



HARROW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BEIJING

TERM 1 - AUTUMN 20 August 2010

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1



Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of Harrow,

Welcome back - another year begins and we start with some quite wonderful news that heralds further success in the years ahead.

During the summer months we managed to secure the land agreement to go ahead with the building of the full School on its own green field site, in an area very close to the villa complexes of Cathay View and Beijing Riviera, which has very attractive surroundings and a new underground station within walking distance.

Our A level results which were published yesterday surpass all previous years. We have a 46% A grade pass rate with 17% of students passing with A* and 100% passes in particular modules. The overall A - C pass rate stands at 82% which competes well with the independent schools in Britain and is an 11% improvement on last year. Congratulations all round! Full results will be published in due course.

Following the publication of results students are busy confirming their choices for the year ahead - UCL, Imperial, Warwick, McGill and Penn State are amongst those confirmed and this year we celebrate our first entrant to Wadham College Oxford, Shuang Yu (Wings) who goes on to study Human Sciences. Thank you to Mr Murchie and his team for their continuing support.

Early in the summer, Mr Towse, Deputy Head and I interviewed candidates for the position of Head of Upper School and Dr John Moore who is currently serving as Deputy Head at Putney Girls High School has accepted the invitation to join us later in this academic year.

During the summer a lot of work took place in the Upper School to create a better dining area, a new Science Lab, a new Art block and a Performing Arts area. Mr Jin and his team have worked tirelessly to complete the construction and all is expected to be polished and ready within the next few weeks.

While the construction work was taking place Mr Fall and his team upgraded the ICT facilities across the School and managed the implementation of a new information and reporting system to manage School records. Well done to that team without whom the School would not function in the form that we know today.

Also during the summer we hosted the Leap Language programme and the Fusion Drama course while sending a large number of students across to Harrow School, Rugby and Mill Hill on the Summer Activities programme arranged by Harrow School London.

The appointment of the new Head Master for Harrow Hong Kong has been announced. Mr Mel Mrowiec, the Deputy Head Master from Harrow School will take up the appointment for the School to open in 2012.

Also during the summer we saw the Harrow family grow with Nia born to the Turner Falls, Ciella to the Fourniers and Cal to the Toners.

Continued Overleaf

UPCOMING KEY DATES:

- 24th Aug GCSE Results Issued
New Parents' Evening 7pm
- 26th Aug Friends of Harrow Meeting
- 28th Aug Saturday English Starts
- 31st Aug FoH Meeting
- 18th Sept FoH Autumn Fair

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Harrow Sports

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Head Master's Letter Continued


Two days in the term has started. Walking into classrooms in both the Lower and Upper Schools today it is good to see students of all ages on task and excited to learn. The transition from Year 7 into Year 8 is going well - a credit to the care of Mr Towse, Mr Goodwin, Mr MacRae and the tutors who have managed this so well. On Thursday I was delighted to receive a visit from Mr Chiu, the owner of the School without whom none of the success above could be celebrated. The first day of term is always an exciting time and walking around together it was remarkable to see how good the School was looking and how quickly everyone had settled.

With the School in full flow it seems strange to draw attention to the new staff who arrived in Beijing this month but please note the new names and faces presented in this newsletter as well as the electronic calendar for the term ahead.

You should also expect a hard copy of the Home School Agreement that we would like you to consider, sign and return to the School as soon as possible. It is a carefully considered document that attempts to clarify the relationship between the Home and the School. If you feel there are details that you would like to have amended or that there are omissions, please correspond directly with Mr Towse, our Deputy Head mtowse@harrowbeijing.cn who would be pleased to discuss this with you.

A great year ahead, much to celebrate and so much more to follow on.

Stet Fortuna Domus,



Matthew Benjamin Farthing
Head Master



Expeditions Week

This year Expeditions Week is from Sunday 26th September to Thursday 30th September 2010. There are two pre-Expedition information evenings to which parents and students are invited.



Sixth Form Expedition Information Evening
Monday 23rd August 2010
Persimmon Hall 6pm.

Parents are very welcome to this information evening about Expeditions Week and students must attend. Students have the choice of 7 expeditions to go on this year. To help make the right selection for you, please come to hear the leaders speak about the trip they have organised.

Sixth Form can choose from:
North Korea
PADI
Biology and Geography field trip
Xing Ping
Community Service Project
Sailing Expedition
China Challenge

Years 7 - 11 Expedition Information Evening
Thursday 2nd September 2010.
Persimmon Hall 6pm.

Parents are invited to come and hear about the adventures their son or daughter will experience during this year's Expedition week. More information regarding each year group and their trip will follow.

Year 7 = Sailing
Year 8 = Huang Hua Chen
Year 9 = Inner Mongolia
Year 10 = Windsurfing
Year 11 = Yunmenxia

Rebecca Dorse



Sports Beijing Fall 2010 Programme Registration

Another programme of community sports from Sports Beijing begins! If you would like to register, come along to the Holiday Inn Lido Ballroom on Sunday 29th August from 10:00am - 3:30pm.

