
Grey Coat

Number 138



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

DECEMBER 2007

Dear parents,

My most important message to you at this time of the year must be to wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas. Through assemblies, charity work, and the preparation of shoe-box gifts for Operation Christmas Child, we have tried to help students think about the real meaning of Christmas, and this will culminate in the coming week, in the Guild Carol Service and Christmas Fair, on Friday 14th December, and the school Carol Service on the last day of term.

In the meantime, however, serious work carries on right through to the end, with Year 11 doing their mock GCSEs, and many students revising and preparing for public examinations in January. For the English department, this has been a particularly tough half term as they were randomly selected for an Ofsted subject based inspection. This lasted two days, and brought almost as much scrutiny to the English department on its own as was shared by the whole school when we were inspected in 2005. I am delighted to report that the outcome of this inspection was a judgement of Outstanding in every one of the seven categories – an extraordinary achievement, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the English department staff.

I hope I will be seeing many of you at one of the last events of the term – the Guild Carol Service, perhaps, and the Christmas Fair after it, or one of the performances of the Upper School play, Sarafina, which will be on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday 17th – 19th December. Please come and join us for at least one of these events. You will need to order tickets in advance for the play, but the Carol Service is open to all – it is usually packed, with standing room only at the back.

Finally, have a wonderful Christmas, and please ensure that your daughters and sons all return, refreshed and eager to learn, on Monday 7th January 2008!

Rachel Allard

Sarafina to be performed at Grey Coat

The Drama Department is delighted to announce our production of *SARAFINA!* on the 17th, 18th and 19th of December at 7pm in the Hall at St Andrews. Tickets go on sale on Monday 10th December.

SARAFINA! by Mbongeni Ngema, is a South African play that tells the story of a young girl and her schoolmates' involvement in the student protests and riots during the anti-apartheid struggle in Soweto.

Performed by a large cast of year 10-13 students, the play is a powerful mingling of message, music and dance. Live music, vibrant singing and energetic performances promise an evening that will be entertaining, moving, and thought-provoking: the action moves from a high school to the houses of the Soweto township, through the riots and rebellion of the Soweto Uprising to the brutal reality of the police suppression. *Ms Duck*

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.



*Angela Trainor & Vivien Moore
Attendance and Punctuality Officers*

Attendance

Considering this is quite a long term, attendance has been very good through all years. I would like to re-iterate that we are able to store medicine in the office and supervise girls taking it, upon receipt of a specific letter of instruction from a parent/carer. Please also try to ensure that your daughter has a good breakfast before setting off to school and ensure she has a bottle of water to avoid dehydration.

Please send a note to cover absence on the day of the student's return.

Punctuality

Timekeeping this term has been fairly good but there are still some students who are not allowing enough time for problems on the transport system. Students should aim to get to school for 8:00 which will give ample time to get prepared for the day's lessons.

Finally I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Angela Trainor
Attendance Officer, St Andrew's*

Omission

In the November issue we omitted to mention Clementine Jones who got 100% attendance and Punctuality for the autumn tracking period and is now on the Roll of Honour. Apologies for the oversight. *Ms Trainor*

Attendance & Punctuality Years 10 and 11

Attendance on the whole is good although we have had a slight dip with the usual winter bugs. Many of the year 10/11 students have made a great effort with their attendance and struggled into school, even when they have been a little below par. Please remember to wrap up warm and eat healthily for the coming cold winter months ahead.

Please ensure students allow extra time for travelling, allowing for transport delays of heavy traffic and ensure they are in school **before 8.30am**. Thank you for all your co-operation and support and I wish you all a very **Happy Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year**.

*Vivien Moore
Attendance and Punctuality Officer, St Michael's*

Poetry at the Palace

On Tuesday 16th October I was invited to go to Buckingham Palace, along with Shannon Royce and Kehinde Sears-Speare from year 10, and Freedom Deane, Morgan Bestwick-Green, Joanie O'Halloran and Amy Beecher Year 11, and Miss Tolstoy. Buckingham Palace was hosting 'Poetry Day at the Palace'.



Outside Buckingham Palace, before the poetry workshop

I was thrilled to be asked to go, but it was slightly daunting approaching the gates of the palace. We registered and were directed into the red-carpeted entrance. While entering the building all our faces were in a state of wonder and we started comparing our house to the **one** room we were standing in.

