
Grey Coat

NUMBER 127



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

DECEMBER 2006

Dear parents,

This is a celebratory issue of the Newsletter, which comes to you with pictures and stories of a wide range of interesting and successful activities that our students have been engaged in during the last few weeks. This is the culmination of a very busy term, during which the vast majority of Grey Coat students have worked very hard, and have given enthusiastic commitment to their extra-curricular activities.

The same can be said of the staff, who have given of their best to ensure that the students have the opportunity to achieve, and who show incredible competitiveness and commitment in such activities as the staff/student netball competition, which ended in a final between the staff A and B teams. Each team had a number of men players, who struggled with the rules, but took to the task with a will. It was a great game to watch, full of drama and excitement, as well as some moments of pure comedy.

As always, the Christmas season at Grey Coat began with the Guild Carol Service and Christmas Fair, on Friday 15th December. All our choirs were there, and the choice of carols in different styles and from different musical traditions was a living illustration of how each individual can bring something unique to build a lively and diverse community. Many thanks to all who contributed to make this such a lovely evening.

This Newsletter comes with my very best wishes to you all, for a blessed Christmas, and all happiness in the New Year.

Rachel Allard

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Grey Coat Christmas Card 2006 designed by Letty Wheeler

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*

Please ensure students allow extra time for travelling, allowing for transport delays or heavy traffic and ensure they are in school **before 8.30am**. Thank you all for 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*

Year 10 and 11 Attendance League Table

4th september - 6th December

1st 10T	101 points
2nd 10G	98 points
3rd 10H	88 points
4th 10R	84 points
5th 10Y	78 points
6th 10C	70 points

Well Done 10T - Keep it up!

1st 11T	106 points
2nd 11Y	103 points
3rd 11C	101 points
4th 11R	88 points
5th 11H	64 points
6th 11G	54 points

Well Done 11T - A Great Effort!

Points tables for Attendance & Punctuality are worked out each week as follows:

1st Place = 6 points
2nd Place = 5 points
3rd Place = 4 points
4th Place = 3 points
5th Place = 2 points
6th Place = 1 points

Remember
there is plenty of time for
scores to change.

Attendance & Punctuality for Years 7,8 and 9

Attendance

Attendance is still very good and we are still above the National Average in all years.

However I am noticing that some students are taking too many Mondays and Fridays off and should this pattern continue, a letter will be sent home.

Punctuality

Punctuality is good on the whole but there are still students coming late every day. If you choose a school that is not local to your area, you cannot use transport or traffic as an excuse for being late. Please allow for all eventualities and try some different routes to avoid being late if something happens to your normal journey.

Medical and Other appointments

Please note that we require as much notice as possible for medical appointments. It is extremely discourteous to just bring a note in on the day of your appointment and causes considerable inconvenience to members of staff.

Should you require time off for any reason other than Medical, please apply in advance to Mrs Allard.

Exit Slips

Please note that any student exiting the building during school hours for any reason whatsoever, must come to the office for an exit slip. Please ensure you take responsibility for leaving on time for an appointment.

Absences

All absences should be cleared with a note which is to be given to the form tutor on the first day back

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

Grey Coat Student Achieves BTEC Distinction on Banking Course

*Congratulations to Y13 student **Yan Li** who has achieved a Level 4 Distinction in her BTEC Banking course. This was achieved through The Brokerage Citylink which supports students from a number of London Boroughs who would like to earn a living in the financial sector. Here is her own account of the course.*

During the summer holiday, I was luckily recommended by the school for a banking course in the European College of Business and Management. During the two-week summer course, I studied the general rationale of banking and the current situation of British economics and politics. I was able to achieve the Level 4 BTEC Professional Development Certificate in Banking.

The certificate was awarded on the basis of 3 separate components. We had to pass an examination, do a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the course, and complete a 3000-word essay during the following two weeks. There were several topics which could be selected. I chose the topic "Exchange Rate of a Currency."

