

# Comic Relief



The finale on Friday was jam packed with students being allowed to wear their pyjamas to school. Throwing a wet sponge at a member of staff in stocks proved to be particularly popular and Mr Sheppard found he was very much in demand!

During the whole school assembly for the last period of the day, two staff sat in a bath of beans – the bath had been very kindly donated by Wye Valley Reclamation - while the highlight of the afternoon took place in front of a whole school assembly. This included several of the male teachers getting their legs waxed and heads shaved followed by the Miss Academy competition which was won by Mr Tootell as 'Miss Too Sweet'.

The whole week was a huge success and the students loved the events that took place and raised a wonderful £519.35 for Comic Relief. Our thanks especially to Mrs Hossack who masterminded the whole thing and to all the staff who took part!



A fantastic week of events was hosted to raise money for Comic Relief ranging from welly wanging and doubles badminton to three-legged hockey and dance competitions!



## Science week

### The Hereford Academy had its own Science week from 16th-18th March 2009.

During the week several events took place.

**Popcorn Lectures:** Over 40 students enjoyed learning about how computers really work at screenings of the Royal Institute Christmas Lectures titled "High Tech Trek". We were most impressed with the number of Year 7s able to explain how microprocessors are made!

**Science Quiz:** Beating over 50 entries the winner of the National Science week quiz was Amy Newman who got 50/60 answers correct and won herself a £5 voucher for Hawkin's Bazaar.

**Assemblies:** Mrs Thompson and Mr Thorley confused most people in the school on Friday by walking on custard. Custard is one of the few materials that actually gets more viscous (sticky) under pressure. Their assembly was about opportunities in Science and they encourage you to look at the website called "futuremorph" for games, case studies and quizzes about Science related careers.

**Writing competition:** The Science department was inundated with entries for the Science writing competition. From muscle-rub to mountain bikes, the topics chosen to answer the question "How does Science affect Sport?" were wide-ranging. The overall winner (and now proud owner of a signed Hereford United Football Shirt) was Leah Chester in Year 8 who wrote about how gravity and upthrust affects football.

**Accelerated Science:** Room 4 was extremely smelly after students tested their acid-hardened eggs for their ability to withstand impact. Well done to those students who investigated how science investigations work through this and the maggot racing. After Easter we will be looking at the breeding patterns of Brine Shrimp – live ones (yes, how does a Brine shrimp choose who to fancy?). We would like to see more students involved in this club where we have lots of fun and learn a bit of Science along the way. Everybody is welcome- look out for the posters.

Well done everyone who got involved.

**Mrs Thompson**

# SPORTS

## We're onto a winner

The sports department have carried on with their great run of results and have again proved that the sporting prowess of The Hereford Academy continues.

### Football

Overall another successful season for our football teams. They worked extremely hard throughout the term and this was paid off in the majority of results:

	Won	Drawn	Lost
Year 7	1	1	1
Year 8	4	1	0
Year 9	1	0	3
Year 10	5	0	0
Year 11	2	0	2

### Rugby

Our Year 8 rugby team had only one match but it was a great one as most matches were played in the Autumn term, however the academy were the victors against Aylestone 36-24

### Netball

We have continued our successes in netball this year.

Our two netball teams the U14s (Year 9) and U16s (Year 11) have really taken to the sport and their hard work has paid off with two terrific teams that we have thoroughly enjoyed coaching. Congratulations to the following girls who are our Netball Players of the Year:

- Year 7 Leigh Simpkins
- Year 8 Chelsea Kinsey
- Year 9 Amy Saunders
- Year 11 Victoria Sachser

### Boxing

Nine of our students successfully passed their Preliminary Boxing award after attending an eight week course run by Wye Boxing Club. It is hoped that if there is sufficient interest, another course will run in the summer term.

### Junior Basketball



The 4th Annual Primary Schools Basketball tournament was held at The Hereford Academy. The standard was the highest yet with the young students displaying good passing and shooting skills. In a closely contested final, Riverside A played Riverside B with the A team coming out the victors 9-8. The Principal Mr John Sheppard awarded the medals and Trophy to the winning team.

### Futsal

The girls have had a great time playing Futsal this season and have thrown themselves into the sport and had a lot of fun.

The U12s have won 2, lost 2 beating Weobley and Wigmore

The U14s have drawn 1, lost 3 but have had a couple of close matches where it could have gone either way.