After the schools had all arrived, we were seated and paired up with another school. We were introduced to Jo, whose role was to help us improve our poems. At school we had already written a draft of our poems; we spent the next hour and a half redrafting and reciting our pieces. Jo also read each of the poems and gave us some useful advice about our poems and some advice which I didn't completely agree with. The lesson was extremely fun as well as being beneficial in the future.

Following this we went to one of the many ball rooms in Buckingham Palace and listened to the Poet Laureate,

Andrew Motion. As well as Andrew Motion three other young poets read their own poems. This was very interesting, especially the last poet who acted out all his poems.

We then proceeded into the picture gallery where we spent the last part of the day. There were many waiters around us, offering us various dishes; it was all very neatly presented.

Whilst eating the food the Queen entered the room dressed in an elegant pink suit. Each school started making semi-circles so that the Queen could slot in. The Queen did come and talk to our group, however it only lasted a few nerve racking minutes.

Our workshop drew to a close and we returned to school, feeling extremely pleased with what we had learnt. *Natasha Savovic*

Cut the Carbon

On Wednesday 17th October, a group called Cut the Carbon came into our school and for two periods they educated us in different ways to be environmentally friendly and how carbon (a greenhouse gas) affects us and the world. We have been learning about global warming in Geography lessons. To start off, they gave us a little talk about carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. What greenhouse

gas does is it keeps the heat from the sun trapped around the earth. Did you know that everyone in the UK is responsible for producing an average 10 tonnes of carbon emissions a year? That's half the amount of people in America and 10 times more than in India. He also showed us a balloon filled with 5g worth of carbon. He told us that we produce 2000 000 of those balloons each year. After the talk we split into two groups. In our group we played a game where we

had to answer questions. You had to decide which answer was most environmentally friendly. At the end we filled in a sheet that asked what we liked about the day. I found it worrying that they asked if the game should be on the computer. I found this worrying because they are asking us to cut the carbon, yet us playing it on the computer would increase the amount of carbon we produce. *Elizabeth Holti 9G*

Sensai Young Enterprise company 2007/8

This year the Young Enterprise Company, Sensai have successfully launched a range of light weight hand painted canvas bags. Each bag has been sewn with great care to make sure that the quality is not in any way undermined. The Production Director Chun Wai and Deputy Director Dina Akhmadeeva have done an excellent job in organising their production team.

Each bag has been carefully hand painted with a henna or jigsaw design, giving it a unique identity.

Sensai launched the sale of their hand painted bags at Prize Giving. They had a complete sell-out at the beginning of the evening. Excellent Work!

The Year 11-12 Road Show was an equally successful evening for the company as they managed to sell 70 percent of their stock. In fact the bags were in such demand that Sensai had to eventually take orders. Many parents, teachers and students had commented on the quality of the stitching and print.



The Sensai company pictured at their sell-out stall at Prize Giving

Sensai is now busy processing customer orders in time for Christmas. Such an unexpected demand for the bags has caused prices to soar. They are now selling at £8.00 compared to

£5.00 only a few weeks ago.

The directors of Sensai would like to thank all of its customers and would like to wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Enterprise week for Year 10 Business Studies students

We celebrated Enterprise Week - 12th - 16th November by inviting two young guest speakers to talk to the Year 10 Business Studies students about setting up their own business. The two young entrepreneurs were exceptional ambassadors for the girls. The first talk by Louise Gilliespie-Smith from Create Yourself was inspirational. The students were amazed to hear how she recently started her own business as an image consultant and life coach. She gave a detailed account of all the planning she did before setting up her own business. She discussed in detail the training courses she went to help her provide expert advice to her clients on building their confidence in their personal and professional lives. The services

provided include life coaching, personal training, image consultancy and personal shopping. They were really impressed with her business idea and got some interesting tips from how to dress for an interview to what colours suited different skin tones. Check out Louise's website at www.createyourself.co.uk



Y10 Business Studies students with the guest speakers

Cricket News

The cricket team had a busy start to the year with training commencing the first few weeks of school. With a lot of new faces coach Mark Mason put the girls through their paces at training revising past skills and teaching and refining new skills.

