



HYMERS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

No. 45 – December 2011

A Message from the Head

As you read through this excellent newsletter you will see, once again, that the school continues to 'punch above its weight' with several of our sports teams reaching National Finals and our examination results continuing to compare favourably with the top schools in the country. At GCSE the school recorded its highest ever percentage of A*s and no fewer than eight of our pupils gained a full sweep of A* grades. In addition, the Drama and Music Departments have collaborated on a spectacular production of Jesus Christ Superstar which would not have been out of place on a professional stage.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas.

David Elstone
Headmaster



Jesus Christ Superstar

After weeks of rehearsals, a cast of 80 students from Years 8 to 13, provided a wonderful week of rock opera with the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice production of Jesus Christ Superstar.

The young performers gave a moving and highly professional show with some exceptional performances, particularly from the leading characters. Ross Tomlinson played an excellent Jesus with Colm Talbot as Judas, Aubrey Capern-Burgess as Pontius Pilate and Hannah Brumby as Mary Magdalene. The supporting cast also provided some wonderful singing and dancing.

Ms Catlin, Head of Drama, commented, "The students were mature and focused, and put on a performance that was truly excellent. The cast have been delightful to work with, as they have been so helpful and good humoured and continually supportive of each other."

Hymers Students meet World Leader on School Trip!

During the October half term break, a group of Hymers Year 10 and 11 pupils went on a German History and Cultural trip to Berlin. The group enjoyed 5 days visiting the sights including the Reichstag and the Olympic Stadium, but the highlight of the trip was a visit to the German Chancellery and meeting Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor.

Max Caplin presented the Chancellor with a Hymers Book

and commemorative Hymers plate and spoke to her in German.

Mr Nicholls, Head of German (and tour organiser) commented, "It was a unique experience for the group. There are not many people who can say they met with a world leader on a school trip! Frau Merkel kindly gave up her time for a photo call, whilst dealing with the Greek debt crisis."