The U16s have won 2 lost 4 which were close matches showing the grit and determination of this talented side.

Congratulations to the following girls who have been outstanding throughout the season:

- U12 Robyn Smillie
- U14 Paige Parry
- U16 Becky Hayes

## House Sports

These are the P.E. house competition results for this term.

### Penalty Competition v. Mr Davies

Winners

- Year 7 Josh Francis-Newman (Atlanta)
- Year 8 Paige Parry (Atlanta)
- Year 9 James Phillips (Athens)
- Year 10 Ben Price (Sydney)  
Zac Sirrell (Beijing)
- Year 11 Dan Johnston (London)

### The Badminton Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who challenged and beat a member of staff!

- Year 8 Celine Jackson (Athens), Paige Parry (Atlanta) and Naomi Waugh (Athens)
- Year 9 Ievan Marlowe (Atlanta), Mike Pawlak (Beijing) and Abby Sterry (Atlanta)
- Year 10 Ben Price (Sydney)
- Year 12 Rhys Davies (Atlanta) and Scott Owen (Athens)

The overall PE Points table is as follows (all competitions, all year):-

1st	Beijing	100 points
2nd	Atlanta	98 points
3rd	London	85 points
4th	Athens	84 points
5th	Sydney	78 points



THE HEREFORD ACADEMY

NEWS  
LETTER  
SPRING  
2009



## Dear Parents and Carers...

We are now at the end of the second term as The Hereford Academy and I would like to celebrate with you our triumphs over the year so far.

We have been recognised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust as one of the five most improved schools in the West Midlands using our results from August 2005 to August 2008. Here we have seen a 41% rise in the percentage of Year 11 students achieving 5 A\* - C Grades from 33% to 74%. We have also been recognised as one of the most improved schools concerning our English and Mathematics results at GCSE.

The academy has been subject to two videos concerning our outstanding practice. The first focuses on our innovative Year 7 curriculum and the impact it has had on student learning. The second, which will be screened on Teachers TV shows the outstanding support students get at the academy from our committed and hard working Learning Support Workers. Congratulations to all staff who have been involved in getting this recognition.

Our talented students also need congratulating for their hard work in many areas. Our Year 11 students are now studying hard, aiming to complete their courses and achieve their "personal best" for August 2009. The final push includes

Easter revision sessions and after school sessions from now until the examinations.

The cast of "Dracula Spectacula" were excellent in the portrayal of a spoof horror story. Watching the performances on Tuesday and Friday night it was superb to see how confident the cast had become. Well done to all involved; but particularly to the principal actors who gave the show such assured performances in their roles.

Once again it has been a successful term for our sports teams and further details can be found later in this newsletter.

Mrs Atkinson and Miss Jeffery, on Saturday 7th March, took a team of 15 students to represent The Hereford Academy in a Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition, organised by the Citizenship Foundation and had great success. Our Year 9 team performed extremely well, winning two awards – the award for Most Improved School and the Magistrates Cup.

Finally, congratulations to 7ES1 who were the best attending class for the Autumn Term.

As we now engage with the Summer Term can I thank all parents and carers for their support over student progress and attainment, the academy uniform and helping us make The Hereford Academy a thriving place to learn.

**John Sheppard**  
Principal

## Improved Schools

The Hereford Academy is proud to announce that we have been recognised as one of the specialist schools and academies that nationally has significantly improved their GCSE results. This was celebrated at a dinner in London on Monday 23 February.

The Hereford Academy was identified as one of 5 most improved schools in the West Midlands as a Specialist Sports College, its performance at 5+ A\* - C grades has reached 74.4% this year, and at 5+ A\* - C grades including English and Maths from 2005 to 2008. These achievements have been recognised and celebrated by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. Mr Sheppard joined with a number of other Headteachers and Principals at The Royal College of Physicians in London to celebrate this success.

Elizabeth Reid, Chief Executive of the SSAT said, "If every young person is to receive a world class education then we must set world class standards that challenge every school to improve year on year".