Our first match of the season was a "friendly" against St Paul's Girls school on our home ground. The girls showed great enthusiasm and determination throughout the game with some excellent batting and some greatly improved fielding skills.

The new girls proved to be confident with their newly found skills and performed very well throughout the game combining well with the other team members.



After a great batting innings from the GCH girls it was St Paul's turn to try to catch up to the great total set.

It was a close game in the end with some excellent fielding by GCH but with St Paul's taking the victory by 1 run.

The season has been called to a halt for the remainder of 2007 and will commence early in January of 2008. Any new players will be welcome at the training sessions on Monday afternoons.

Miss Campey

Debating activities enthuse at GCH

The weekly meetings this term have considered issues ranging from the closure of Amnesty groups in some Catholic schools to the role of genetics in determining character. The most heated discussion was on the motion demanding the abolition of independent schools.

As with the Year 7 Discussion Group some topics were discussed prior to external events such as the Channel 4 debate *Is TV Dead?* on the 9th October.

Then on the 17th October an enthusiastic group attended the 25th anniversary Celebration of Channel 4 Education at the Royal Society of Arts. The debate was entitled *Teen Rage – Anarchy in the UK?* Whilst Ben Page, the Chairman of IPSOS MORI entertained the audience with his research that proved parents of teenagers were the most stressed members of the community, Francis Gilbert infuriated some. The author of *I'm a teacher, get me out of here* and *Yob Nation*, Gilbert described how first his father and then he himself had been the victims of unprovoked attacks by violent teenagers. His belief in the need for rules and discipline was the opposite of the approach taken by Camila Batmanghelidjh, the Founder and Director of Kids Company. As a psychotherapist Camila felt that love was the route forward as her conviction was that attitudes sprang from abuse or neglect. At Wellington where he is the Master, Anthony Seldon teaches happiness.

A particularly interesting exchange of views took place at The Royal Society where Sixthform debaters listened to novelists Fay Weldon and John Banville discuss *Behaving Badly* with James Blair (National Institute of Mental Health in the U.S of A.) and Terrie Moffitt (Professor of Social Behaviour & Development at London's Institute of Psychiatry). Whatever literature may depict, scientific research indicates that inherited criminal tendencies surface early.

At the beginning of December some year 13 students had the opportunity to participate in a major debate at the London City Hall. Sponsored by the *European Union of Plastic Producers*, the debate centred on whether plastic is part of the problem or the solution to environmental issues such as greenhouse gas emissions. The GCH girls enjoyed the event and participated well but, with well over 100 other students to choose from, they were not selected for the next round in Brussels.

In 2008 Debating Society will be hosting a round of the ESU Mace Tournament on 15th January in the St Andrew's Chapel at 5pm. In addition to GCH, the participating schools will be Dunraven, Ibstock Place, King's College Wimbledon, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Westminster School. The sixthformers are also keen to speak at a debate in the Houses of Parliament in February. *Ms McMellan*

Library Corner



We have recently become a Reading Connects School which means we take reading seriously and have aims in place to improve our reading – involving both students and staff! During the National Year of Reading we will be having some new reading activities. Watch this space for further details – and keep reading everyone!



Twenty year warning

The distinguished speaker at Prize Giving this year was Old Grey, Patricia Littlechild. One of only 12 female neurosurgeons in the UK, Tricia operates at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

Tricia opened her speech with a warning to all the Grey Coat students in the audience. Whether the girls were attending the event on 22nd November to sing in the Year 7 Choir or were prize winners who had just started a degree course, there was the prospect that in 20 years' time they would receive a call summoning them to undertake the

varied surgical specialities".

On leaving The Grey Coat Hospital, Tricia chose to study biochemistry at Edinburgh University and appreciated the contrast with the London scene. Despite visualizing doctors as "elderly, old-fashioned family GPs", Tricia became friendly with medical students who entertained her with accounts of bizarre injuries and scary experiences in casualty. Tales of anaesthetizing men who had jammed arms in drains in concrete floors and smartly dressed casualty officers abseiling down cliffs to tend to climbers

with broken legs persuaded Tricia to change course at the end of her first year and then to train in surgery. At this point Tricia revealed that once upon a time she too had stepped up on to the stage as a prize winner. It seemed to

Tricia that GCH had at an early stage spotted her potential to be a surgeon as she had been awarded the Year 8 Prize for Needlework.

