Message from the Headteacher

October 2019

As the half term is rapidly drawing to a close a number of thank yous.

Fun Run

On Monday 23rd the whole school came together to take part in the annual fun run. It was a fantastic community event, which has so far raised over £9,000. This is going to be used on continual improvement of the outdoor environment across all key stages.

The primary phase was started by Michael Owen as the theme was the Rugby World Cup and they led by example, all competing to the best of their ability.

The number entering the elite race was the highest it has ever been and the following students won their categories:

Upper School Girl - Trixie Wraith
Upper School Boy - Jack Emsley
Lower School Boy - Kingston Griffiths
Lower School Girl - Lily Harrison-Stokoe

Thank you all for your generous donations and support with the event. Prizes were also given out to the best fancy dress in each year group.

Thank you to the parents on the PSA that supported the event.
Open Day

It was so encouraging to see so many of our students acting as excellent ambassadors to our guests on the 28th September. The site was full and I spoke to over 1200 people in the three speeches. Special thanks must go to Ben and Katherine, our Head Boy and Girl who spoke passionately about their experiences at Simon Balle. Once again we have received so much positive feedback.

The Larch Centre was open and next year we intend to use this occasion as one of our recruiting mornings.

Please tell your family and friends of the forthcoming dates:

**Larch (Reception September 2020)**

- Tuesday 19th November 10.00 am
- Thursday 28th November 10.00 am
- Monday 2nd December 6.00 pm

**Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 12, September 2020)**

- Wednesday 27th November 6pm to 8pm

**Harvest**

Thank you to all those parents who came to our Harvest celebration and who supported by donating to the Hertford Food Bank.

**Library**

Please support Simon Balle School Libraries if you shop with the The Book People. This is a new fundraising scheme where for every £10 spent TBP will give £1 to the school to spend on books. Further details are available by clicking on the link below and if you have any queries please email:

library@simonballe.herts.sch.uk
https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost

**Library Book Amnesty—Friday 18th October—Years 7-13 only**

Please return your overdue books in the returns bin outside the main Library doors anytime on Friday 18th October. There will be no question asked re: lateness of the books and no negative house points issued!

Thanks
Mrs Syme (Librarian)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates for your diary</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Descriptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSA Quiz night</td>
<td>Saturday 12(^{th}) October</td>
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<td>2(^{nd}) Battlefields trip (return 18(^{th}))</td>
<td>Thursday 17(^{th}) October</td>
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<td>Y13 geography field trip (return 25(^{th}))</td>
<td>Tuesday 22(^{nd}) October</td>
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<td>HALF TERM</td>
<td>28(^{th}) to 1(^{st}) November</td>
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<td>Volcano day Y8</td>
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<td>Y12 geography field trip (return 15(^{th}))</td>
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<td>Monday 18(^{th}) November</td>
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<td>Occasional day 2</td>
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<td>6(^{th}) form open evening</td>
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<td>Larch open morning</td>
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<td>House plays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larch open evening</td>
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<td>Frost Fair</td>
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<td>Y9 parents evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol service (evening)</td>
<td>Thursday 19(^{th}) December</td>
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<td>Carol service</td>
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Term Dates- September 2020 - July 2021

Please note that our term dates maybe slightly different to other local primary and secondary schools. Senior staff and Governors have deliberately chosen to break up earlier in July 2021. THIS IS TO AVOID PARENTS TAKING HOLIDAYS EARLY WHEN SCHOOL IS STILL IN SESSION. Indeed we are worried by the growing number of parents who continue to take holidays in term time, particularly those parents who have younger children. The Government holds us accountable for this!

**AUTUMN**

Tuesday 1\textsuperscript{st} September  
**Term starts**

Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} September  
**Inset 1**

26\textsuperscript{th} to 30\textsuperscript{th} Oct  
**Half term**

27\textsuperscript{th} to 30\textsuperscript{th} Nov  
**2 Occasional days**

Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} December  
**End of term (early finish)**

**SPRING**

Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} January  
**Term starts**

15\textsuperscript{th} to 19\textsuperscript{th} Feb  
**Half term**

Friday 26\textsuperscript{th} March  
**End of term (early finish for students only)**

**SUMMER**

Monday 12\textsuperscript{th} April  
**Term starts**

Monday 3\textsuperscript{rd} May  
**Bank holiday**

31\textsuperscript{st} May to 4\textsuperscript{th} June  
**Half term**

Friday 16\textsuperscript{th} July  
**End of term**

1 inset to be confirmed

Our term dates for 2020/21 are now on the public calendar.

**LOCKER KEY REPLACEMENTS**

We have managed to source a more affordable price for new locker keys and can therefore reduce the cost for replacements. From Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} November we will now charge £3.50 per replacement key.

**VACANCIES**

We have vacancies for a Caretaker and Achievement Support Assistant in Science. Please see our website for full details.
Year 7 Football Team

The Year 7 football team beat Dame Alice Owen in the County Cup (4-2) and have progressed to the next round of the competition.