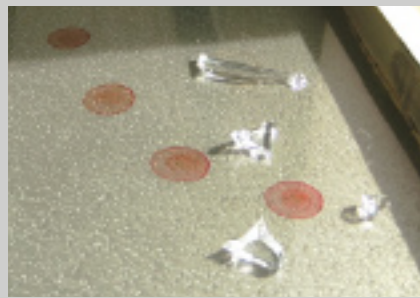
Mr Sheppard said of this success, "We are delighted to be recognised for the hard work, commitment and energy of students and staff. The Hereford Academy has made superb progress over the last three years and this sets the standard for our next three years. With this recognition and the development of a new £24million building, starting later this year, we are in a strong position to continue to deliver an effective 21st century education".

# Forensic Science

During science week all students undertaking the BTEC Diploma in Applied Science undertook a crime scene investigation using the forensic techniques they have been learning as part of this course.

It turned out, following a thorough investigation, to have been a vicious case of poisoning.

Students went on to report how much they had enjoyed the activities and have gone on to use their learning in other aspects of problem solving.



## MOCK TRIAL



On Saturday 7th March, Mrs Atkinson and Miss Jeffery took a team of 15 students to represent The Hereford Academy in a Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition, organised by the Citizenship Foundation. Our team performed extremely well, winning two awards – the award for Most Improved School and the Magistrates Cup.

## Revision in Swansea

Last weekend (28/29 March), 35 students took part in a GCSE Maths and English revision session at Swansea University. The aim of the weekend was to give the students a chance to revise the core subjects in a relaxed atmosphere, whilst giving the students a taste of university life.

The sessions started with group and team building exercises which involved students following the Tae Kwon Do moves of Mr Thorley. This was to help emphasise the importance of repetition in revision sessions to aid memory. These moves were seen again later on the dance floor with the backing track of Kung Fu Fighting.

## Caught on Camera Again!

After getting in touch with Chris Atkinson, our SENCO, Lambert Productions wanted to make a film about aspects of the work that our Learning Support Workers (LSWs) do at The Hereford Academy.

The film talks about the role they play, supporting the learning of students rather than assisting the teachers in class ensuring that every student's learning style is catered for.

We have 20 LSWs, some of whom support individual students. However others help in specific departments such as construction and science or literacy and

The following was an email from Howard Jones, Magistrate

*I thought the Academy team did an excellent job on Saturday and to win the second trial was the icing on the cake. I am sure that you and Sarah were very proud of them and pleased to see your hard work and your husband's ties rewarded!!!! I enjoyed working with you all and maybe we can continue the good work next year. I hope that the filming goes well.*

Regards

Howard Jones

Interestingly the moves were repeated with precision and all in time.

Afternoon activities saw the students either taking part in a fun session on the beach or strolling down to the swimming pool for fun and games. University life continued with an evening session in the disco where fun was had by all. One student said she had really enjoyed the weekend and had spoken to people she didn't really associate with at school. It was all positive good fun.

The students were a credit to the academy with their mature attitude and their willingness to embrace the experience.

numeracy. In the Learning Zone, we are able to take small groups of students or even on a 1:1 basis for intensive intervention which enables relationships to be built with students who are struggling, which may not be possible in full size classes. It allows the LSWs to encourage their students to take risks which they may not have felt able to tackle before but with often rewarding results.

The LSWs increasingly important part of life at The Hereford Academy is well supported and the students here are reaping the benefits of their knowledge and, more importantly, understanding.

# Dracula Spectacula

**Are you a Twilighter? Do you love Buffy? Does the mere mention of vampires (or is it vampyres?) make you tingle with anticipation? If so, Dracula Spectacula is probably not for you...**

If you think this suggests anything other than an outstanding production, you'd be wrong. The inaugural Hereford Academy drama production had both the pace and wit for everyone except the most ardent fan of the vampire genre. The audience were warned at the start not to take the play "too seriously", that it was "a bit of fun" and this turned out to be an accurate description of the performance.

This ensemble performance was well



led by the talented Becky Addis and Olle Grove. Stepping out from behind his drum kit, Olle showed that not only had he got legs but could also sing. This revelation was matched by both his and Becky's ability to hold the audience and to send up both themselves and the play. They were well supported by the hirsute Father O'Stake (Matt Payne), who sustained his Irish accent to the amusement of all, the pigtailed Gretel (Emily Davies) and the avuncular figure of Hans (Andy Smith).

But what of the title character? Barely



appearing in the opening half of the play, the audience were treated to the sinister and subtly threatening stage presence of Naomi Lowen who held centre stage throughout the second half of the play.