Tricia continued by mentioning the almost insuperable difficulty of combining a successful surgical career with a normal home life. Still a 'junior' in her thirties, Tricia was working over 100 hours a week in her first few years so that life consisted of work and sleeping and little else. A phone call at 4a.m will provide Tricia with a description of



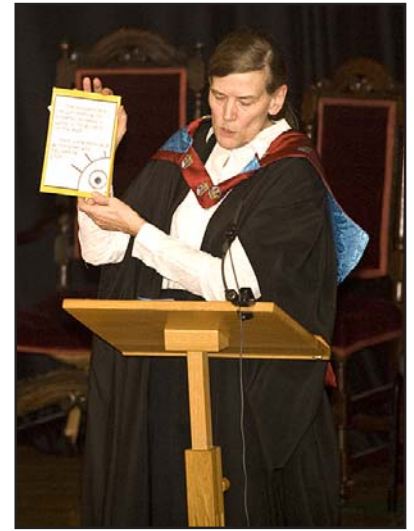
Guest speaker Patricia Littlechild with Lady Laws & Mrs Allard in background

Presentation of Prizes and Address at Prize Giving "no matter where they hide". It is pleasing to envisage that the Prize Giving ceremony will continue to be the major feature in the Grey Coat calendar in 2027.

Whilst it was difficult to believe that Tricia's schoolgirl practice of completing homework on the train had extended to the writing of her Prize Giving speech, it was easy to credit that Tricia is a neurosurgical consultant because she could not "imagine any job she would prefer". To Tricia the discipline is "one of the most fascinating and



Councillor Michael Brahams enjoying the Prize Giving ceremony



Mrs Allard illustrating one of the year's highlights



Melody Obeng & Obioma Orazulume perform a scene from *Flesh*

patient and scan and on the basis of this limited information a rapid decision has to be made. That decision may make the difference between life and death and may have to be defended in court "two years later".

for Prize Giving

The amazing aspect of neurosurgery was conveyed by Tricia's description of guiding wires to the exact spot in the brain to help alleviate the severe shaking and rigid limbs of patients with Parkinson's disease. The weirdness of the job was illustrated when an apparent brain tumour turned out to be a tapeworm larva.

After proclaiming that "all



Santosh Stride, Leanne Cahillane, Caroline Devereux & Simone Wetherall

successful neurosurgeons are a little mad", Tricia explained the reason for the declaration on the Prize Giving tickets that she was also a *Commonwealth Medallist*. Although as a GCH pupil Tricia had hated games, tackling the Duke of Edinburgh Award required the pursuit of a physical activity. The appeal of rifle shooting lay in "lying as still as possible for twenty minutes at a time" and "moving only one index finger".

Persevering with the training led to Tricia winning a bronze and a silver medal for Scotland in the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada. Whilst Tricia has now moved on to training for the marathon, the experience of international shooting led

her to encourage Grey Coat students to become involved "in whatever capacity" in the London Olympics.

At eighteen, Tricia would never "have guessed what would happen over the next twenty years". Inspired by Tolkien Tricia ended with the thought that, like Frodo, once we "step onto the road... there's no knowing where we might be swept off to".

The Camera's View

These photographs from Prize Giving indicate the different aspects which contributed to an enjoyable and stimulating occasion. Whilst Lady Laws chaired the ceremony with

impeccable style, Mrs Allard delivered details of the year's highlights. Particularly striking was Ms Miller's brilliantly edited film from Sports Day and the extract from *Flesh*,



The Chamber Choir sing *Hear my prayer O Lord*

the GCH Edinburgh Fringe Festival production directed by Ms Duck. The reverberation of the African drumming by Hannah Robbins and Ruth Smith also brought back wonderful memories of the performances in Westminster Abbey and



Ms Littlechild, Lady Laws & Mrs Allard are presented with flowers by Y7 students



The Year 7 Choir sing *Lean on me*

in Westminster School's Millicent Fawcett Theatre.

After the Head Girl, Santosh, and the 3 Deputies had described clearly and effectively the aims and achievements of the prefects, the Year 7 Choir charmed the Great Hall with the performance of *Something inside so strong* and *Lean on me*. The purity of the Chamber Choir's singing *Hear my prayer O Lord* led Mrs Allard to remark that their quality was the standard which Year 7 should aspire to achieve. Miss Platt and Mr Jones merited the audience's enthusiastic applause.

