
Grey Coat

Number 152



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

APRIL 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term at school, after what I hope was a valuable Easter break for you all. It was good to have the whole of Holy Week and Easter week in the holiday period this year, instead of squeezing Easter into a long week-end, as we did last year. I was so glad to be able to give my thoughts to a proper preparation for Easter, and to celebrate knowing that there was time for rest afterwards too. I am sure that many of you will have felt the same.

I hope that all our students have come back refreshed and ready for the final effort leading up to end of year tests and exams. Revision must include active efforts to rework the material in one way or another – making lists of key points from memory, trying practice questions, etc. Parents can help by discussing the work with their sons and daughters, (explaining to you is an excellent form of revision). Regular meals and sleep are also important, as are a reasonable amount of fresh air and exercise. It is important for students to pace themselves so that they still have energy for the last exam, and there is a great deal parents can do to support them in this.

Many parents know that the school had a number of 'champions' running in the London Marathon this year. It was great fun to go out to see them go by on Sunday 26th April – a lovely sunny day. I spotted Ms Foley first, and was then able to take pictures of Ms Lecky and Ms Kaur as they passed the 7 mile mark. They looked fresh and relaxed at that stage, and really seemed to be enjoying it. Later on, as they approached the finish, Ms Anderson, our official school photographer, caught the gruelling effort to complete the course. All three achieved their goal in under 5 hours, a most impressive outcome! Members of the Parents' Guild suggested that details of how to donate to Sense, their chosen charity, should be publicised, and if anyone wishes to contribute, this information is still available on the school website.

We were, of course delighted to be given the accolade of 'outstanding' by the Ofsted inspector in March, however, as a Church School we now have another visit to look forward to, from the Denominational Inspector, Catherine Large. She will be visiting the school on 14th May to look matters of ethos, worship, RE and leadership with regard to Grey Coat's specific role as a Church School.



Top photo: At the 7 mile mark
Bottom photo: Celebrating their achievement

Rachel Allard

Attendance & Punctuality

If your child is absent for any reason, please remember to phone the school between 8 and 9am to let us know. The phone number for reporting absences is 0207 969 1998. For years 7-9, please press option 1 and for years 10-13 please press Option 2.



Please make sure we are notified in writing as far in advance as possible of any medical appointments. Please make sure the letter clearly states the time the students need to leave and the time and type of appointment. Your daughter's full name and Form should be on the note. Attendance and Punctuality is taken into account in all aspects of school life.

Attendance & Punctuality Years 7, 8 & 9

Punctuality was very good last term and most students arrived in plenty of time. Please remember that there will always be transport problems and unexpected delays, so do allow extra time for this.

Attendance

Attendance has been reasonable despite the many bugs going around. Please ensure that we get a phone call on every single day of absence and a note on the first day back to school.

Apologies

I would like to apologise for the following errors which occurred in the March Newsletter:

Lisa James 8G should have been given the 100% for the tracking period 24th October 2008 - 26th February 2009.

All the 100%ers in 7T and 7H were the wrong way round. 7H students were listed under 7T and vice versa.

*Angela Trainor
Attendance and Punctuality Officer, St. Andrew's*

Public Speaking Competition

Recently I was lucky enough to participate in the East London Regional Final of the Citibank Grand Final Public Speaking competition. The following week was the West London Regional Final, where Molly Clark took second place! Over the past few months Citibank have been holding workshops for students aged 11 to 16 in public speaking. Dallas, our fantastic coach taught us all how to write gripping speeches and deliver them to an audience. There were three stages to the workshops. At the end of each workshop we had to deliver our speech to Dallas and any other guest judges. They would then rate us and say who would go through to the next round. In the first round there were thirty people, then only ten went through to the masterclass, and then for the Grand final two people went through. Golda Kesse and I were the two finalists representing Grey Coat.



Maia Reddy-Devlin 9T, Golda Kesse 9H, Kirsty Korley 9G, Molly Clark 8Y

The grand final was held at our school in the Hall. There were twenty different speakers, and unfortunately I went last. The atmosphere that evening was excitable and everyone enjoyed the evening. The winners were from other schools but Golda won the most improved award. We had a fantastic time and we all learnt a lot from this great experience. Thanks to Miss Kirkaldy we were given the fantastic opportunity to learn how to write a speech and deliver it professionally. *Maia Reddy-Devlin 9T*

Trip to MTV Show

One, two, three... Action! shouted the main producer as the lights suddenly flashed on and a round of applause, cheering and screaming came from our group and our posters flashed up into the air.