There were other outstanding performances in the supporting cast: Gemma Kinsey (Dracky's mother), the brides of Dracula and the Rhesus Negative Dancers all performed with energy and were clearly having a good time. The person who had the most fun though?



No doubt, Alun James from Year 7, who was seriously in danger of stealing the show in the role of the servile, wart faced, pointy nosed, villainous sidekick to Dracula, Genghis. He had the best lines and he used them well, down to the final line of the play. A star is born.

If you missed the show, sorry but it was great. Congratulations to Mr Baron, Miss Falconer, their crew and everyone involved in putting on the production. A triumph!

## Becoming the Principal for the Day

Mr Sheppard decided as part of the academy's fund raising for Comic Relief, he would undertake an experiment – partly in the spirit of Comic Relief but also as a serious task, allowing one student to swop places with him for the day. This would mean the successful student would run the academy for the day with Mr Sheppard taking their place in class – in school uniform, of course!

Anyone interested in becoming Principal of The Hereford Academy for the day was asked to submit a letter to the Principal's office, no longer than 250 words, explaining why they would like to take on the role.

The lucky candidate, Jake in Year 7, was chosen after writing a letter which certainly impressed. He explained that being the Principal for a day would be "really good for me because eventually, when I am older, I would like to have my own business, this would benefit me a lot as it would be very interesting to understand the day to day running of something I was in charge of".

Jake experienced a typical day in the life of the Principal at The Hereford Academy. At the start of the day, he met the Strategic Leadership and Management Team, followed by a full staff briefing before school started. He then started assembly and walked the site with a walkie talkie, accompanied by a member of the Senior Team, ensuring that behaviour in

classrooms was good. Jake also had a Senior Leadership Team meeting in the Principal's office and then dictated his report to the Principal's secretary telling of his experience. He said "I have learned that it is not easy being in charge of something as big as a school but that you get respect from where you least expect it. Being the Principal was quite difficult but I would love to do it again".



## People In Purple Year 6 Science and Technology Club

On Tuesday 10th March Science and Technology were overrun with "People in Purple" (a bit like Men in Black- but not men, and wearing purple). These Year 6 future spy recruits were put through their paces when they had to come up with agent names and teams. After they made secret i.d. cards they completed a team building exercise about how light travels which then helped them make a device to look around corners at the potential threat to their unit (Mr Snelgrove- who really didn't know what to think!).

Miss Shaw and Mrs Thompson want to thank the recruits from Marlbrook and the Year 11s (I mean secret agents) who helped out.

This message will self destruct in 10 seconds....

## Malvern College

As part of The Hereford Academy's continuing development, we are delighted and proud to announce a partnership with Malvern College, Malvern. As part of this joint venture, Malvern College is offering a fully funded place for one of our best performing students at GCSE in their Sixth Form, subject to the criteria set by Malvern College and a formal interview.

Malvern College, a high performing independent school, provides an environment for the happy and constructive growth of each boy or girl admitted to the school; the College is a community which, whilst rooted in the best traditions, is also in an exciting phase of development. The skills and values that pupils learn at Malvern College enable them to move into the future with the assurance that they are sufficiently resourceful to meet any challenge.

Mr Antony Clark, Headmaster of Malvern College said, "We are delighted to be entering a very special relationship with The Hereford Academy which not only entails providing a fully-funded opportunity for a student to attend our school, but is also under-pinned by mutual support by each school for the other in the spheres of science, sport and leadership. As time goes by we are finding increasing benefit from our interaction. Long may this continue!".

The Hereford Academy is the fastest improving school in Hereford and has recently been recognised as one of the five most improved schools in the West Midlands. We are committed to providing our students with new and vibrant opportunities in an innovative environment. We take seriously the fact that our students only get one chance at an excellent education and to this end we are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is able to take full advantage of the opportunities available.

This is a further extension of opportunities for students at The Hereford Academy enabling them to develop their learning experiences and to take advantage of different pathways in a 16-19 experience at Malvern College. The place will be fully funded by Malvern College in recognition of this new and positive partnership. In turn, The Hereford Academy will fund uniform and sports equipment for the successful student.

Mr John Sheppard, Principal at The Hereford Academy said, "This is another exciting partnership that we are looking forward to enhancing. It provides The Hereford Academy students with an additional learning pathway at 16. We are delighted to be able to develop this opportunity."

