

## **Children from Highover School Hitchin play bridge at the House of Lords**

Nine children from Highover School in Hitchin were honoured this week to visit the House of Lords and play bridge with some Peers.

Following a tour of the Palace of Westminster, and a chance to meet with local MP Bim Alobami, the pupils played bridge with members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Bridge (APPG).

They showed that the game can be enjoyed by people of all ages and they held their own against the Peers, playing with a skill and confidence not often found in players of their age.

The children are part of the School Bridge Club which was set up with help from Hitchin Bridge Club some eighteen months ago. Hitchin Bridge Club, the largest bridge club in North Hertfordshire, started an initiative to teach bridge in local schools 18 months ago and has been involved in three local schools.

John Rogan, a teacher at Highover School, says he has noticed how the children have benefited from playing bridge. "I have seen a distinct improvement in the children's mathematical skills but also in their problem-solving, logic, and strategic thinking. As they are playing as a partnership it has also benefited their communication and social skills. But above all they really enjoy it and have fun - there is always great excitement at the school club when they are playing!"

The visit was organised in conjunction with the English Bridge Union and the national charity for bridge, English Bridge Education & Development (EBED). At the end of the visit the children were awarded their bronze level certificates under the EBED's Junior Award Scheme – they are pictured with their certificates alongside Lord Skelmersdale of the APPG for Bridge. The Hertfordshire Bridge Association (HBA) helped towards the cost of the transport to London for the group.

HBA is keen to encourage other clubs to start up clubs in schools in their locality and if you are interested but are wondering how to go about it Bernard Eddleston at Hitchin Bridge Club will be more than pleased to help you.

Contact details email:- [bernard.eddleston@ntlworld.com](mailto:bernard.eddleston@ntlworld.com)

Tel 01462 623447