Question Time

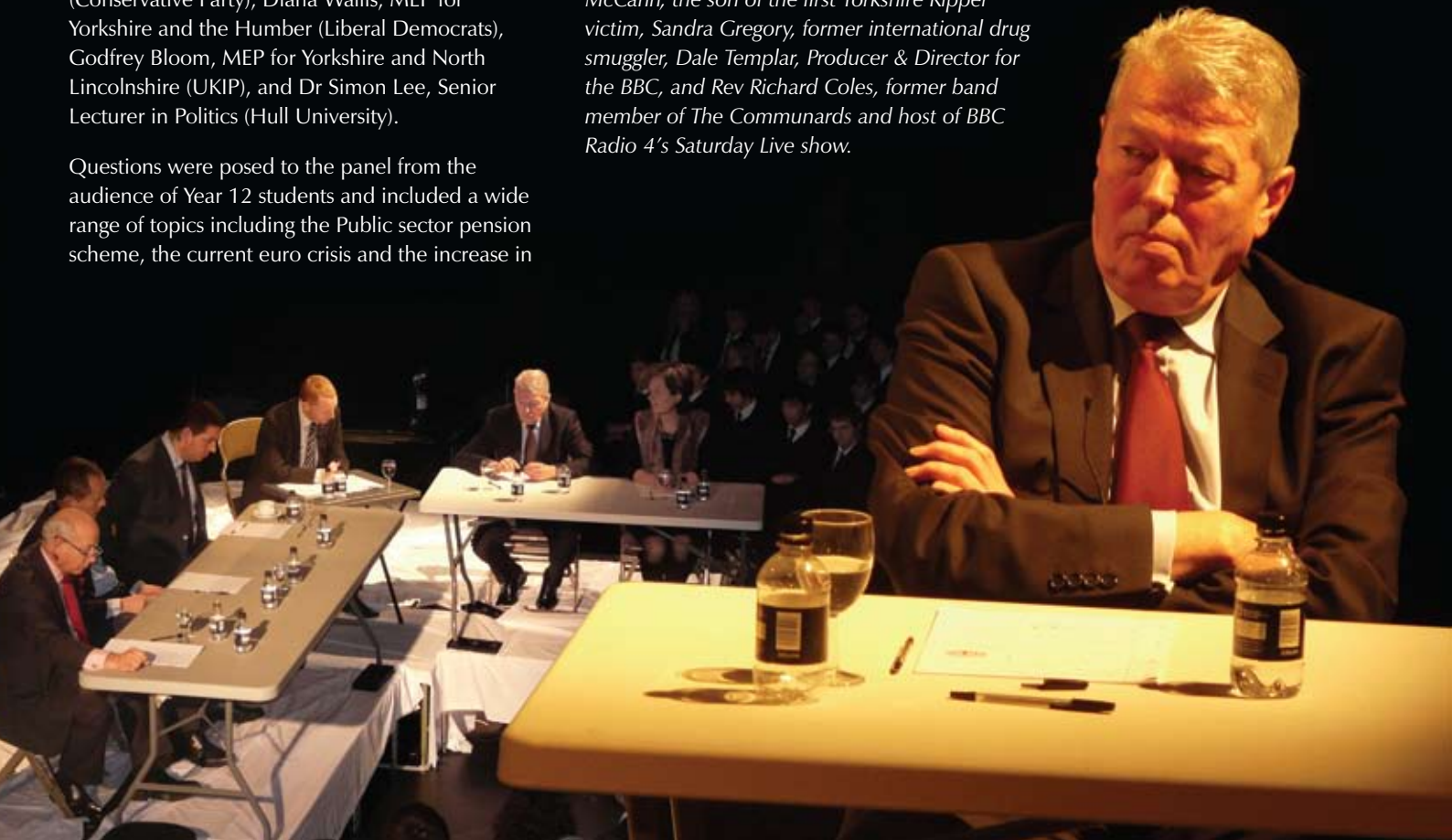
As part of the Year 12 Lecture Programme, Hymers College held its own version of Question Time with some key local figures from the world of politics. The panel comprised of:

Alan Johnson, MP for West Hull and Hessle (Labour), Andrew Percy, MP for Brigg and Goole (Conservative Party), Diana Wallis, MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber (Liberal Democrats), Godfrey Bloom, MEP for Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire (UKIP), and Dr Simon Lee, Senior Lecturer in Politics (Hull University).

Questions were posed to the panel from the audience of Year 12 students and included a wide range of topics including the Public sector pension scheme, the current euro crisis and the increase in

university fees. It was an interesting, lively and at times amusing session and gave the students a good opportunity to see the differing opinions of the different political parties.

Other visitors who have been part of the 6th Form Lecture Programme this term have included Richard McCann, the son of the first Yorkshire Ripper victim, Sandra Gregory, former international drug smuggler, Dale Templar, Producer & Director for the BBC, and Rev Richard Coles, former band member of The Communards and host of BBC Radio 4's Saturday Live show.



Crest Awards

In November, several pupils were presented with Crest Awards during an assembly - Colm Talbot, Andrew Chia, Amr Abdel-Hafiz, George Carruthers, Julia Lesna, Olivia McKechnie and Matthew Fitzpatrick. The nationally recognised CREST Award Scheme which is organised by the British Science Association is for project work in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). There are 3 levels to the Award Scheme – Bronze can be achieved in a day and is aimed at Key Stage 3 pupils, Silver is for project work totaling 25 hours work and Gold is for research projects and is typically 100 hours work.

Mr Mike Cargill from HETA (Humberside Engineering Training Association) presented the awards to the students. Mr Cargill, along with Professor Stephanie Haywood, from the Department of Engineering at the University of Hull, set up the Crest Programme for the Hymers students.