The Spanish presenters ran onto the stage and started to sing the opening song of the "Staraoke" competition. Everyone was enthusiastic especially when we had to shout things out in Spanish, like "¡Pierdes!" (You lose!) and "¡Premios!" (Prizes!). It was so professional – two cameramen were running back and fro to get the clearest picture of the MTV "Staraoke" show.

A group of 30 girls was chosen from all of Year 8 CTH and Miss Camp – our organiser – elected the group very carefully. Probably most girls from the group will not forgive me if I don't mention that in the studio we met Eoghan Quigg from X Factor 2008! All that I can say is that we had a once in a lifetime experience and we want to say a big thank you to Miss Camp!

Diana James, 8H

Science Sleepover!



Above & below: Y7 students at the Science Museum sleepover

On Friday 27th March I was one of the 15 Year 7 pupils who went to spend a night at the Science Museum. It was a really fun trip and I made lots of new friends. There were loads of great activities to do including making rockets and watching an IMAX film about Space. There was also a talk where we learnt lots about all the different planets and saw the affect of liquid nitrogen on jelly! In the morning we were taken to the LaunchPad where we experimented with shadow catchers, heat sensors and pressure pumps. Although we didn't get much sleep, it was a great experience and I had an amazing time.

Amy Bickers 7Y



Library Corner

The Grey Coat Hospital is an official Carnegie Award Shadowing School and the shortlist for this Book Award will be announced on 24th April.

We have two Carnegie Shadowing Groups at school. Year 7 Reading Club and a group of Y10 readers will be reading all the shortlisted books, reviewing them discussing them and finally voting for a favourite.

If your daughter is interested in joining in please encourage her to see Ms Raddon in the Library at St Andrew's. Thank you. *Ms Raddon*

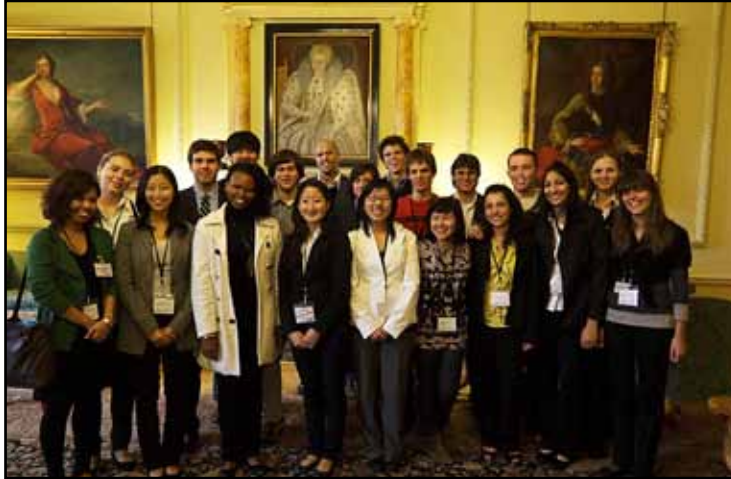
Global Change Makers' G20 Summit Workshop

To unpick the dynamics of an international (and regional) schools' summit in the hours after it finishes is no easy task. All of us know the current position we are all in, low economic growth, debts and high rates of unemployment were going to be some of the major topics in the G20 conference on April 2. Yet, before the all-important summit, the British Council gave an opportunity to 20 students and teachers from around the schools in UK to come

together and share their opinions on the current economic crisis.

The students were also joined by 20 international Global Changemakers who are the leading youth activists and whose

biographical introduction sounded so impressive that I would definitely vote for them as the next President/ Prime Minister.



The other students involved in the workshop



Tatyana outside No 11 Downing Street



Cherie Booth QC who made an inspiring contribution to the debate



Tatyana sitting beside Alistair Darling MP and Neil Kinnock

The most notable part of the 24-hour extravaganza must have been the meeting with Chancellor of Exchequer Alistair Darling at 11 Downing Street. Not only did I get to sit right next to the Chancellor and wave to the Mexican President who along with Gordon Brown was meeting the Changemakers next door, but we also got a 45-minute opportunity to address our questions to the Chancellor regarding the current crisis, and let me tell you: the questions were not easy.

Likewise, the meeting with Cherie Booth (aka Mrs Blair) on the subject of women's' rights was both inspiring and encouraging.

Having done no economics or politics either at GCSE or AS/A2 Level my initial level of knowledge was low, yet it is amazing to find out that after spending 24 hours with young economic experts suddenly you begin to feel like you know everything there is to know about the economy.

At the end of the day this was a life changing experience which made me realise that:
YOUNG PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD! Tatyana Zukova Year 13

Maths Revision Can Be Fun!