As the quantities of food provided by Ms McCarthy and the Catering Staff were being happily consumed by parents, students and staff, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Michael Brahams remarked on the splendid organization of the whole evening.

Ms McMellan

Students review Japanese Exchange

From 30th October and 8th November, Grey Coat took part in its annual Japanese Exchange programme, along with two other schools - St Augustine's High School and Westminster City School. Between the schools, ten Year 10 students were given the opportunity to take part in one of the most exciting and culturally diverse exchange programmes available. Here are two of the girls' accounts of their experiences:

The difference in culture was evident from the first time we met. They were all very quiet and polite, which is probably a natural way to act when you're on the other side of the earth. But, in my case, this didn't seem to change for the whole ten days they were over. Kaho, my exchange, was extremely shy and didn't feel at all confident in her English, which was much better than she seemed to realise. We had bought a Japanese Phrase book, which came in handy quite a bit. My parents asked a question to my exchange in English, which she would understand, and answer, and then would embarrass themselves by trying to repeat it in Japanese. So everything took twice as long.

On the first night she stayed, my parents, my sister and I all received lots of presents from Kaho and were put to shame when all we'd bought her as a welcome gift was a bunch of flowers from Embankment. Most of the evenings Kaho was too tired from the long plane journey to go out so we just stayed in and played a game called 'Frustration', which didn't involve words and it gave us a chance to learn Japanese numbers. It became quite a regular thing for us to do.

On one of the days we had a school trip to The Natural History

Museum, which was not originally going to be on the exchanges' timetables for their time in London. One of our teachers, Mr Smith, is half Japanese and came on the trip with us. He sat with us at lunchtime and asked our exchanges questions we hadn't been able to because of the language barrier. We found out that they had been shocked when they first came to our school as in Japan no one says a word during lessons, and is punished severely if they do. I thought this was

loudest. We all had loads of fun before they got on the coach and took some very funny videos of the Japanese boys doing a strange dance.

We received an email from Kaho's parents when she got back saying that as soon as she arrived back in Tokyo she did not stop talking about her time in London. I'm really looking forward to going to Japan next year, even though it is 6 months away. I think I'll have to start sorting out the presents I'm going to take over.

Nia Hopkins



Outside Hampton Court Palace

quite interesting as in our lessons that rule exists but is not so strictly followed up. I'm not suggesting it should be, by the way. We found out that their schools were all very strict, and that the uniform rules were even more so.

I don't think there was a space of 5 minutes that went past without Kaho or any of the other exchanges taking a photo of something, whether or not they had seen it every day on the way to school. They found nearly everything about London fascinating, which I've never really thought of. One morning we were on the way towards Westminster station and Big Ben chimed the hour, all of them stopped and stared until it had finished clanging and immediately starting snapping away.

On the last day I received yet more presents including a cutely illustrated phrase book, maps of Tokyo, some incredibly sugary sweets and some small toys and erasers. That day, in my opinion, was the time when everyone was the

I was lucky enough to be chosen to participate in a ten-day Japanese exchange with three other girls in the year. My partner's name was Daia and she was 13 years old, one year younger than me. She seemed extremely shy at the beginning however once I had introduced her to Haribo sweets there was definitely a different side to her! We only had two Japanese lessons before their arrival so this meant our Japanese wasn't great, but thankfully they knew enough English for us to communicate.

During the ten days they spent in England, they went sightseeing and spent a few days with us in school. On one of the days we got to miss school and go with them to Hampton Court Palace, this was extremely fun, especially as we got to mix with pupils from the other schools also involved in the exchange.

This exchange has been really interesting and also quite amusing - one thing I learnt was some things that other cultures find shocking about London where we think is perfectly normal. It has also been very useful as I now have a few links with people in Japan and with the Japanese lessons I am attending, I will be able to communicate a great deal better when we return the visit in May 2008!

Natasha Savovic

Work experience in Germany

On Friday, 30th November 8 of our Sixth Form students studying German flew to Münster to take part in a one week exchange with the Fürstenberg-Gymnasium in Recke, Germany.