Arkwright Scholarships

On 28th October 2011, at a ceremony held in London at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Neale Franklin and Patrick Gittings, both Year 12 students, were awarded prestigious Arkwright Scholarships for their outstanding work in Design, Engineering and Technology.

The Scholarships support young people who show the potential to be industry's future leaders in Engineering and Design, during their sixth form studies. Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process comprising a detailed application form, a two-hour aptitude paper and an interview.



Maths, Physics and Electronics with an A in General Studies. Apurva has gone on to read Engineering at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He was also one of the school's high achievers who gained 10 A*s in his GCSE's in 2009.

In the GCSE results, several pupils at Hymers achieved a full set of A*s!

Jenny Morris, Siobhan Sweeney, Hannah Roberts, Claudia Habergham and Jyotsna Fernandes, all achieved 11 A* s and Elizabeth de Braal, Anna Reid and Sura Hassan achieved 10 A*s! Other top performers included Katherine Avery, and Patrick Gittings with 10 A*s and an A.

The overall pass rate was 98% at grades A* - C with 36.6% at Grade A* (a school record), 67% at Grade A and A*, and 90 % at Grades A* - B.

Out of a year group of 107 pupils, 66 gained a minimum of 7 A grades with an incredible 24 pupils achieving 10 A grades or better.

figures exclude General Studies

Exam Results

Hymers College had another excellent year in terms of examination results. The overall pass rate (A* - E) for A Levels in 2011 was 100% with 12% at Grade A*, 47% at Grade A and A*, 73% at Grades A* - B, and 89% at Grades A* - C. #

The school's top achiever was Apurva Chitnis with 5 A*s in Chemistry, Maths, Further

70th Reunion

On Friday 9th September, 10 former pupils of Hymers College paid a visit to their old school to take an assembly. It was 70 years to the week since they first attended at the age of 11. Peter Raine who arranged the visit has been organising reunions for the group for the last 20 years and it is 10 years since the group visited the school. Originally a group of 16 the visitors included Reverend Mick Dennison, Clive Kirk, John Roach, Alan Scott, David Tod, David Harrison, Norman Biggs, Geoff Stokell, Dennis West, Peter Raine along with some wives and widows of members of the year group. At assembly, Alan Scott gave a lovely account of their school days and what it was like during the war. This was followed by a prayer led by Reverend Mick Dennison. The group were then taken on a tour of the school which has seen many changes and developments since their time, most notably the swimming pool, the theatre and the addition of girls! The Old Hymersians then chatted with some Year 7 pupils who started at Hymers 70 years later – Ellie Stevenson, Laurence Marwood, Henry Tebb and Mecah Kerr.



Four generations at Hymers!

The start of this term saw a new pupil starting at Hymers College in Year 4 – George Clark, aged 8 - and he comes from a long line of Old Hymersians!

His dad, Jonathan, attended Hymers between 1980 and 1990, his grandfather, George Edward Clark attended between 1950 and 1958 and his Great Grandfather Kenneth Clark attended 1923 to 1926!

It is believed to be the only 4 generations of direct descendents to attend Hymers College – unless of course anyone knows better!

Children in Need

The Hymers Year 6 Choir sang at Hull Truck Theatre for the BBC Children in Need event on Friday 18th November.

Mrs Redhead, the Junior School Music Teacher, said, "The children loved the experience of singing to a packed audience at Hull Truck and were a credit to the school."



Remembrance Service



On 11th November, the school welcomed over 30 Old Hymerians at the annual Remembrance Day service. Mr John Clarke, Senior Assistant Pastor of the Hull Vineyard Church gave the address which was followed by hymns and prayers to remember those who have lost their lives fighting for their country.

