



HERALD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM ALEC HUNTER HUMANITIES COLLEGE 6 November 2009—Issue 6 Wk B

HEADLINES *from* ANDREW HUTCHINSON

Dear Family

Welcome back to a new half term. Students have settled back to work very well and the rest has clearly helped.

This part of the year is very important for students to work hard, in order to achieve their best results in the Summer. We know that hard work and concentration leads to the best results, and good results lead to students having the greatest choices for their futures.

- Concentrate fully in every lesson, always being willing to participate in learning activities
- Ensure they complete homework on the night it is set, always working for the correct amount of time, as specified in the student planner
- Re-draft work to ensure their final piece is the best work they can produce
- Ensure they meet all deadlines for homework, class work and coursework
- Revise fully for any tests
- Present their work to the best of their ability
- Ensure they are organised and have brought the correct equipment and books to every lesson

YEAR 11 STUDY AND COURSEWORK SUPPORT

The Library is available for coursework and homework every day at breaktime, lunchtime and after college from 3.30 pm—5.00 pm. Also A1 is open from 8.00 am—8.45 am every day.

Additional departments that offer extra help can be found inside this week's Herald.

STUDENT NAME

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM
7 September— 18 December
CHRISTMAS BREAK
21 December 2009—1 January 2010
SPRING TERM
4 January—1 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	Mrs Mitchell	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

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SWINE FLU



The Chief Medical Officer has advised that swine flu continues to be a largely mild illness, and the Health Service has responded in a proportionate and timely fashion to the threat. There is no sign yet of any major change in the pattern or severity of the illness. On that basis, the CMO has confirmed that our advice to schools of 26 August remains our best advice: individual school closures are now of limited benefit in stopping the spread of the disease. However, it is essential that adults or children with flu-like symptoms should stay away until they are free of those symptoms.

We do know that some groups are particularly vulnerable to any illness, including swine flu. This can include some children and young people with particular health conditions, including some complex disabilities such as cerebral palsy, which can make it more difficult for them to fight off viruses. We are therefore providing, alongside guidance for mainstream schools, guidance for special schools. This advises them to seek Health Protection Agency advice when they have cases, so that the HPA can advise what measures to take, which may in some cases mean a temporary closure to reduce the risk to vulnerable children.

There is now a vaccine available and distribution has begun. I want to ensure that parents of pupils with these conditions have all the help and advice that they need to be aware that their children are being given a high priority for early access to vaccinations. It is for parents to decide whether their child should get vaccinated, but it is right that schools are aware of the programme and support the CMO's advice that children and staff in at-risk groups should respond positively when invited to get the vaccine.

For that reason, the Health Protection Agency has now made available guidance - versions for special schools and mainstream schools - that you can find at www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu/specialschools

This email has been sent by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. For more information or to verify the authenticity of this email please contact: info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

CITIZENSHIP



We have been very privileged this week to welcome back one of our ex-students who is training to be a Police Officer.

Throughout the week he has been giving a presentation in Citizenship lessons, his focus was to teach our students about the role of the police in the community and the importance of being a responsible citizen.

All students participated to the fullest and have learnt a great deal about the very important job that the police do, in order to ensure that the community remains a safe place for us to live.

Well done to all of our students who participated in these lessons.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 7	Hannah Denson
YEAR 8	Charlotte Wright Jack Medland
YEAR 9	Bobby Park Lucyanna Abbot

LISTENING CHAMPIONS

YEAR 7	Olivia Spurgeon
YEAR 8	Amy Knight Kieran Twin
YEAR 9	Isabela Rotaru Bethany Patston

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NOTICE TO YEAR 9 PARENTS

The Parents' Evening planned for 12 November 2009 has been moved to 6 May 2010 so that it can provide a better overall picture of achievement in Key Stage Three, in line with the Government's removal of SATs.

Any parent wishing to speak with or meet their child's teacher should contact the College via the usual ways. Parents will continue to receive interim reports each half term and a full report in December, in preparation for the options process and Options Evening on 14 January 2010 at 7.00 pm.

MOBILE PHONES AND COLLEGE

The College rules about mobile phones are very simple. Whilst the College does not recommend bringing phones or MP3 players to College, students with the permission of parents may do so. Phones and MP3 players may only be visible outside of the building (ie quad and playground). If these items are visible or used inside the building, they will be confiscated by staff and phones will be returned at 3.20 pm that day and MP3 players the following Friday at 3.20 pm.

If students feel ill or need to contact home, they should report to the office and not call home, without letting our student support staff know first. There have been a number of embarrassed parents and students recently who have failed to follow this simple and safe guidance.

MEMORY STICKS

Could parents please remind students that if they are putting work on their memory sticks, the memory stick should **always** be backed up, either at home or in school.

MOVEMBER

At Sports Presentation Awards Evening on Wednesday 4 November 2009, just over £83.00 was raised for Movember.

Many thanks to all those who contributed.

There will be more news about Sports Presentation Awards Evening in next week's Herald.

HEADTEACHER'S SURGERY TIMES

Friday 13 November	8.45 am
Tuesday 10 November	8.30 am

HERALD ONLINE

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

www.alehunter.com

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

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

COME PREPARED

COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP ORDERING AND COLLECTION OF UNIFORM ORDERS

The College uniform shop is open on Tuesdays from 3.20—4.00 pm. This is for purchasing, placing orders and collection of uniform.

The College office does not take telephone orders. Order forms can be downloaded from the College website and sent in with your child, which will ensure that your order is correct.

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GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

In Citizenship we have had a really busy week. During this week all Year 8 Citizenship lessons have been visited by Chris Pinder who is an official guide dog puppy walker for the charity Guide Dogs for the Blind. She brought her dog 'Finlay' into lessons and talked about many of the aspects which are associated with guide dog training and the various complexities that are associated with it.

Here are some interesting facts about the charity -

- Did you know - that there are over 1 million people in the UK who are blind or partially sighted.
- There are 200,000 vision impaired people in the UK who could become more independent if they received outdoor mobility training.
- Each Year Guide Dogs for the Blind campaigns for the rights of the blind and partially sighted community, particularly on mobility and access issues.
- The charge for a guide dog is a nominal 50p, so financial circumstances are never a bar to guide dog ownership.
- The charity is supported by an army of volunteers, including 400 brood-stock holders, nearly 1,000 puppy walkers and thousands of local branch fundraisers

The modern guide dog story begins during the First World War, when thousands of soldiers were returning from the front blinded, often by poison gas. A German doctor Dr Gerhard Staling, had the idea of training dogs en masse to help those affected. While walking with a patient one day through the hospital grounds, he was called away urgently and left his dog with the patient as company. When he returned, he got the distinct impression from the way the dog was behaving that it was looking after the blind patient.

Dr Staling started to explore ways of training dogs to become reliable guides, and in August 1916 he opened the world's first Guide Dog School for the Blind in Oldenburg.

YEAR 9 ROAD SAFETY PLAY

During Period 5 and tutorial on Wednesday 25 November 2009, we have a theatre company visiting the college to present a play about Road Safety.

The aim of the play is to promote the importance of a seat belt and the consequences this can have regarding safety on the roads.

All of Year 9 will be involved in the play.

CYO 'MOVING UP' PROGRAMME

Year 7, during their Citizenship lessons, have all now completed the CYO 'Moving up' programme.

These lessons were designed to help with the students transition between Year 6 and Year 7 in order to make them feel settled in Alec.

Matt Ager, from the CYO, has taken a variety of lessons on the topics of Anti-bullying, Friendship and Communication.

The whole of Year 7 have all participated very well and are a credit to our college. Well done!

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