Careers Update

Unifrog launched to Year 11 students.
We have now launched the Unifrog resource to Year 11 students, this means that students now have login information and have the ability to use the resource along with parents. By the end of October we will be launching to Year 7-10 students with more information to follow. Please see below for details

*Unifrog brings into one place every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college courses in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs and every college at Oxford and Cambridge. This makes it easy for students to compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses for them. They can also explore exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA.*

*Additionally, the platform helps students successfully apply for these opportunities by writing their personal statement, applications and CVs and guiding them through the process, allowing teachers to give live feedback.*

Your Future Presentations

Thank you to parents who have been in touch offering their services to speak to students about their companies, organisations and the opportunities available. We now have BT and Volker pencilled in to speak at the November lunch-time sessions. If you are interested in delivering a 20-30 session to a range of our students from 1.20-1.50pm on a Thursday lunch time, please contact me on bennand@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

Additional opportunities

Healthcare Careers Event

Saturday 30 November 2019
9.00 am to 2.00 pm

**There are no age restrictions and the day is open to everyone**

There are lots of career opportunities at Cambridge University Hospitals, whether you are looking to work directly with patients, or supporting the Trust and its patients from ‘behind the scenes’, remember in the NHS that #NoOneisBackOffice
Just a few of the areas covered by the wider healthcare team includes:

- Administrative roles such as Receptionists, Ward Clerks, Secretaries, Project Managers, Team Leaders and Admin Assistants
- Corporate Services, including Finance, Communications and the Contact Centre (Switchboard and telecommunications)
- Estates & Facilities, including Electricians, Carpenters, Plumbers, Maintenance Staff, Gardeners and Engineers
- eHospital, including IT Services
- Staff Bank Services – Temporary/Flexible Working Opportunities, including gap year opportunities
- Apprenticeships
- Support Services, including Fire Safety Officers and Porters

There will be tours of the hospital, including areas of the Trust that as a member of the public you may have not seen! Hands-on demonstrations, interactive displays and our staff on hand ready to talk to you about their role and life at CUH.

For more information and to keep updated with this event, please go to:

Business & Engineering Event - MBDA
INVESTIN Events

There are a number of Investin events taking place over the next few months, an example of these are as follows;

THE YOUNG LAWYER PROGRAMME

LONDON • AGES 15-18

24th November OR 15th December 2019
University College, London (UCL)

The Young Lawyer Programme gives students aged 15-18 a 360-degree experience of legal practice, wrapping up the key knowledge and experience you want to gain, delivered powerfully by leading lawyers from across the board. Throughout the day, you will be immersed in a series of interactive role-plays, simulations, seminars and Q&A sessions, to give you a genuine experience of life as a lawyer in some of the most desirable areas of practice.

You will leave the programme with a strong advantage over your peers in the hyper-competitive race for the most desirable legal jobs, and a fantastic experience to include in your UCAS form.

REGISTER NOW

Other events are as follows and more information can be found on the following website https://investin.org/

The Young Business Leader Programme
UCL: 17th November 2019

The Young Investment Banker Programme
UCL - 10th November OR 14th December
University of Manchester - 17th November

Start Your Career In Medicine. Now.
The Young Doctor Programme
King's College London - 10th November or 15th December
University of Manchester - 1st December

Please also see our new updated careers website http://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/careers-education/, feedback is always welcome.

For more information or if you’d like to support our careers events in any way please myself on brennand@simonballe.herts.sch.uk
**House Plays**

The Annual House play competition is taking place this year on 28th November, 7pm in the school hall. For those new to the school, this is a very long-standing event that encourages participation across the secondary school ages. Year 12 students volunteer to take on the task of directing a short 20 minute play and work (usually very successfully) to create a performance for the competition evening. All 6 performances are judged and the coveted titles of Best Overall House, Audience Appreciation and Outstanding Performer are awarded on the evening.

This year’s Y12 directors have been very busy and most have now cast their plays, having held very well-attended auditions at lunchtime and after school. The rehearsals are now being run throughout the week and it is important that the students keep in contact with their director to find out where and when they are being held.

Ashbourne Julianna Glinkowska & Rowena Carr  
Beane Trixie Wraith & Hannah Curry  
Lea Marco Tontodonati & Tom McGill  
Mimram Nayeli Tallis-Rodriguez & Adrienn Crawford-Dunn  
New Yolanda Robson & Victoria Dewey  
Rib William Muncer & Ruby Smith

Tickets for the event are £5 per person and are sold on the night. You will have the opportunity to nominate your favourite performance through the ‘Audience Appreciation’ ballot.

It is an exciting evening and a real showcase of talent, enthusiasm and teamwork. Put in in your diary now! Thank you!

Mrs Anna Palmer

**Theatre Trips**

We have been very fortunate to have completed two live theatre experience this term already. As part of the exam requirements, all drama students must be able to reflect on a live theatre experience and identify how performance skills and design elements are used to communicate the meaning of the play. All students will be following up on these experiences through discussion and written work.