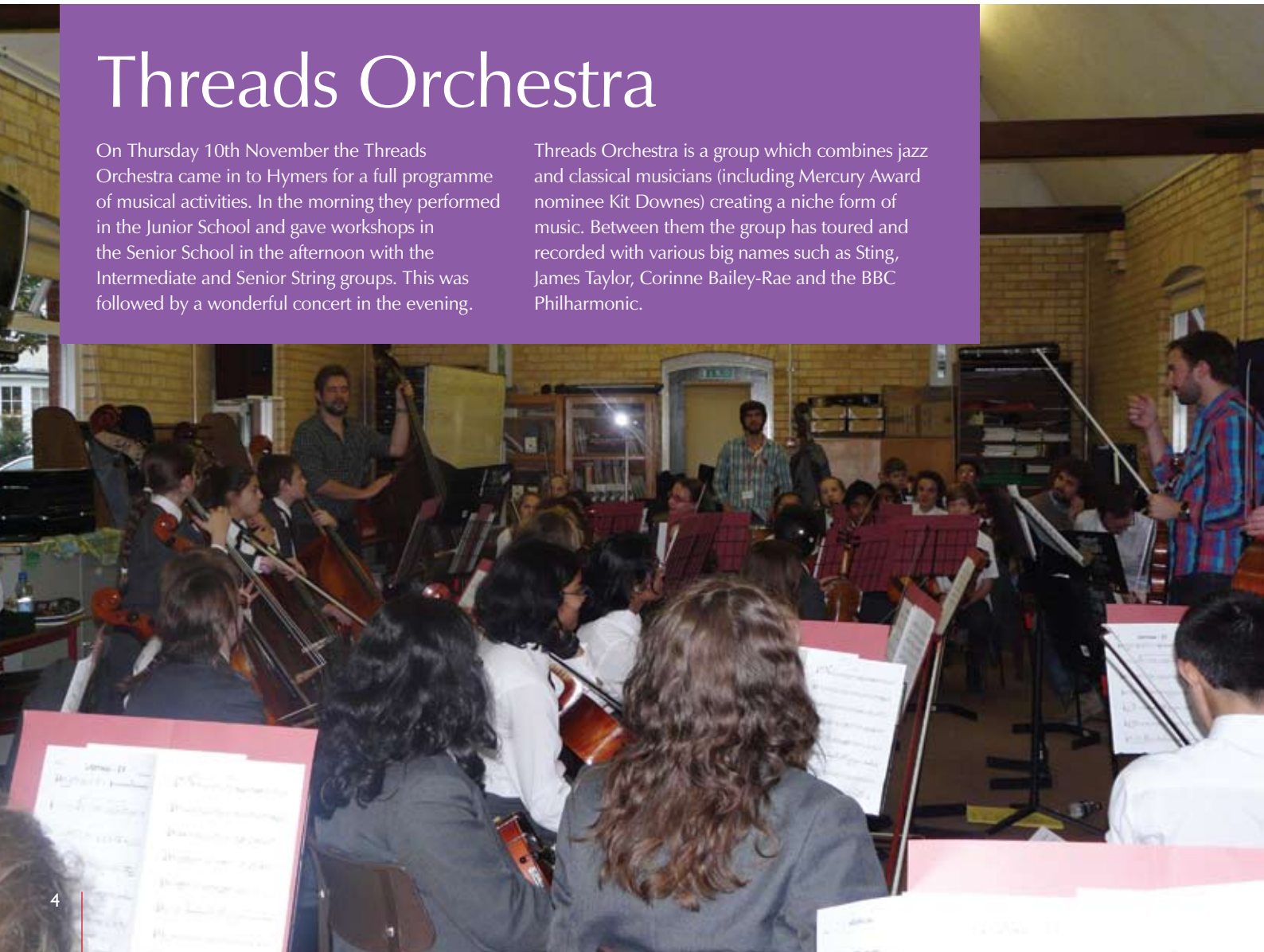
Christopher Meadway, a year 13 student, played the Last Post which was followed by the minute silence. The Chamber Choir then gave a moving performance of 'The Long Day Closes'.

