Welcome back to Summer Term 2017! This term is set to be our most important and exciting ever with building works progressing as planned and our students preparing in earnest for their upcoming examinations. Reported in this Hertsbeat, we rounded up last term in style with many students receiving well-deserved Vivo awards, and a Year 10 trip to Mansion House in London, where they met the Lord Mayor. Following on from our U13 Girls as runners-up in the Premier League Cup, our Year 10 and Year 11 boys football teams won their respective District Cup competitions. We start with the Year 7 and 8 BBC School Report Team’s first article on our forthcoming world-class buildings—the first of many!

Peter Gillett, Headteacher

Reporting on Our Future by the Year 7 & 8 BBC School Report Team

On Thursday 16th March, our group of Year 7 and 8 reporters gathered for the BBC News School Report day. Year 8 had begun the day with an assembly exploring the details of the Academy’s new building, including a 3D animated walk through, which inspired our choice of topic.

We got together in the Meeting Room and shared a formal team brunch to select a news story we would film and focus on for the day. We chose to present our Academy’s world class new building and the impact it would have on us, our community and how it will improve our learning.

During the day we had the opportunity to interview our Headteacher, Mr Peter Gillett, about his thoughts on the Academy’s future. Some of us even took part in a group interview, so we could give our opinions about what’s to come. We were able to bring together our ideas, and to experience the life of a young reporter, editor, researcher and producer. We cannot wait for our next news day!

You can find our completed video report, ‘Foundations for the Future,’ on the Hertswood Academy Facebook page, or on our website at www.hertswoodacademy.org/bbc-school-report.
Vivo Stars and Academic Achievements by the House Leaders

In our House Assemblies before the Easter break, we were proud to present Vivo Star awards to students who, this year, have already achieved a phenomenal number of Vivo reward points. 72 students from across the years received a Bronze Award for 200 Vivos earned, 27 students reached the Silver Award for 250 Vivos, and 17 made it all the way to their Gold Award for 300 Vivos, and in some cases many, many more!

Leading the way with the highest totals were Somerville’s Nabrissa (Year 8, 525 Vivos), Cavendish’s Katerina (Year 8, 455 Vivos) and Somerville’s Rosie (Year 11, 405 Vivos).

The House Assemblies were also a chance for us to give out Academic Achievement Badges to students who have reached outstanding levels of academic success. The badge recipients are selected by the faculties themselves, and a total of 40 were awarded, from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. Congratulations to all of them, and well done to Somerville for earning the most (14 students) — though they can expect some strong competition to keep their title next time!

Visiting the Lord Mayor
by Mr Cooper (Head of Learning, Year 10)

On Monday 20th March, five Year 10 students were invited to meet the Lord Mayor at Mansion House in London. The trip was kindly organised by David Meller and involved five of the schools and academies from the Meller Educational Trust.

The Hertswood students had the opportunity to receive a tour of Mansion House, including the opportunity to see inside their impressive (and extremely valuable) vault. The students actually got to meet the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress and had the chance to ask them questions about what their roles entail.

The Hertswood students (Dilruba, Hazel, Ore, Ryan and Samuel) were overwhelmed by the history behind the building and were blown away by the grandeur of what they saw. Their conduct was a credit to the academy.

Double District Champions by Mr Marlow (Head of PE)

March saw both the Year 10 and Year 11 boys football teams win their respective cup competitions!

On Tuesday 21st March, the Year 11s took on Dame Alice Owen’s, with both sides having finished runners-up in the competition previously, and having drawn 1-1 earlier in the season. Hertswood dominated possession in the first half, and after a few early chances, captain Cameron put us ahead with a calm finish from his weaker right foot. A perfect cross from Freddie to Cameron at the back post made it 2-0, before a second half where Owen’s fought back, forcing some great saves from goalkeeper Ben. The pressure started to show, and a foul in the area gave Owen’s a penalty which they took well. The boys were left on defence, but held out well to finish 2-1 and win a trophy in their final game for the academy.

Thursday 23rd continued our Year 10s’ rivalry with Monk’s Walk. The two teams have dominated the competition since Year 7, and both teams showed their skill with a fast pace start. Goalkeeper Sam made some good saves in a first half with few chances, leaving it 0-0 moving into the second. With ten minutes left and tiredness settling in, Max woke up the game by sneaking behind the back four to slip the ball under the keeper. Being a goal behind forced Monk’s Walk to take some risks, and with more space at the back Max took full advantage to slot in a second. The boys finished 2-0 winners and District Cup Champions!