As part of the annual exchange students also spend one week in local nursery schools, practising German and familiarizing themselves with the German education system.

During their stay our students also had the opportunity to visit Osnabrück. The visit to Osnabrück included a very interesting visit of the Felix-Nussbaum-Museum.

The students also visited Münster and its Christmas market sampling local delicacies.

We are now looking forward to welcoming the German students in London where they will be staying with our students, working in local Primary Schools for one week.



The German work experience student group

International events at Grey Coat

The Amnesty International Youth group is still going strong. Last term the **Amnesty International** group focused on asylum seekers. Two year 9 students, Aileen Brennan and Lucy Burkitt-Gray, gave an informative presentation to the group and the girls wrote letters and sent postcards campaigning for fairer hearings. The sixth form girls then prepared and performed an informative, yet entertaining, puppet show highlighting the trials of an asylum seeker entering the country. The term culminated in us being very fortunate to have two guest speakers from the charity Asylum Aid UK join our meeting and explain the work they do. All in all, it was a great term and the girls worked extremely hard to campaign for people's human rights. If anyone would like to join us please feel free to come along on Wednesday lunch times at 1pm in the chapel at lower school. www.amnesty.org.uk

A team has been entered into the **Mondialogo International School Competition** run by UNESCO. The team will be linked with a school in another country and together will produce a project of their choosing. The competition encourages students to make friends with students in other countries and is a unique opportunity to learn about other cultures.

For more information visit www.mondialogo.org

Grey Coat will be taking a team on a trip with **World Challenge** in the summer of 2009. The team will spend 4 weeks travelling the Maya Route through Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. They will be trekking and undertaking community work. The students will be fundraising for this trip over the next two years so watch this space for more events! For more information visit www.world-challenge.co.uk

The first **International Student Committee** met this term to discuss how to promote the international ethos at the school. The committee is made up of the elected International Representatives (global reps) from each form but any one interested is more than welcome.

In order to show how international our students are a **Grey Coat International Community map** has been put up on the International Notice-board. Students and teachers alike are invited to place a sticker on the map of the world showing where their family are from.

Any ideas on how we can improve/promote the international ethos in the school are warmly welcome.

(Miss Worsfold) International co-ordinator)

Art Department News

We have had two visiting artists this term in the Art department. On Monday the 5th of November, Celia Pym, a post graduate student from the Royal College of Art gave a talk after school about her work. The talk was well attended by around 40 students from yrs 10-13.

On the 23rd of November Liz Waller, a post graduate student from the Royal Academy came to talk to Yr 12 students about her work. This was part of the Royal Academy 'Attract' schools outreach project.

Well done to Lucy Anderson in 8G whose design was chosen for the United Westminster Schools and Grey Coat Foundation Christmas Card competition. She received a voucher for WH Smith worth £50. Watch this space as we will be looking for entries for next year!



Lucy Anderson's design

Yr 13 made a visit to the Hayward Gallery on Tuesday 27th November to see the current exhibition 'The Painting of Modern Life'. The trip was organised by Judy Bould, a student on the Artist/Teacher programme at the Institute of Education.

The highlight of the year so far was the Foundation Art Exhibition. Art students from five schools belonging to The United Westminster Schools and Grey Coat Hospital Foundation had a wonderful opportunity to have their work



Clare Harding and her work at SW1 Gallery

exhibited at the SW1 Gallery in Victoria. The work was on display between Wednesday 28th November and Wednesday 5th December. Many people who visited the gallery