On the 28th of February and 28th of March the Mathematics Department held their two annual Super Saturdays: GCSE revision sessions run by former GCSE examiners. This time, Year 11 students were joined by some Year 10s, as this is the first year that Grey Coat has two Fast Track GCSE classes, with over 50 students taking their Mathematics GCSE exam in Year 10.

David and Khalil, the inspirational revision coaches, have been coming to our school for five years now. This year they were particularly impressed with the students' enthusiasm and mathematical knowledge.

Maths revision can be fun! This was certainly the case for our Year 11 classes who joined us for an extra revision session on Saturday 28th March. Little did we know that Sir Paul McCartney would help us with expanding double brackets, and that there is a special "Fractions Rap" to help us work with fractions and algebraic fractions.

"Flat across the bottom and cross your heart, so pick up a pen and make a start!"

We hope that the students will watch out when there is a minus about and that the "Loopy Loopy Song" will not cause too much disturbance in June.....

Remember ladies although we had a great deal of fun, there is the serious task ahead of gaining an A*-C grade in Maths, and we are sure that David and Khalil have put you on the right track! *David & Khalil, Mathematics Revision Coaches*



The Mathematics department also gave Year 12 pupils the opportunity to attend a Revision Class led by the Key Stage 5 Co-ordinator, Mr Stephenson. Pupils benefited from the high level of mathematical support provided and were able to consolidate their A-Level examination techniques. Geometry and Measures is a strand of Mathematics pupils always seem to find difficult. Miss Sekhri led a revision class specifically focused on topics such as circle theorems, surface area and volume and pupils found the one-on-one support very helpful. *See photos.*

You use it on a regular basis without much thought, but have you ever wondered how 'Google' actually works? A group of sixth formers could easily provide you with an explanation after studying an obscure branch of mathematics, called 'Decision', which deals with understanding sets of instructions. We were lucky enough to take part in a revision session run by the former chief examiner and author J. Hebborn who wrote the syllabus as well as the course textbooks, and everybody managed to take something valuable away from it. Some people merely understood a section better, whilst others learnt interesting new facts. For example, 'matching' graphs were invented by a Cambridge Mathematician searching for a logical 'formula' for men to find suitable wives. We were also taught how to solve tricky problems regarding obtaining maximal profits, something that apparently even business and management university students struggle with. If you're not familiar with maths, then some of the above would have sounded like gobbledegook to you, but for students who took part in this revision session, it was an interesting and rewarding afternoon! We're all very grateful to Mr Hebborn for giving up his time to come and help us, and to the maths department for organising this unique opportunity.



Old meets new...Former university professor Mr John Hebborn discusses teaching AS and A2 Level Mathematics with current Third year Undergraduate Paul Ginzberg

Phoebe Coglan Year 13

Year 13 RE Study Weekend

Last month, we took a group of Year 13 Religious Studies students on a study weekend. We stayed at Micklepage an 18th century barn and 14th century farmhouse maintained by a Christian charitable trust.

We were charmed by how picturesque the setting of the centre was in the heart of the West Sussex countryside. For the entire weekend we neither left the centre nor spent any money but had an enjoyable and intellectually challenging time. Apart from cooking and eating in the low beamed kitchen with the cosy Aga, there was time for focused revision, collaborative planning of essays and

for writing them! Most impressive was the insight and clarity of the students' assessment of each others' work. We believe that all students felt more confident and reassured as the exams draw close.

On a few occasions we found time for peaceful reflection in the simple but beautiful barn chapel. In many ways it was the heart of the place and seemed to hold the prayers of all those who had passed through Micklepage.

Our thanks go to every member of the group for filling the weekend with energy, application, team-work and boundless good humour. Good luck on the big day! *Mr James and Miss Gill*



Vay pauses between paragraphs



Anna takes a breather whilst the others take notes

Geography Fieldwork Involved a Lot of Walking....

A level Geographers took part in a field trip over the week end of 26th April. Miss Langton sent this brief message on their return.

We have returned safely from the wilds of North Wales. The Y12 Geography students were absolutely brilliant – I have never been on a residential trip with such an enthusiastic and engaged group of students and they got a lot from the weekend.

The tutor at the field centre was incredibly impressed with them, as was I.

Ms Langton



Climbing up those hills



Taking a well earned rest from walking

"Favourite Things" at the House of Lords

*"Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes;
Snowflakes that stay on my eyes and eyelashes;"
Comic Relief so they're wearing moustaches.*

Neither snowflakes nor blue satin sashes were in evidence at the House of Lords on Friday, 13th March but MOUSTACHES certainly were. The coincidence of Comic Relief Red Nose Day and a Student Parliament led to a memorable vision for prominent on the red benches were 6 Cardinal Newman 'baronesses' whose faces had been embellished by the "hirsute additions".