For a complete schedule of all community sign-up events, membership registration and sports sign up procedures, and program details please visit www.sportsbj.org or pick up a Sports Beijing catalogue at School. Please call us in the SBJ office at 6430 1370 or email director@sportsbj.com if you have any questions.

Michelle McTaggart
Sports Beijing

After School Activities

After School activities will start on Monday 30th August. Next week students and parents will receive detailed information regarding the activities on offer. The activities program is an essential part of School life; participation outside of the classroom is as important as inside to develop student's interests and skills further.

Rebecca Dorse

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Meet the New Staff

Welcome to Harrow International School Beijing!



Martin Towse
Deputy Head

Lower School



Lynsey Collis
Prep-Phase English Co-ordinator



Kelly Wort
Year 1 Teacher



Louise Lancaster
Mathematics



Michele Camargo
Early Years Teacher



Rebecca Li
Mandarin



Louise Fung
Mathematics



Hazel Jardine
English (P/T)



Alison Schmidt
Music Intern



Ai Li Liu
Teaching Assistant



Monica Smith
Teaching Assistant



Grace Zhang
Teaching Assistant



Sean Henderson
Teaching Assistant



Rumby Chikaka
Teaching Assistant



Kok Ming Hui
Teaching Assistant



William Buck
Teaching Assistant

Upper School



Stella Zhang
Head of Mandarin



Preston Baehr
EAL



William Small
EAL (P/T)



Anthony Kaburu
Science/Physics



Doug Smith
Science/Chemistry/ Year 8 Tutor



Richard Wort
Science/Biology/ Year 10 Tutor



Ian Bennett
Business/Economics



Steven Noble
Mathematics/ Year 9 Tutor



Linda Sutton
Assistant to the Director of Studies



Simon Lee
Intern



Jamie Murray
Intern

A Reminder from the Clinic

If any of your child's medical information needs updating, please inform the clinic at 6444 8900 ext 627 (Upper School) or ext 810 (Lower School) If you have changed your emergency contact numbers, please inform the School Reception at 6444 8900.

UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Mathematics News

MyMaths

Following a very successful integration last year, the Mathematics department is pleased to announce that we will continue the use of the web-based educational technology, MyMaths. This is primarily intended for use in Key Stages 3 and 4 (Years 7 - 11), but some AS modules (Year 12) also benefit from the site. Your child will be (re) introduced to the site and given their own individual log in number and password by their Mathematics teacher. Homework can be set directly as a task to be completed over several days and this will contribute to your child's assessment over the year.

Please do explore the site with your child. <http://www.mymaths.co.uk/> Our School's LOGIN is hisb and our PASSWORD is axis. Note that to access homework tasks, students will need to use their own individual log in.

Maths Net

I am also pleased to announce that the department has expanded the use of Maths Net for use in Key Stage 5 (all A level modules). I received very positive comments from the students that used this resource last year and it was also used in lessons by teachers. The site is <http://www.mathsnetalevel.com/>. Students can get their username and password from their Mathematics teacher.

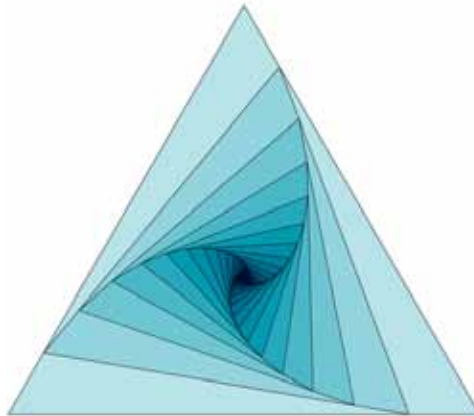
Geometry Sets

It is essential that all students have a geometry set and scientific calculator for use in School. These should be brought to all Mathematics lessons and also into all external examinations, where necessary.



Good quality Casio scientific calculators (Fx82 MS) and geometry sets may be purchased at the School shop. If possible I recommend this specific model as other calculators differ in their functionality and it is helpful for your child if everyone has the same model.

A level Mathematics students may also find it useful to purchase a TI 83 plus graphical calculator to complement their studies. Though this is not essential, they are certainly of benefit for A level study and may be used in examinations (aside from C1).



Finally, since we had a trio of items, here are some facts about the number three.

"Tri- means three. So triangles have three sides, tripods have three legs and the dinosaur triceratops had three horns. The French flag is a tricolore because it has three colours. Trigonometry is a branch of mathematics based on measuring triangles."

Source: <http://www.richardphillips.org.uk/number/Num3.htm>

Troy Wells



Dawes Day 2010

Dawes Day, held at the end of the Summer Term, was a great success this year, with the Year 7s being invited to the Upper School. Year 7 and 8 were mixed up into three groups and enjoyed a pub quiz with Mr Chaggar and Mr Toto, Art activities with Mrs Hilliger and Mr Peacocke, and puzzles with Mr Wells. Year 9 and 10 were also mixed up, they enjoyed some challenging Mathematics from Mr Dawes and an optimisation project with Mr Smith.



