



*effort achieves*

# Hazelwick School

# Newsletter

April 2014

## Dates for your Diary:

Thurs 1 May:  
Year 11, Leavers' Ball

Friday 2 May:  
INSET day

Mon 5 May:  
May Day Bank Holiday

Fri 9 May:  
Year 12, start of study  
leave, (3.10pm)

Weds 14 May:  
Year 8, Parents' Evening

Fri 16 May:  
Year 13, start of study  
leave (12.20pm)

Wed 21 May:  
Year 10, Parents' Evening

## April Reflection:

"Our lives are defined by opportunities, even the ones we miss."

*F Scott Fitzgerald  
(1896-1940)*

## Headlines

*Ms A Fearon, Headteacher*

Exam season is well and truly upon us. I have had a number of emails from parents of Year 11 students, who are facing the stress of public examinations for the first time, asking how they can best help their son or daughter. So, here are some hints and tips for parents of any students in Years 11, 12 or 13.

### Planning

The secret to doing well in exams lies in planning. Help your son or daughter to create a clear revision plan and method of studying that will make them feel in control of their work.

### Tips for revision planning

- work out a revision timetable for each subject
- break revision time into small chunks
- make sure all the essential books and materials, including plenty of past paper questions to practise, have been gathered
- condense notes by using one or more of the methods given by the Life Skills Company in the session on 'Maximising Success'. Use postcards, highlighters, mindmaps, prompt cards, etc.

*You could:*

- go through school notes with your son or daughter, or listen while they revise a topic
- encourage your child to attempt as many practice papers as they can - Arnold Palmer, generally regarded as one of the greatest-ever golf players, said, "The more I practise, the luckier I get."
- time your child's attempts at practice papers.

### Feed their minds

Sugar may give an 'energy hit' but it increases stress levels. Try to ensure that there are healthy snacks for them to eat and make sure they drink plenty of water.

### Encourage them to take some exercise

Physical activity is very important, particularly during intense study time. A brisk walk around the block can help clear the mind before the next revision session. Regular exercise can help reduce tiredness and stress.

### Reward hard work with treats

Regular breaks are important but only after a session of productive revision. Treats, such as a trip to the cinema or time out with friends, can be a fitting reward for work well done. It is essential, however, that the balance is right; there has to be more work than treats! The biggest reward will be results that are deserved when the envelope is opened in August.

### Build up their confidence

Encourage them, remind them of the quote from Henry Ford, "Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're probably right." Make sure your son or daughter knows you are interested in their work and that you will be proud if they do their very best.

### Remind them why they are doing these exams

For most students, these exams are a gateway to the next stage of life – to post-16 courses in the sixth form or at college, to A level exams next year, to university, to employment. Good results are themselves the best reward for hard work and will make your son or daughter proud of his or her achievements.

### On the day of the exam

Firstly, a good night's sleep before any exams is important. A healthy breakfast is also a must. Ensuring that your child arrives at school in plenty of time for the start of the exam is absolutely crucial.

I would like to wish all of our students every success in the forthcoming exams and hope that each and every one of them achieves to their full, well-deserved potential.



# News, Events & Activities...



## SAM Learning

Here are some of the Year 7 winners of our SAM Learning competition. SAM Learning is a fun way to learn online. Statistics show that, by using SAM Learning, a little every day can improve grades. Students can learn independently, on the move, or in school and they can access all elements of most subjects at the touch of a button. Well done to all those Year 7 students who won Amazon vouchers!

Mrs Burke

*Pictured from left to right:  
Mark Szalma 7JMI, Srinath Ragavan 7CBU,  
Akillan Sundararajah 7HWA*

## Engineering in Education Scheme Success

Six AS students have successfully completed the Engineering in Education Scheme this year. The Scheme involved the students working closely with engineers from local company L-3 to develop a sensor which will measure the accelerations experienced by the flight simulators the company manufactures.

As part of the Scheme, the students visited the company, took turns flying, landing (and sometimes crashing!) one of the £12 million simulators, attended a two-day residential workshop at Guildford University to develop their solution, and worked together as a team to research, develop and test their ideas.

The solution they came up with uses a Raspberry Pi computer to process the data, allowing a saving on current costs of 90%. The team were highly commended both by the panel of expert judges at the assessment day and by the management of L-3. The students have gained valuable experience of working in a group, problem-solving and presenting their findings. The project has also earned them a prestigious gold award in the nationally recognised CREST scheme.

All the students greatly enjoyed their involvement and would recommend the Scheme to anyone thinking about Engineering as a future career.



*Students involved (L-R): Adam Leonard, Michael Vanea, Charlotte Warnes, Scott Woods, Charis Bicknell, Ngan Le*

by Mr Nicholls



## Read On!

A fun way to introduce students to different authors is to explore the range of quality author websites and I have highlighted a few of my favourites.

### Jonathan Meres

Fans of the Diary of Wimpy Kid series will enjoy reading the World of Norm series, which is written with a similar sense of humour that appeals to boys. In addition to the biographical information and FAQs, Jonathan has pages dedicated to his visits to schools.

<http://www.jonathanmeres.com/>

### Tom Palmer

Tom Palmer writes excellent football stories and I have selected his site as he gives readers taster chapters from his books in the Free Reads section. Tom also includes video footage of him reading his stories, which students will enjoy.

<http://tompalmer.co.uk/>

### Rick Riordan

For students who enjoy stories based on myths and legends, check out the American writer of the Percy Jackson stories. Riordan's series are based on Ancient Greek and Egyptian myths. In addition to information regarding the different series, the site also includes a guide to the original ancient myths. There are also several fun pages too.

