



HENDON SCHOOL AT THE FOREFRONT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The GCSE national league tables have just been published. Hendon School is celebrating the fact that it is now top of similar schools in the country. Out of 55 similar schools nationally, Hendon comes equal 1st. Hendon School is also one of the top performing schools in Barnet with 80% of the students passing English and Maths compared to 60% nationally. In English, 91% make good or better progress compared to 70% nationally, and 83% of the students make good or better progress in Maths compared to 71% nationally.

The school is currently demonstrating consistent success year on year. Despite reductions in top grades affecting all schools nationally this year, a third of all grades awarded to Hendon's pupils were either A* or A. In these stunning overall results are some remarkable achievements by individual youngsters. Eda Arslan, for example, achieved a national award for making exceptional progress and she is currently enjoying studying 4 challenging A Level courses.

The 6th Form is thriving: the majority of the highest achieving students have stayed on for their 6th Form experience because they believe in the quality of the education. Headteacher, Kevin McKellar says - 'We are thrilled that the consistent hard work of staff and students is paying off with outstanding results year on year. Our students benefit greatly from tremendous dedication and inspirational and exceptional teaching.'

The school is quite a unique school. It has 5 animal therapy dogs, 2 dedicated guinea pigs, and an ever growing population of mice being cared for by the students. It has a specialist provision for autism and deaf students and it takes a very creative approach to education - with a circus tent being part of the recent school production. Is this the formula for achieving top grades?



Eda Arslan meeting Denise Lewis at a National Awards Ceremony celebrating outstanding GCSE success

Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thanks to the parents who have contacted me about the meeting on the 27th January 2014. It is vitally important that you feel listened to at all times and that we create forums for you to share your views. I had a very interesting conversation with a parent this morning about behaviour and how she feels that it has improved over the years. However, we do appreciate that many parents feel frustrated that they cannot express their views, or that there may be no follow up. This is something that I want to tackle on the 27th January 2014.

On a more positive note, I was absolutely thrilled at the number of parents who turned up to the Year 11 Parents' Evening. 95% attendance! Thanks to the parents who also turned up to our talk on the 6th Form and thanks to the parents who have offered to get involved with our discussion on the 6th Form ethos. More information to follow.

Our school is in a very good place at the moment - in relation to our data, we are the top 1% for English, the top 1% for humanities, the top 3% for maths, the top 4% for languages and science. The national picture does not look so good and Hendon stands tall amongst other similar schools. But, we are never complacent and we are always constantly striving to do a better job.

We have our 100 year celebration coming up. The old Hendonians are all coming out of the woodwork to talk about their experience of being at Hendon School. Hendon School opened in 1914 at the start of World War I and there was a young English teacher who went off to fight in the war, never to return to school again. This is a deeply poignant story and one that we will share with you over the next few months.

We have a lot planned for the month of July and we are busy planning the publicity campaign for this important event. At a time when schools are being closed down, we must take this opportunity to celebrate our successful school. The Student Council, the 6th Form Leadership Team and the Senior Leadership Team are currently working on the plans. If you would like to be involved in any way, then please see Jane Theobald (theobaldj@hendonschool.co.uk) and she will make sure that you are part of this whole school effort.

And finally...

One of the old Hendonians talked to me about life during World War II and how tough it was to go to a comprehensive school in the middle of London during this time. I have just finished reading a very interesting book on Winston Churchill and his contribution to world freedom. One of the old Hendonians tells me that he was her idol and that her teacher would regularly read out interesting news articles as the war progressed. Churchill cut an inspiring figure as he defied air raid alarms to tour streets under bombardment. Apparently, he turned up everywhere - visiting war victims, inspecting facilities - using the victory salute as he clenched a cigar in his mouth. A true 'character' he worked a 14 hour day that kept 6 secretaries busy! He credited his drive and vitality to the fact that he relaxed while he worked and always rested before getting tired.



On his 80th birthday, honoured with well wishes and gifts from all around the world, he tearfully denied being Britain's inspiration through World War II - 'it was the nation and the race dwelling all around the globe that had the lion's heart. I had the luck to be called on to give the roar.'

Churchill won the 1933 Nobel prize for literature for his mastery of historical and biographical presentation. We will be promoting his writing during our centenary celebration month.

If you have any stories about being at Hendon, or know someone who is an ex Hendon student, then please encourage them to come to our celebration party. It really should be an exciting event.

Kind regards,
Kevin McKellar

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself to you. My name is Breeda McManamon and I am a Speech and Language Therapist working here at Hendon School. I believe that I am one of the first Therapists to be employed directly by a school in the London Borough of Barnet. Our school is fortunate to have another Speech and Language Therapist, Debbie Maycock, who works in the HARP (our provision for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders). Although I have a full caseload of students to see, I am more than happy to offer you any advice that you may wish to share about your child's communication.



Over-time, I would like to send out information and offer you the opportunity to come along to Hendon School to attend presentations or workshops.

If you would like advice about your child's communication you can reach me on 020 8202 9004 extension 296 or email me McManamonB@hendonschool.co.uk.

With very best wishes,

Breeda McManamon, Speech and Language Therapist.

Japanese Host Families

In October 2013 some Year 10 Hendon School students participated in a very successful trip to Japan. After staying in Tokyo, we spent time at Konan High School in a town called Hamamatsu in Shizuoka prefecture, about 4 hours south of Tokyo. During this time, our students stayed with families from the school.

In March 2014, 20 students from Konan High School will be visiting Hendon School. I am therefore looking for Hendon School families to host these students. It will be a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy a cultural experience. You do not have to speak Japanese as the Konan students speak English. It is also fine if you and your family speak a language other than English at home. Host students can share a room with another family member (of the same sex) and all families will receive a small subsidy for the extra expense. The subsidy of about £60 is designed to contribute to the cost of hosting but will probably not cover all of your expenses.

The students will be arriving on Thursday, 6th March and leaving again on Sunday, 16th March 2014. The students will be in school all day on school days and will spend time with their host families in the evenings and at the weekend.

I hope you will consider this opportunity and if you think you could be a host family, please contact me at school. My e-mail address is; langsamh@hendonschool.co.uk

Helen Langsam
Head of Japanese

Monday 27 January - Friday 31 January		
Monday 27 January	Parent Forum Meeting (Library) Parent Forum Meeting (Dining Hall)	11.30 am 6.00 pm
Tuesday 28 January	No Events Today	
Wednesday 29 January	PDS students at Middlesex County Cricket Club	All day
Thursday 30 January	Year 11 & 12 Careers Trip Middlesex School cross country championships 6 th Form MFL conference GCSE Maths Intervention	PM 3.50 - 5pm 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Friday 31 January	No Events Today	