The course recruitment was organised by a partnership called The Brokerage Citylink. It aims to increase the number of residents of boroughs close to the City, who earn their living in the financial and business services sectors. The

interview was just before the June examinations, and I was fortunate to be offered a place. On the induction day, I was surprised that I was the only person who did not study Economics or Business. Being Chinese I realised my lack of knowledge of British Economics and Culture. However, this made me even more eager to pursue this area of study.

The course was indeed challenging. Our main teacher was a man, who used to be a very successful banker. He retired several years ago, and began his teaching career. He was a humorous and plump man, and his famous saying was: "What I can no longer see are my feet." Apart from banking, we were also taught British Economics and Politics by some other English and German teachers.

The two weeks passed rapidly. At the end of the course we had to do a PowerPoint presentation in front of a tutor and a small group of classmates. I was glad to have this opportunity to develop my presentation skills. On the

next day, we had examinations on all the topics we studied during the two weeks. I had revised the thick pack of notes for several nights.

During the following two weeks, I had a hectic schedule. I was doing work shadowing in an accountancy company at daytime, and meanwhile in the evening I was writing my 3000-word essay. We had only spent a double lesson on foreign exchange markets; therefore, I had to gain most of the information by myself. I was not confident this time, since it was the first time I had written a non-scientific essay. After a few late nights working on my essay, I managed to complete it to a good level.

After four months of nervous waiting, the results came out. I was excited to get distinction in all the three components. Thanks to this unique experience, I have developed a greater understanding about banking, and become increasingly familiar with British economics, politics and culture.

LIBRARY CORNER

Well Done to Y7 on raising £1,610.24 so far during their Sponsored Read. Some girls had really made an effort and read a long list of books. Well done to those who worked hard at getting lots of sponsors too. When all is gathered in the form prizes will be announced!



PS If your daughter is one of the few who still need to hand in their money and card, please encourage her to do so!



News from Ex-Students

It is always nice to hear how former students are getting on in life since leaving The Grey Coat Hospital and I think it is good to be able to share their news which is often inspirational. If you know of any ex students who are doing well in their chosen career path or perhaps they have an interesting experience to report on, please do get in touch with us and let us know – email us at info@gch.org.uk.

Minnie & Lola Stephenson

Minnie Stephenson, now 21, graduated at Manchester University with a 1st in Art History this year. Whilst there, Minnie won the Best New Comer category at the BBC-sponsored Student Radio Awards in 2004 and followed this up with winning the Best Female category in 2005. Minnie has now gone on to study a Masters in Broadcasting Journalism at City University and is about to start work shadowing Colin Murray from Radio 1. A bright future in radio broadcasting is certainly ahead for Minnie.

Younger sister Lola Stephenson is currently at Bristol University doing English and Drama and this year performed at the Edinburgh Festival in 'The Jugglers of Notre Dame'.

Katie Sichel

Katie is currently enjoying her second year of training at The Royal Welsh Academy of Music and Drama. At the end of the Academy's first year of training, students are required to devise and perform in their own one-person show, create a stage combat routine and a voice and movement piece. Katie was awarded best in show here and was chosen to represent the Academy. Her stage combat piece was judged by Lawrence Olivier's combat teacher, who awarded Kate the highest mark of Gold for her and her partners fight scene. Her voice and movement piece was also awarded best in show.

Alice Foster

Alice has just returned to the UK following a gap year placement with Student Partnership Worldwide in Uganda where she focused on educating communities on sexual health, HIV and AIDS using a range of methods including drama, debates and song. Whilst there, Alice had to go back to basics - cooking on a charcoal stove and washing clothes by hand for example! Alice says of the experience, "I found the experience especially enriching because it provided an insight into another culture, allowed me to form close friendships and most of all created a feeling of satisfaction when I saw the impact of our work in the community and the students' lives".

Alice received help towards the cost of her gap year from The Adventure Trust. If you are in the Sixth Form and are thinking of taking a gap year then you may be able to apply for help towards costs. For more information or an application form, contact the Sixth Form Office.

Striving for Success in the Work Place

Congratulations to the above students having been credited for their Work Experience by completing and passing the OCR qualification 'Preparation for Employment Level 2'. This was the first year that students from Grey Coat were selected to enter the award. In Total twelve students were entered of whom four were GNVQ Year 12 students and eight were Year 11 students. A total of five Year 11 students and two GNVQ students achieved full accreditation. The other remaining students achieved unit certification. We are the first school in Westminster to have had students successfully achieve the OCR 'Preparation for Employment' qualification.