Following the Remembrance Service, Old Hymerians joined pupils in the dining hall for lunch.

Threads Orchestra

On Thursday 10th November the Threads Orchestra came in to Hymers for a full programme of musical activities. In the morning they performed in the Junior School and gave workshops in the Senior School in the afternoon with the Intermediate and Senior String groups. This was followed by a wonderful concert in the evening.

Threads Orchestra is a group which combines jazz and classical musicians (including Mercury Award nominee Kit Downes) creating a niche form of music. Between them the group has toured and recorded with various big names such as Sting, James Taylor, Corinne Bailey-Rae and the BBC Philharmonic.





Africa Day

On Tuesday 27th September, the whole of the Junior School took part in Africa Day. The 'Mighty Zulu Nation' Theatre Company came in to the school to deliver a dynamic cultural performance, with interactive cross-curricular workshops taking place throughout the day. All of the pupils (and staff!) enjoyed the day with the grand finale performance taking place after school for parents.



Harvest Festival

The Junior School held their annual Harvest Festival in the theatre during October. The children brought in harvest donations and this was followed by wonderful performances from the Junior Orchestra and Year 5 Choir. The address was provided by Reverend Nick Bird who showed a short video clip about 'the circle of life' and gave a wonderful interactive talk and ended with a song involving the children clapping, singing and using sign language!



Charity Competition Winner

Olivia Brownlee, a Year 7 pupil, who came top in a competition to design a Christmas Card for Dove House Hospice, has had her design printed in to Christmas cards! She was the winner in the 'Traditional' category for Dove House's 2011 Christmas Card competition and sale of the cards will raise funds for the local hospice.

Junior School Sport

U11 Hockey Teams Win Tournament

The U11A and B Hockey teams were winners and runners-up respectively in the Hull Schools' In2 Hockey Championships. They now qualify for the county round to be played in January 2012.

Undeclared U9 Rugby

The U9 rugby players in their first season of rugby have taken very well to the sport. As we go to press they are undefeated in their matches so far. Hill House (20-5), Lyndhurst (20-0), Barlborough Hall (35-0), St Martin's, Ampleforth (20-0) and Birkdale School (15-10). Keep it up boys!

Junior School Rugby Tour to the North East



The first ever Junior School Rugby tour took place at the beginning of the October half-term holiday. The U11's went to Newcastle where they played matches against the Royal Grammar School (lost 14-17) and Dame Allan's School (won 28-7) – see school website for match reports.



The U14 Hockey team took part in the North finals of the National Schools Hockey Competition which was held at Leeds University. The team beat Wilmslow 2-0, drew 0-0 with Cheadle Hulme and drew 1-1 with Wakefield. They progressed to the semi final and

drew 1-1 with Altrincham. They then went to flicks and won 3-2. The team then played Wakefield in the final and beat them 3-1. All of the girls played really well on a bitterly cold and wet day and now go through to the National finals on 29th February 2012.



Tennis

The Hymers Boys U13A Tennis Team comprising of Harry Bayston and Ajay Mishra were crowned County Schools' Champions in September. They qualified for the Yorkshire Schools' County Championships by winning the East Yorkshire Aegon League. They defeated Harrogate Grammar School (North Yorkshire),

Allerton Grange School (West Yorkshire) and Bradford Grammar School (West Yorkshire) to qualify for the semi-final, where they beat the Hymers B Team to reach the final. In the final they were victorious over Bradford Grammar School.

The B team consisting of Cory Thurlow and Sam Bowers finished 4th overall.

Badminton

On Thursday 1st December, the Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys' and Girls' Badminton teams played in the Hull finals of the Centre Parcs National Badminton Competition. Both teams played brilliantly and won their 2 matches.

The boys beat St Marys 5-0 and Malet Lambert 3-2.

The girls beat Newland School for Girls 5-0 and Malet Lambert 5-0.