Another favourite feature for the GCH participants was being addressed as Baroness Yasae or as Lord Haskey when the 'Lord Speaker' called upon each individual to contribute to the debate. The formal summons to debate meant that a relatively calm atmosphere prevailed, unlike the more contentious House of Commons style when GCH students had participated in 2006 and 2008. Whether in role as members of the House of Lords or as MPs, pupils from each participating school have to represent the government and the opposition so the debate is not a contest between Greig City Academy and the College of Richard Collyer. Hannah Robbins was the first GCH 'baroness' called upon to oppose the motion, "that formal education should continue until the age of 18 with the final year focusing on voluntary community work". Her impressive comparison with the system currently in operation in Germany and the UK tradition was staunchly supported by Melody Obeng's commitment to an academic focus.

Sitting in the Proposition ranks, Sheriefa Riley upheld the cause by rigorously challenging the arguments presented by the Opposition. Though conceding that her view might not be popular, Gbemi Adebisi determinedly communicated her conviction that Year 13 students should be willing to give something back to society through contributing to voluntary community work programmes. All the GCH speeches adhered strictly to the side to which the speakers had been allocated.

Obioma Orazulume had been chosen to deliver the debate's penultimate speech. Summing up for the Opposition, Obioma made reference to union objections and the voluntary opportunities available during a gap year (or retirement) as well as mentioning financial issues and lack of motivation.

Whilst there was an official reminder that females sporting 'moustaches' would normally be condemned as mocking the House of Lords, the GCH squad felt that the parliamentary experience had been one of their 'favourite things'. *A.McMellan*

Jack Petchey Award News

The March 2009 Jack Petchey Award winner is Charlie Bates Parry

She has helped run the school swimming club for the past 2 years.

She stays behind every Wednesday after school 4-5 p.m. to coach the Year 7 swim teams, she attend all galas and takes full responsibility for the team.

She has recently offered to help the Year 10 GCSE group with Personal Survival and Life Saving.

She continues to do all this whilst her mum is very ill.

She is an excellent role model and a delightful student. We are all very proud of her.



Physical Education News

Since January, Year 7 tutor groups have been working hard preparing a dance for the interform competition.

7R, 7C and 7T won their semi-final competitions against the other tutor groups in the year and went on to compete in the final on Wednesday 1st April 2009. All teams choreographed excellent dances that showed a variety of dance styles and included a range of music genres.

7T were the winners of the competition with an amazing score of 27/30 for performance and choreography and 7C were Runners Up with 26/30. Recognition also goes to 7R, who achieved 3rd place, scoring 25/30.

All of the students involved should be praised for the immense amount of effort, energy and enthusiasm that they showed when performing their pieces.

A special thank you also goes to the students in Year 7 and teachers who came to watch the final and helped to raise £20.00 for the charity 'Sense', which is a national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deaf and blind.

Congratulations to the following girls for their involvement in the Interform Dance Competition:

7T - Winners
 Donna Asamoah
 Alice Corrie
 Ruby Dempsey
 Lucy Gillett
 Chiara James
 Guenevere Kiely

7C – Runners Up
 Hannah Ankrah
 Sky Ghebrelul
 Clemmie Kenyon
 Sarah Mattis
 Ruth Oboroh
 Elena Rastorgueva
 Rosie Young

7R – 3rd Place
 Bobbi Benjamin-Wand
 Erica Faulkner
 Charlotte Finn
 Ellie Manock
 Charlotte Martin
 Melissa Rodrigues-Tull
 Harriett Wright



Winners: 7T



Runners Up: 7C



Left - 3rd Place: 7R

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MAY

1st	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition (returns 3rd)
4th	May Day (bank holiday)
7th	Y7 Parents' Evening
11th	Public Exams begin (end 24th June)
16th	International Fair, St Michael's 11am-2pm
21st	Ascension Day Service, St Margaret's 2.15pm
22nd	Half Term
	Last Day for Y13, Strawberries & Cream, St Andrew's Garden, 3pm
	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition(returns 24th)

JUNE

5th	Foundation Athletics Day
	Y8 trip to Science Museum
8th	Y12 UCAS
10th	Guild Meeting
12th	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition (returns 14th)
15th	Sports Day, Battersea Park
19th	Y7 to Hampton Court
20th	Old Greys' Summer Tea Party
22nd	NRA Day
	Y10 exams start (end 3rd July)
	Y8 GR to War Musuem PM
24th	Y8 YC to War Museum PM
25th	Y8 TH to War Musuem PM
26th	Admissions Day/Guild BBQ (PM)
	Y7 to Kew Gardens/ Y8 Take Your Daughters to Work Day/Y9 Trip
	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition
30th	Academic Tutorial Day