Congratulations to all the students who worked hard on completing their portfolios to a high standard. The students made good use of their two week work experience placement by collecting appropriate evidence to support their qualification.

We look forward to offering this qualification to this Year 11 and GNVQ students with the hope to double the number of students who achieve the full accreditation.



With their accreditation certificates: From left to right Menen Hailu, Santosh Stride, Nicole Sexton, Rosie Providence, Caroline Devereux and Rebecca Oyelami.

Un échange à Angoulême

It's not easy to forget bad exchange trips. At the simple mention of the word 'exchange', some girls will jump a mile at the memory of homesickness, the language barrier, and the old favourite: if it's not fish and chips I won't touch it. This was not the case, however, as a budding group of year 11 and 12 students set off for Angouleme with Mademoiselle Smith in October this year.

The journey was tiring – we left our homes in the dead of night to board the Eurostar train and arrived several hours worth of Sudoku later in Lille to down countless espressos on the TGV. Perhaps I exaggerate. But the point is, we got there in good time and got a big surprise.

The weather in Angouleme was fine. That in itself was a bit of a shock, and as my exchange's elderly neighbour told me, I should have bagged a bit of sunlight and exported it back to Britain. The real surprise, however, was in the school itself.

Le LISA, or Lycee de l'Image et du Son Angouleme, looked more like a Roman temple than a school. The white roof was supported by several columns crawling in ivy, and the entrance hall inside certainly put our foyer to the test. Inside the hallway was as blue and pink as an American ice-cream parlour, decorated with an array of palm-trees and little white benches. As far as they eye could see the landings on each floor had leaning pyramidal walls, and each level seemed to have an architectural theme of its own.

We spent seven sunny days in Angouleme. My exchange, Aurelie, lived just outside it in the rural village of Pondeville, and it gave me great pleasure to forget how much of a Londoner I am as I swapped views of dreary West London for breath-taking vistas of vineyards and rolling hills. As well as this we enjoyed trips to French attraction park 'Futuroscope', the world

famous village of Cognac and its wine factory, Bordeaux (where we all took ill with the highly contagious Shopping Syndrome), a guide of the cartoon village of Angouleme and experienced life as a student at the school, which specialised in film studies, the arts and technology.

All in all, the trip was absolutely fantastic in every respect. We had the opportunity to make several new friends – not just ones from across the sea but in the English group itself – and put our linguistic skills to the test. I found that there were several things I did throughout the week that helped me brush up my French skills and really enjoy the experience:

🗣️ Speak to everyone you meet, even if it's just a couple of minutes. This includes family members, neighbours and friends of my exchange, and local shop keepers. This helps to build up confidence, and before I knew it I was speaking to the Mayor at the village fair!

Practise not just talking, but listening. Television is a real help when getting to grips with languages, as is the radio. My exchange made me some CDs of popular French songs, and the family got me one of my favourite films on DVD in French!

Finally, have as much fun as you can – in French! I learnt a few French words the textbook would never dare to teach me, but it's the memory that stays with you, so make the most of it!

Yosra Salib, Year 11

French Exchange

On Friday 13th October Miss Smith and 9 Y11 and 12 students left on the Eurostar for France. After a brief (but still cold) wait in the blustery Lille station, we set off on the last leg of our journey through the heart of France to Angoulême. The train journey was spent reading magazines, doing course work and of course practising French. On our arrival in Angoulême we were met by the French school mini-bus and whisked off to the LISA (a famous film and sound school which was very impressive with palm trees and a pink, blue, green and yellow corridor!). Very different from GCH!