Having used students to create pi, ϕ (phi) on previous Dawes Days, we decided that next on our hit list should be the number e to 3d.p (2.718). Mr Chaggar and Mr Totoe did a great job of being the decimal point in a wonderful photograph (taken by Mr Peacocke) of the number 'e' to three decimal places (2.718). The students looked resplendent in summer short sleeved shirts and Harrow hats. Assembly was a smorgasbord of activities. Mr Smith gave out the prizes from his Dawes Day activity. There was magic in the form of a number of amazing 'tricks' conducted by Mr Chaggar and Mr Totoe. It was pleasing to see so many students figuring out how the tricks worked. There was a great lecture about the number 'e' by part of the Year 10 accelerated Mathematics group.

As usual we were captivated by the amazing mental agility of those taking part in our yearly Countdown final, with Amy Wang, who had won the competition over the previous three years, pipped by Howard Meng who took the crown. We also had the winner and runner up of the Sixth Form Mathematics Prize presented with their books, Danis Dang and Saikiran Adapa as well as Charlotte Liu being presented with her Gold Olympiad medal. It was good to welcome Year 7 too. Another great Dawes Day, well supported by staff and students alike!

Harry Smith and Troy Wells

UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Academic Matters

Outstanding A Level Results

It was back to action on Thursday and the School came back to life as all the students returned. After a couple of days most of the students have got to grips with their new timetable and new students are finding their way around the School well. The biggest news of the week, however, was the release of the GCE (A level) results.

Throughout the day on Thursday, lines of students waited tentatively outside the Examinations Office, anxiously anticipating the grades from the examinations they took in May and June. A fuller analysis of the results will follow in due course, but there are some outstanding results which deserve early recognition.



AS level examinations are taken in Year 12 and 73% of those students who cashed in their modules received grades A-C. More impressive was the fact that nearly one third (32%) of the AS grades were grade A.



Full A level grades are awarded on the basis of the results that students achieve in their AS examinations in Year 12 combined with the results from their A2 examinations in Year 13. This year we are celebrating a remarkable set of results.

One of the new developments in A levels has been the introduction of an A* grade as the new gold standard. This is awarded only to the students who achieve the highest standards across all areas of each course. The media in the UK has reported that 1 in 12 were able to achieve an A*.

In Harrow International School Beijing, however, 17% achieved A* - that is 1 in 6! In fact 46% of A levels awarded to our students this year were either grade A or A*. This places the performance of our students in the same league as those from independent schools in the UK.

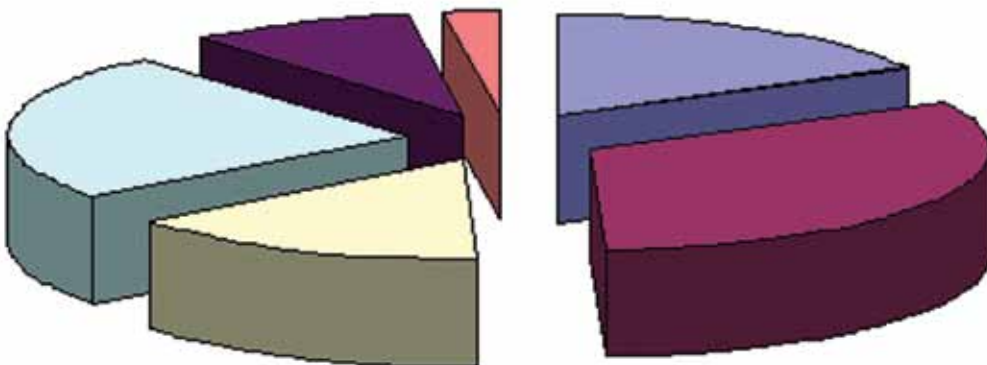
Across the board, in many different subjects, students can be rightly proud of their achievements; there are a great many stories of significant personal success. We had a number of very high achieving students who achieved multiple A and A* grades.

From amongst these talented students, one student deserves special mention for his exceptional achievement. Wang Siqi (Bill) achieved a remarkable tally of 4 A* grades at A Level, with a further 2 A grades at AS. Well done! He really has shown what is possible, and set the bar high indeed.

Alasdair McRae



A Level Grades: August 2010



■	A*
■	A
■	B
■	C
■	D
■	E

HARROW SPORTS

Team Trials

Welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed your summer holidays. The sport at Harrow starts in earnest next week with the trials for Season 1 teams, U19 Boys and Girls Volleyball and U14 Boys and Girls in the Upper School. In the Lower School U12 Football fixtures will soon be on the horizon. So if you wish to be in any of the teams the trials are as follows

U19G Volleyball Tuesday 1.00pm
U14B Football Wednesday 1.00pm
U19B Volleyball Thursday 1.00 pm
U14G Football Thursday 1.00pm

PE Kit

When you get back next week do not forget to pack your PE kit.

Also a reminder that the Harrow PE kit is expected to be worn for all PE lessons: Harrow PE top and shorts, white socks or blue football socks, same as the ones worn for fixtures last year, and clean sports shoes. Please do not wear fashion trainers as they are not suitable for lessons. No watches or jewellery are to be worn.

Simon Newbold



Did you know...

10 percent of all human beings ever born are alive at this very moment.