On Wednesday 25th September, 10 A level students and their teachers headed by train to The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith to see a new adaptation of Ibsen’s ‘A Doll’s House’. The students study directorial interpretations of a wide range of productions, but have to complete their own for ‘Hedda Gabler’. So, being able to see how the director, Rachel O’Riordan, had identified the key themes through a modernised interpretation of a classic play, was an opportunity not to be missed. Having never visited this particular theatre before, it was interesting to see how the location for this production reflected the adaption of the play; where old tradition and new modernism work together (In 1966 the theatre was due to be closed and demolished. However, a successful campaign to save it led to the auditorium being dismantled and reinstalled piece by piece within a modern shell on its current site on King Street a short distance from the former Bradmore Grove location).
The key themes of patriarchy, gender politics and identity were explored through non-naturalistic techniques and clear character performances with the costume and music design supporting the director’s vision. With so much to be able to explore and analyse, this first theatre visit was definitely a good choice!

On Thursday 3rd October, 43 GCSE students went to Hertford Theatre to see the touring production of ‘Jane Eyre’. Being so lucky to have such a great theatre on our doorstep this was a fantastic opportunity to introduce the students to how a classic story can be told. Although we are not studying the text, the students will be using this experience to focus on performance skills and design elements.

The five performers for this production demonstrated skilfully the techniques of multi-rolling, physical theatre, clever uses of props and costume and engaging characterisations, taking us through the many dramatic events of Jane Eyre’s life. As well as that, all performers played a variety of musical instruments throughout the play. The Y11 students are currently completing their own devised work and many were discussing, as they left the auditorium, possible ideas they could use for their own work.

Thank you to the staff who supported these trips either through attending, covering lessons or accommodating the large numbers of students out and also to the parents who have contributed towards the funding of these extremely worthwhile trips.

Mrs Anna Palmer
Drama Clubs

There are currently 3 weekly Drama clubs being offered this half term. The Y3 & Y4 students who are booked in for Explorers have been coming to the drama studio every Monday after school to work with Mrs Anna Palmer and Miss Kairen Hesketh. They have been developing performance skills and learning about choral movement and choral speaking for a performance of ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’. Year 7 Drama club is run during lunchtime every Monday in the studio. During this 30 minute session the students are working on creating a physical theatre performance of a script, ‘Rainbow’s Ending’. Also during the same session time, in the Lecture Theatre, Y8-11 students are working with Drama Ambassador, Madi (Y13) to also create a performance response to the same script. It is our intention to combine the scenes together and hopefully realise a piece of work that can be shared to an audience….probably in the New year!

Annual Shakespeare Festival November 5th, 7 pm at Hertford Theatre

The Year 10 GCSE Drama students are currently rehearsing hard in their lessons to create a performance of ‘Macbeth’ for this years Shakespeare Schools Festival. All 21 students are involved in the ensemble adaptation of the play and are very excited about performing on a professional stage. The evening will showcase not only their work but that from John Warner and Presdales schools too. We have a group booking with the theatre, so can offer tickets at the bargain price of £8. If you would like to support the school in this opportunity we would love to see you there. Please contact Suzanne in Finance. Tickets are available via parentpay.

Albert Nwahba—Gofundme page

Our student Albert Nwahba has set up a Gofundme page to raise awareness for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) Please visit his page to donate:-  http://gf.me/u/vxcrp3

PSA

Thank you to those supporting ‘A Quiz with a Twist’, which takes place this Saturday 12 October. The event has now sold out! We look forward to seeing you for an evening of fun and games. Please note this is a cash only event so please bring your pennies to purchase drinks, snacks and raffle tickets. A list of those companies kindly contributing to the quiz raffle can be found on the next page. We are most grateful for their generosity and support of Simon Balle All-Through School.
Quiz Raffle Prizes

- Verulanium Spa day for two
- 3 month Hartham gym membership
- Family Photography Session (incl 12x8" print) with Patrick Photographer
- Reflexology treatment from Kay Tagney Therapies
- Ray Lowe Photography Gift Experience
- Kneady - 45 min Deep tissue massage
- 4x Hertford cinema tickets
- Free will writing service from VL Marriot Wills
- £50 Lipofirm voucher @ Aquatox, Hertford
- Legends Tennis - Free half day camp for 2 for an October Half Term Camp (3 – 12 year olds)
- Studio Fly: 2 spaces in one of our October half term workshops (under 14's)
- 2x The London pass
- 2x McMullen's beer presentation packs
- Serendipity £20 voucher
- Dog behavioural lesson - Janette Bishop
- The Brookmans Park Hotel: £30 Meal voucher
- Artshed Arts 1x £15 voucher
- Hamper
Dear Parent or Guardian,

We need your help to warn young people about the dangers and consequences of becoming a money mule.

**What is a money mule?**

A money mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs. Sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules.

Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing and people trafficking.

**Being a money mule is illegal.**

When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

**What to look out for**

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

You and your child can learn more and get advice by visiting [www.moneymules.co.uk](http://www.moneymules.co.uk) together.

If you are worried that someone close to you might be caught up in money muling, you can contact Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling.**