Jones Achievement Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Mrs Stalker Achievement Co-ordinator</b>
<b>Mrs Richards Assistant Headteacher – KS3 Director</b>			<b>Mrs Hills Assistant Headteacher – KS4 Director</b>	

<b>Miss T Leack</b>	<b>Child Protection</b>
<b>Mrs J Jackson</b>	<b>Attendance Officer</b>

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 Hutchinson
Maths	Mr Govender	Mrs Hills
Science	Mrs Stevens	Miss Leack
Geography/History/RE	Mr Guilford	Mrs Hills
Technology and Art	Mr Todd	Miss Leack
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Bradley	Mr Lawn
ICT	Ms Walker	Mr Birley
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mr Lawn
Citizenship	Mrs Hewes	Mr Birley
Personal Development	Mrs Artus (Co-ordinator)	Mrs Richards

### **'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'**



**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.**

## CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

WORK WITHOUT DISTRACTING OTHERS

## JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION

COMPETITION: Win £15 itunes/Topshop/Book Vouchers

Who has inspired you?

JPF is celebrating our 10th birthday this year. Looking back over the last ten years, we've been thinking about the idea of inspiration.

To enter our competition, we want you to tell us about the person who has most inspired you. Whether it's Barack Obama, a teacher or one of your relatives, just tell us who they are and WHY they inspire you by posting on our Facebook fanpage. (If you're not on Facebook, email your entry to mail@jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk and we'll add it there for you).

We'll pick one entrant at random to win £15 worth of vouchers (you choose from iTunes, Topshop or book tokens).

Closing date: Friday 12 February 2010

## 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.

## 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

**Bethan Reading**-Year 7

**Bethany Sharpe** Year 8

**Kian Steward** Year 9

## LISTENING CHAMPIONS

**Robert Bones** Year 7

**Jordan Thomas** Year 8

**Daniel Perry** 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.**

## 'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.

### FREE COMPUTERS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

The Government has made grants available for low income families to enable them to buy a computer and get internet access. The total amount of the grant is £528. The eligibility criteria is on the web-link below. There are two sections and you have to meet all three points from the first section and one from the second.

If you think you are entitled to claim please ring Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to get an application form.

<http://www.homeaccess.org.uk/information-for-parents>

### NIKKI GRAHAME VISITS ALEC HUNTER

On Wednesday 27 January 2010 Nikki Grahame from Big Brother visited Alec Hunter Humanities College to talk to a group of Year 9 students on her experiences of having an eating disorder from the age of 8 years old.

A Year 9 English class has been taking part in a project with Tracey Shave from Moulding Futures and their English teacher, Mrs Adams.

This project links with our aims as a College to promote awareness of various health related issues for our students and the Community, as part of our Community Cohesion Agenda. We are producing a magazine that raises awareness to the Community and students about mental illness. The final magazine will be published and distributed to the Community.

### 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***

### HAITI

On behalf of the Red Cross Partnership, Alec Hunter Humanities College will be forwarding donations for Haiti.

If you would like to donate please forward your donations to the College by 12 February.

**'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'**



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.

## GOING TO LONDON!

After winning a competition to help encourage young people to vote, four pupils of Alec Hunter Humanities College this week enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament and the opportunity to meet and chat with Braintree MP, Brooks Newmark.

The designs of **Megan Day, Emily Rose, Eric Brain** and **Zeb Goodes** were selected from over 280 entries. Their work will replace the council's original card designs and, over the next 12 months, will be sent out to all residents who turn 18 to encourage them to vote.

Brooks Newmark said: "I was delighted to meet with the competition winners from Alec Hunter here at Parliament today to discuss local democracy. It is especially important that we engage with young people locally to explain just how crucial the right to vote is and the responsibilities and opportunities this brings. After all, the more our youngsters get involved with local democracy, the brighter the future that Braintree can look forward to."

**Eric Brain** in Year 8 said: "London was brilliant! It was a really enjoyable time, with lots of things to do. We went to the Houses of Parliament, and had a private tour around the building! We saw the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and even saw a royal gallery! It was a really good experience in London, and it kept on getting better and better! We all met our local MP, Brooks Newmark, and asked him a number of questions about Parliament, his job, and what he is going to change about Braintree."

## 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](mailto:lisa.artus@alechunter.essex.sch.uk)

**'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'**



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.

## 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.

## ATTENTION YEAR 10 STUDENTS DO YOU LOVE OR LOATH THE BARD?

Your next piece of coursework WILL be to write about one of the greatest writers that ever walked the streets of London and one of his plays—why not come along to our special 'Globe trip' to really feel the action, help you understand the plot and characters, and develop your understanding of all those elements that will really help you achieve a great grade.

A day out at the Globe Theatre in London, go behind the stage, act out the really important scenes, find ways to understand the language as well as an opportunity to walk around the exhibition and hopefully speak with some of the actors—what more could you ask?

We are planning on taking around 90 Year 10 students on 15 March 2010. Please make sure that your name is on the list ...£23 including transport and entrance.

See Ms Adams if you need any further information.



## 'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.

## BRAINTREE SUPPORTS HAITI

Plans are progressing well for the concert, *Braintree supports Haiti*.

Organised under the *Churches Together* banner, the concert on Sunday 7 March at 3pm will feature performance groups from Braintree including the Braintree Choral Society as well as individuals and groups from other organisations including churches.

The concert is at Braintree Baptist Church, Blyth's Meadow. Tickets cost £1 (or more if individuals wish to give a larger sum) and are available from participating groups or Braintree Tourist Information Centre. All proceeds go to the Disaster Emergency Fund, and the 120 or more performers are being asked to purchase tickets for themselves as they will form part of the audience.

Alec Hunter will be represented at the Concert by **Jemima Payne and Elliot Boakes**

For further details contact Professor Chris Green (01376 324079)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students who recently cashed in their merits with Mrs Jackson:

<b>Emma Ashton</b>	<b>Steven Vieira</b>
<b>Thomas Bowen</b>	<b>Bethan Reading</b>
<b>Rebecca Javens</b>	<b>Rhys Panting</b>
<b>Sarah-Anne Austin</b>	<b>Lauren Seaman</b>
<b>Callum Teader</b>	<b>Georgie Smith</b>
<b>Nicky Hambleton</b>	<b>Bobby Brown</b>
<b>Nicole Harrington</b>	<b>Liam Keeble</b>
<b>Sky Devenish</b>	<b>Tom Bowen</b>
<b>James Atkinson</b>	<b>Ellis Haselden</b>
<b>Andrew McArthur-West</b>	

Special congratulations to **Chloe Beckwith and Chloe Bolton** who cashed in four pages of merits and collected their £5 Freeport Vouchers from Mrs Jackson.

## 'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'



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.