<http://www.rickriordan.com/home.aspx>

### Darren Shan

A site for horror fans, Shan's site includes the author's blog, examples of fan art and a message board. As Shan has written several different horror series, the information regarding his books is useful. Shan fans will enjoy the Shanville Monthly newsletter and additional stories and features in the Extra section.

<http://www.darrenshan.com/>

### Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell

If you enjoy fantasy fiction, check out this duo's site. Paul Stewart's fantastic stories are illustrated by the graphic artist, Chris Riddell. In addition to the biographical information about the author and illustrator, there are different pages on the site for their three popular series, Barnaby Rime, The Edge Chronicles and Far-Flung Adventures. I particularly enjoyed exploring the 'creatures' section!

<http://www.stewartandriddell.co.uk/>

### Jacqueline Wilson

There is a wide range of content to explore on this fantastic site. In addition to information regarding her books and characters, there are video interviews with Jacqueline, a gossip section and game zone. Budding artists will enjoy illustrator Nick Sharratt's section of the site.

<http://jacquelinewilson.co.uk/>

### Booktrust

I know I have mentioned the Booktrust site in a previous article but I thought it would be worth mentioning it again. This site is excellent at recommending book titles and introducing students to new authors. It has three separate age categories and has useful tips for parents and carers. The Bookfinder enables the reader to select titles by theme and the Booklists section is a useful place to start for recommended reads.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/>

Happy reading!

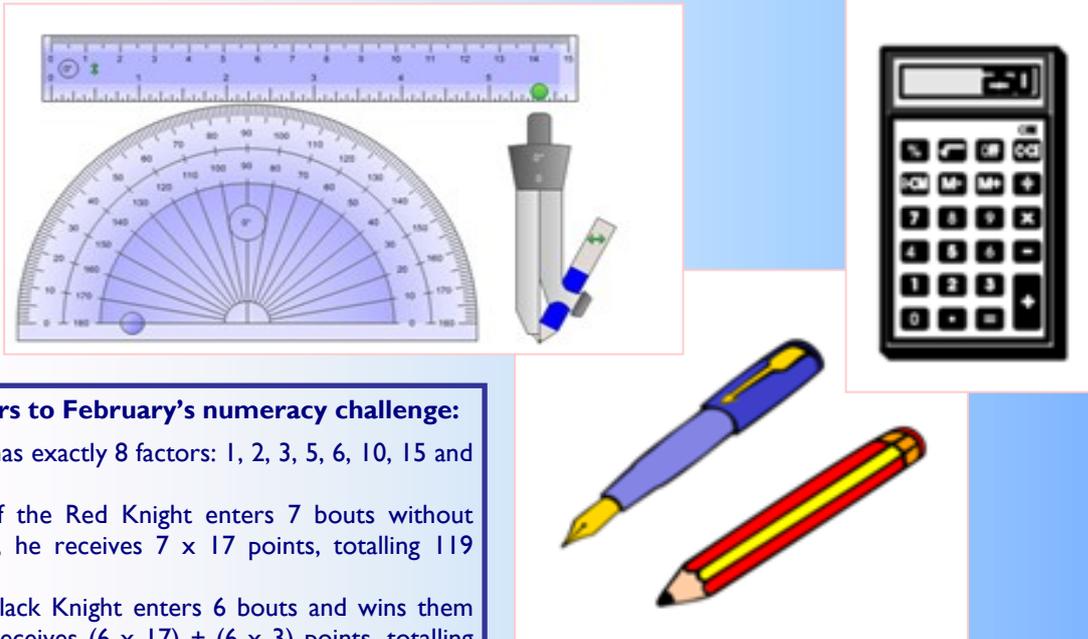
Mrs Thornton

# Maths

## April Numeracy Challenge

Be prepared to successfully meet the numeracy challenges across the curriculum:

Numeracy is not only confined to Maths lessons. As they make their way through a wide and varied curriculum, students at Hazelwick face numeracy challenges in all curriculum areas from drawing graphs in Geography, making scale drawings in DT, converting recipes in Food Technology and using formulae in Science. Achieving their potential not only in Maths lessons but also in the numeracy components of all curriculum areas requires students to come to lessons properly equipped. Please can you support your child by ensuring that they come to school with the correct equipment, illustrated below. This is particularly important when we look ahead to the GCSE exams in the summer. All of these items, together with other school stationery, are available to buy at cost price from the Library.



### Answers to February's numeracy challenge:

(B) 30 has exactly 8 factors: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 15 and 30

(E) 7. If the Red Knight enters 7 bouts without winning, he receives  $7 \times 17$  points, totalling 119 points.

If the Black Knight enters 6 bouts and wins them all, he receives  $(6 \times 17) + (6 \times 3)$  points, totalling 120 points. This gives him exactly one more point than the Red Knight.

Mrs Zeidler

## ...News, Events & Activities

### Homework Club

A reminder that Homework Club runs in the Learning Resource Centre, Monday to Thursday, from 3.10pm to 4.30pm, for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to study and, where necessary, to receive support from a team of Teaching Assistants. For further details, please ring Mrs Bending on the school number (extension 2333).

The majority of the photos featured in this newsletter were taken by Barry Holder and more of his excellent photography can be viewed on the school website.

For more details, please see the school website - [www.hazelwick.org](http://www.hazelwick.org) or contact us on 01293 403344