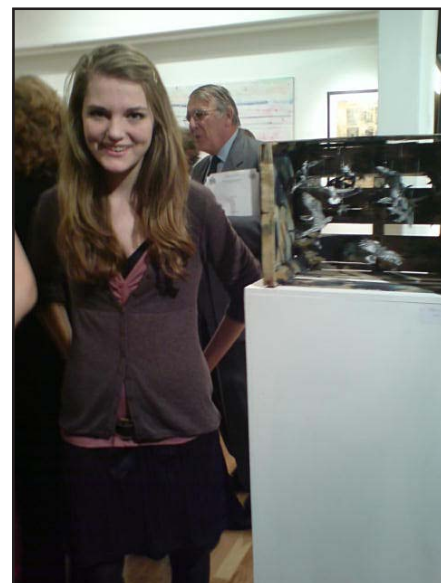


Dina Akhmadeeva and her work at the SW1 Gallery

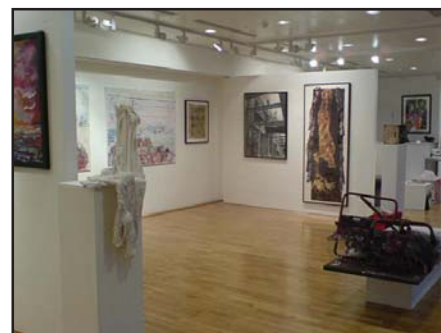
commented on the high quality of work the students had produced. Exhibiting artists from Grey Coat were current Yr 12 students Valentina Billios, Dina Akhmadeeva and Clare Harding. Letty

Wheeler, Bryony Wellburn, Catherine Fuller, Kirsty Kerr, Hannah Jackson, and Laura Ramsay, who left school last year, were also selected to exhibit. This exhibition is to be repeated and we look forward to showcasing our students' wonderful work again next year.

This term we have been fortunate in having Rachel Pearce work alongside us in the Art department. Ms Pearce is a PGCE student from Goldsmiths College, University of London. She has been an asset to the department teaching Yr 7-9 and running workshops with sixth form in felt making and assisting with life drawing. We wish her all the best as she continues at her next placement.



Bryony Wellburn and her work at SW1 Gallery



The interior of the SW1 Gallery

Music Department News

Gospel Workshop

On Friday 16 November, members of the Junior Gospel Choir attended a Gospel Singing Workshop led by Karen Gibson (leader of the famous Kingdom Choir). We joined students from other schools and experienced performing as part of a very large Gospel Choir singing in four parts (from soprano down to bass). We performed a number of new songs ranging from joyful, up-beat songs to slower, a cappella songs. We would like to thank Mr Jones for this fantastic opportunity and Miss Abdulla for accompanying us on the trip (and joining in!) *Blaire Bacchus & Elizabeth Kolendye (9G)*

Wicked!

On Wednesday 31 October (Halloween!), the GCSE music students in Year 10 and 11 went to see a performance of the award-winning musical, *Wicked!* All the students who went were impressed by the quality of the performer's voices and some of the songs stuck with us for days! One of my favourites was *One Short Day in the Emerald City* because it's fast-paced and captures the energy of the show. Overall, all of the GCSE music students had a brilliant afternoon, are extremely grateful and thought the musical was, well, *Wicked!* *Amy Pegram 11C*

Wigmore Hall Project

The GCSE and AS Music students recently took part in a composition project with the Wigmore Hall. *Voices of Our Time* gave our students the opportunity to work with professional composer David Horne to compose their own pieces for the ensemble *Chamber Domaine*. The musicians visited the school on several occasions giving the students lots of useful advice helping them to produce compositions of a very high standard which can be used as coursework. Some of the students' compositions were then given their World Premiere in a concert given by *Chamber Domaine* at the Wigmore Hall



Taking part in the Gospel Choir workshop



Students enjoying a Wicked performance



Music students outside Wigmore Hall



Musicians from the Wigmore Hall Project perform in the Great Hall, St Andrew's

on Friday 23 November attended by all those who took part in the project.

Lunchtime Concerts

We were once again reminded of the musical talent at The Grey Coat Hospital with two lunchtime concerts in the Hall at St Andrews. On Tuesday 4 December, Miss Conlon's piano pupils treated the audience to some impressive solo performances and on Thursday 6 December, Miss Platt's and Miss Whittlesea's singing students provided a varied and high-quality programme. Many thanks to the large numbers of students who came to support the concerts and congratulations to all those who performed!

IStop Press!

Congratulations to Izzy Rose (Year 12) who successfully auditioned for the London Schools Wind Band!

Mr Jones would like to say well done to the Year 7 Orchestra which performed so well in the St Andrew's Day Service at St Margaret's church: Bethany Lees (7R), Yasmin Leung (7G), Lisa James (7G), Charis Richards (7T), Tara West (7T), Molly Clark (7H), Catherine Lyon (7T), Eleanor Armstrong (7G) and Alice Forward (7Y)



Lunchtime concert in the Great Hall, St Andrew's

The Grey Coat Hospital Guild

an association for Parents and Staff



Dear Parents & Carers,

The Guild Committee would like to wish everyone a peaceful festive season and a happy new year.

