

14th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Concert

A massive congratulations to all students involved in the Christmas Concert that took place last Thursday evening. It was an outstanding representation of the quality of musicians that we have here at Richard Hale. Mrs Chadwick says that she is very proud of the students, their commitment, and the support they constantly give each other and wishes you all a fantastic Christmas from the Music Department.

House Christmas Card Competition

We recently ran our annual competition to design a new Christmas card for the school. This card is sent to a large number of people in the school and wider community and is a great opportunity to showcase the artistic skills of our students. We had a whopping 403 students enter this year, a third of the school! Entries were submitted by students in all year groups and we were blown away by the quality of so many of the designs.

Congratulations to Filip Bialczyk on coming 1st place for Kinman House with his beautifully festive design of the facade of our school. You can see his winning design on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Runners up were: Maty Hammock, Janav Singh, James Bailey, Murray Deacon, Oscar Moss-Moore, Amelia Brown, Alex Brown, and Harry Ripp.

Well done to everyone who entered; points were awarded for the top designs as well as the Houses with the most number of entries.

House Volunteering Competition

Today we launched with students a totally new House competition which we hope will inspire and engage a large number of students across all year groups. Students have been set the challenge of completing 5 hours of voluntary work, or 5 different voluntary activities, by the end of next half term. Today they were given lots of ideas for the sorts of things they could volunteer with and also discussed the benefits (both to them and their community) of giving their time to help out.

At the end of the competition points will be awarded to Houses based on how many students took part and completed the challenge.

We are asking parents to help with this new initiative as students will need to evidence that they have completed it. We are suggesting they either take photographs (if appropriate to the activity) or ask their parents for a signed note/letter to describe their voluntary work. These can then be uploaded to the Google Classroom which students have been given the code for.

Volunteering activities can be anything from litter picking to helping an elderly neighbour, collecting items for a food bank to helping a younger sibling with reading, and much, much more.

Thank you for your support with helping our students to take part in this competition. Please contact Mr Camm (pca@richardhale.co.uk) if you have any questions.

Careers Parent Network

We are very keen to build our network of parents who are willing to support our students with learning about careers and their future possibilities. We have an extensive careers programme within the school for students of all ages, but in order to bring this to life it is essential that they can interact with employers and employees across a range of sectors.

If you, or your company, would be willing to be part of our careers network please could you complete the short Google form below. There are number of ways you can support and there is no upfront commitment of time as there are a range of ways you might be able to support our students, both remotely and face to face. We are interested in hearing from parents across a wide range of sectors and professions.

The link is here: <https://forms.gle/JMtmG62qBLAhMy8v7>. For more information on our careers programme please contact Mr Camm (pca@richardhale.co.uk)

Football

There has been plenty of success and goals in recent Cup football. Full list of results below:

County Cup 3rd round

Full updates: <https://www.hertsschoolsfa.co.uk/competitions>

County update/results:

U12B v Parmiters – Date to be arranged

U12A v Verulam – Hale won 6-1

U14 v Hemel (plate) – game to be played in the new year

U15 v Bushey Meads (plate) – Game to be played on 19th Dec

U16 v Marriotts – Game to be played on 15th Dec

U18 v Kings Langley – Hale won 3-0

National Cup

Full updates: <http://www.esfa.co.uk/competitions/?boys>

- 7B vs Cardinal Wiseman (Ealing) – Hale won 8-0 to reach last 32
- 8A vs Passmores – Hale won 5-0 to reach last 32
- 8B vs Shenfield (Chelmsford) – Hale won 4-2 to reach last 16
- 2nd XI vs Sandringham – Hale won 9-3 to reach ¼ final

Reminder that sports updates can be found on 'X' (formerly twitter) - https://twitter.com/RHS_PE

Badminton

Congratulations to both U14 and U16 Badminton teams, who competed on Friday 8th December in the Herts County Championships. The U14 team finished in 2nd place after a very competitive final against Watford Grammar School. The team consisted of Charlie Palfrey, Harry Scott, Jacob Hill and Alex Corneliu (All pupils in Year 9). The U16s came 3rd overall after narrowly losing to Watford Grammar School in the group stage, which stopped them progressing to the final. They won the 3rd /4th place play-off. The team consisted of Jaxon Clarke and Kaja Novotny (Year 11s), Jack Gleed and Arnav Desai (Year 10). Well done to all involved!

Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 19th December

A reminder that Christmas Lunch takes place on Tuesday 19th December. For those who have not ordered a meal, please note that this will be the only food available that day so students who have not purchased a Christmas Lunch will need to bring in their own food. Free School Meals students have been automatically included.

Free School Meals Vouchers

Free school meals vouchers for eligible students for the Christmas holiday have been ordered through the Edenred portal for delivery by email on Thursday 21st December.

Christmas Holiday Closure

Please note that school closes at 12.30 on Thursday 21st December and is not open again until Monday 8th January.

2024 Ski Trip Meetings

A reminder that the information meetings for the February 2024 ski trips take place in the first week back after Christmas. The meeting for the junior trip to Claviere takes place on Tuesday 9th and the meeting for the senior trip to Wagrain takes place on Wednesday 10th January. Both meetings start at 6.00pm in the Main Hall and will finish by 7.00pm.

Staff News

Mr Smith will be running the London Marathon 2024 in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. Every day, seven young people aged 13-24 hear the words "you have cancer". Cancer doesn't just devastate their health, it threatens to take away everything they care about, their identity, their independence and their dreams. Teenage Cancer Trust funds specialist nurses, youth support teams and hospital units within the NHS to provide the very best care and support during treatment and beyond, making sure cancer doesn't stop young people living their lives.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated by Mr Smith.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alex-smith1901?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=alex-smith1901&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=355184e32eb947668120b0969612dde1

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

December 2023 Calendar

Friday 15 th	Sixth Form and Staff Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 19 th	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20 th	Senior Presentation Evening
Thursday 21 st	White Gloves & Founders Day End of Term, School finishes at 12.30

January 2024 Calendar

Monday 8 th	Spring term begins
Tuesday 9 th	BTEC exams start Junior Ski Trip Parents Information Evening
Wednesday 10 th	Senior Ski Trip Parents Information Evening
Monday 15 th	Year 13 Mock Exams Week Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Exams
Tuesday 16 th	Junior Ski – Gosling
Thursday 18 th	Junior Ski – Gosling
Monday 22 nd	Year 12 Mid Term Tests week
Wednesday 24 th	Year 8 HPV Immunisations (Year 9 immunisations moved to April) BTEC exams end
Friday 26 th	Sixth Form Politics talk
Saturday 27 th	Burns Night
Wednesday 31 st	Intermediate Maths Challenge

February 2024 Calendar

Thursday 8 th	School Production
Friday 9 th	School Production
Tuesday 13 th	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wednesday 14 th	GCSE Art Gallery Visit Year 8 Careers Networking Event
Thursday 15 th	Year 8 Careers Networking Event
Friday 16 th	Non Uniform Day 3.20pm finish Junior Ski Trip departs, returns 24 th
Saturday 17 th	Senior Ski Trip departs, returns 23 rd

Weeks

Monday 18 th Dec	Week 1
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 8 th Jan	Week 2
Monday 15 th Jan	Week 1
Monday 22 nd Jan	Week 2

Monday 29 th Jan	Week 1
Monday 5 th Feb	Week 2
Monday 12 th Feb	Week 1
Monday 19 th Feb	Half Term Week
Monday 26 th Feb	Week 2

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