Cross Country

Four pupils took part in the Hull Schools Cross Country Championships held at St Marys Sports College in November. Senior Girls - 1st Storm Hayward, 2nd Adrianna Klejnotowska. Inter Boys – 1st Fred Howard, Junior Boys – Matthew DeLancey.

Schools In2 Hockey Hull Championships 2011/12

The U13 Girls beat Newland 3 – 0 to win the Hull schools round, and now play in Humberside Finals on Tuesday 17th January at Hymers College. The U13 Boys A and B teams played in the competition, and have both qualified for the Humberside Finals on 24th January.

Swimming

Three teams entered the English Schools Senior Relay Championships at Huddersfield on the 14th October. The Intermediate Girls team (Amy Felgate(C), Zoe Webster, Emily Vickers & Chloe Nettleton) were 3rd in both the Medley & Freestyle Relays. The Senior Boys team (Vieri Thonet, Aaron Tomasz, Liam Webster & Cameron Ferguson) were 4th in both events.

The Junior Girls team (Laura & Harriet Copley, Clare Oughtred & Georgina Nettleton) finished in 7th & 8th places from 17 teams.



U14 Netball Team



U16 Netball Team



U19 Netball Team

National Schools' Netball

On Wednesday 9th November, Hymers hosted the County Round of the National Schools' Netball Competition. In total 11 teams were playing for places in the Regional Round. Hymers had all 3 teams competing in the U19, U16 and U14 competition after having won their Hull Rounds. Throughout the afternoon, a high standard of netball was played and all the girls thoroughly enjoyed the competition. For the second year running all 3 teams progressed through to the Regional Finals, which will be held at The Grammar School at Leeds on Saturday 28th January 2012.

The U19s finished as County Runners Up and both the U16 and U14 squads go through as County Champions!

Rugby

Harry Rix and Jack Hewitt in Year 13 have both been selected and are currently playing for Yorkshire U18s. Both played in an undefeated U17 Yorkshire team last year and are hoping for similar success this season. This is Harry's 4th season playing at county level and Jack's 2nd season.



Dates For Your Diary

JANUARY

4		Lent Term commences (Day 4 - Year 9 Games)
		Year 11 Trial Examinations and Study Leave commences
5		Netball v President's VII (1630 at Hull University)
12	5.30pm	4AR Parents' Evening
13	4.00pm	End of Year 11 Study Leave
18	5.30pm	4FR Parents' Evening
21	10.00am	HCA Uniform Sale (Main Hall)
24	5.30pm	4K Parents' Evening
31	7.30pm	Amnesty International Concert in the Theatre

FEBRUARY

4	All morning	Entrance Exams (Part 2) Seniors and Juniors (all Year 12 pupils are required to attend School)
7	5.30pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
10	7.30pm	SOHCS Quiz Night
16		Years 4, 5 & 6 Disco in Dining Room
	TBA	Piano Concert in Memorial Hall
17	4.00pm	School closes for Half Term
27		School re-opens (Day 1)
29	7.00pm	Year 11 Information Evening about Sixth Form (Main Hall)

MARCH

8		Senior Chamber Concert in the Memorial Hall
12	7.00pm	Sixth Form Plays (Theatre)
13	5.30pm	Year 13 Parents' Evening
14	7.00pm	Sixth Form Plays (Theatre)
15	7.00pm	Sixth Form Plays (Theatre)
	TBA	HCA Chinese Meal
16	7.00pm	Sixth Form Plays (Theatre)
22	5.30pm	9A & 9B Parents' Evening
25	7.30pm	Senior Concert in the Main Hall
27	5.30pm	9C & 9D Parents' Evening
28		Non-uniform day (Charity Event)
	5.00pm & 7.30pm	Staff Performance (Theatre)
		Cardboard City Sleepout
29		Charity Day: various events tbc
	12.30pm	Term Ends

APRIL

24		Summer Term Commences (Day 1 Year 11 Games)
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