Please find the details of the lucky winners of the Grand Draw 2007 below.

Prize	Winner	Ticket No.
1. £250	Catherine Annandale	11449
2. £150	"Fola"	01188
3. £100 John Lewis vouchers	Revd. Titley	12074
4. £50	*Mrs. Rose Kent	01511
5. £50	*Philip Higham	04527
6. £50	"Nadir"	17283
7. Gold brooch	Mrs. H. Berg	07400
8. Meal - Victoria Park Plaza	Mrs. D. Ward-Anderson	14304
9. Meal - Grange Hotel	Debbie Robertson	05725
10. £30 Books, Etc. vouchers	Martha Norton	15887
11. £10 Mc Donalds vouchers	Liz Sztuxzyk	07225

If you are interested in knowing more about the guild please contact Sam Fores via info@gch.org.uk, or send a letter to the free post address, which is: "Freepost RRAK-AGBC-CGYZ, The Guild, The Grey Coat Hospital, Greycoat Place, LONDON SW1P 2DY.

Love Letters

by A. R. Gurney, the Great Hall, Thursday 6th December, 4pm.

This play was performed to raise money for 'The Promise', a charity that supports special needs children in Russia. It was organised by Miss Tolstoy, who invited Sarah Settelen to talk to the audience about the charity she set up - it was definitely a worthy cause.

The set was simple - a table in the centre (with a dozen roses in a vase) and two forward facing chairs on each side on which the two characters sat - but it was effective. All expressions and reactions to the letters could be seen.

The play consists of just two characters - Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepiece Ladd III. Both Ms Bond and Mr. Chesterman were believable as their characters; in fact there were some similarities between their characters and their real selves! Their performance was convincing and the audience could tell that they enjoyed working together. Ms. Bond looked stunning in a black dress and pearls and Mr. Chesterman wore a smart suit.

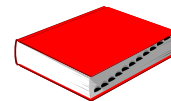
Their letters discuss their hopes, dreams, achievements and disappointments, keeping each other updated although they led separate lives. It is only at the sad ending that they realise they were really love letters all along.

It was a brilliant choice of play on the part of the teachers - the letters did not need to be memorised and it requires little rehearsal, leaving more time for teaching!

The entire audience enjoyed themselves, laughing out loud during the play but being shocked into silence (and sometimes tears) at the dramatic closing.

A member of the audience

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER

- 14th Guild Carol Service, St Stephen's
Christmas Fair
- 17-19th School Play, 7pm St Andrew's
- 20th Carol Service, St Margaret's 9.20 am
- END OF TERM

JANUARY

- 3rd/4th INSET Days - school closed for
staff training
- 7th START OF TERM
- 16th Guild Meeting, 7pm
- 17th Y11 Parents' Evening
- 25th Key Stage 3 Mocks
- 29th Y10 Parents' Evening
- 31st Senior Solo Recital, St Andrew's 6.30pm

FEBRUARY

- 1st Guild Quiz Night
- 4th Y12 Mock exams begin (in lessons) end 15th
- 6th Ash Wednesday Service,
Westminster Abbey 9.20am
- 7th Y12 to Barcelona (return 10th)
- 12th Y9 Parents' Evening
- 15th HALF TERM
(return to school 25th Feb)
- 16th Trip to Barbados (returns 23rd)
- 16th Y12 & 13 to New York (return 20th)

MARCH

- 5th Y10 Industry Day
- Guild Meeting, 6.30pm
- 10th Duke of Edinburgh Gold training 4-7pm
- 12th Y7 GRY to National Gallery in afternoon
- 13th 7 CTH to National Gallery in afternoon
- 17th Duke of Edinburgh Gold training 4-7pm
- 18th Y8 GRY to Natural History Museum
- 19th Academic Tutorial Day
- 21st Good Friday (bank holiday)
- 24th Easter Monday (bank holiday)
- 25th Y12 & 13 Parents' Evening
Y8 CTH to Natural History Museum
Shortened Day
- 27th Easter Concert 6.30pm,
St Andrew's

Note end of term spring holidays
are 4th-20th April 2008