The first weekend was spent with the French families and although the thought was a bit scary at first, everyone had a fantastic weekend. A few girls even met the mayor of Angoulême and a number of parties were attended. The rest of the week was spent between attending classes at school and going out on day trips. We went to Bordeaux, Cognac, Futuroscope and had a guided tour of Angoulême. We noticed that lessons were very different in France, with lecture style teaching where the teachers talk and the students take notes! Nothing like the singing and dancing that goes on in our lessons! The most enjoyable day was at the Futuroscope theme park where the French exchange partners joined us. We spent the day on a variety of rides which included simulators and giant cinema screens. The hit of the day was the 'Danse avec les robots' ride which spun you around in all directions.

When the last day came around all too soon, nobody wanted to leave (apart from Miss Smith!). We learned so much French and life long friendships were made. Most girls will be staying in touch with their French partners and plan future visits. The girls will be putting on an assembly in the near future to show you photos of the trip and to tell you all the gossip! All in all, it was a fantastic experience. *Miss Smith*

History Department News

In October we had the Year 9 Black Heritage day. Each Year 9 form ran a stall containing food, crafts and games reflecting African heritage. Many students wore national dress. All Year 9 students took part in workshops run by external instructors including African drumming, dance and song. Ms Platt and the gospel choir performed for Year 9 to round off a great day. Congratulations to Year 9 who raised over £300.00 for Educaid, helping to improve education in Sierra Leone.

In November the whole of Year 8 visited Hampton Court Palace. We had a great

day and the Year 8s have written some excellent essays on the kingship of Henry VIII as a result of the visit. As this newsletter goes to press, we are looking forward to the Year 7 Medieval Fair on Wednesday December 13th. Each Year 7 form is running a Medieval stall and making a Medieval hat. Students are also reconstructing a Medieval dance and 7Y have been fortunate enough to have a teacher from the English National Ballet working with them on this over the last few weeks.

Preparations are under way for the Magistrates Mock Trial Competition

2007. It was great to see so many Year 9s and 8s auditioning for this, the standard was very high.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for the team and will take part in the regional heat next March:

Clio Chartres 9Y, Issy Muir 9Y, Sofi Tilahun 9Y, Aileen Brennan 9Y, Natasha Savovic 9C, Sonia Onyeka 9R, Halimat Afolabi 8T, Meron Tilahun 8G, Leah Buckle 8R, Rooney Underwood 8T, Lucy Bairstow 8G, Zoe Gauriau-Cade 8T, Claudia Minett 8G.

Mrs Burrows

Photos: Top -Y9 students at Black Heritage Day
Bottom -Y8 Students outside Hampton Court Palace

Grey Coat Gymnasts Compete at St Marylebone

On Tuesday 16th November, six GCH girls attended the first St. Marylebone Gymnastic Competition. It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to show off their floor routines and vaults. All the girls enjoyed the competition and came home with certificates. I am very proud of their achievements and performances – they performed their routines with elegance and confidence - well done!!

The Year 8 & 9 Gymnastic Team:

Georgia Reid-Hamilton – achieved distinction
Mercy Welbeck – achieved distinction
Kate Quane – achieved distinction
Debbie Abban-Mensah – achieved distinction
Florentina Oyelami – achieved merit
Destina Thompson – achieved distinction

Congratulations Girls!

Miss Heiskanen

Joy to the World



An outstanding violin performance by 18 year-old Florian Rago proved to be a highlight of the fifth *Carols by Candlelight* service at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Tuesday, 5th December. The service, which would have graced the stage at the Wigmore Hall, was to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House which offers a home for families whilst their children undergo major surgery at Guy's and St Thomas'.

The lively performance of *Three Kings Swing* by the brilliant Imperial College Brass Dectet was followed by a charming contribution from Caroline Lenton-Ward's Sydenham Junior School Choir. There were, as in 2005, wonderful clarinet solos when internationally acclaimed Emma Johnson played Tartini and Paul Reade. Florian, who stayed in the Ronald McDonald House earlier this year when he had a kidney transplant, chose Bach and Paganini. The GCH Chamber Choir enjoyed the opportunity to participate and sang *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* and *Ave Verum* both of which were sung beautifully. Magnificent singing from the ENO Choir culminated in the Emerson arrangement of *You Raise Me Up* followed by the Blessing from the highly supportive Reverend Liz Russell.

Though qualified by the awareness that the occasion served a range of purposes, the concert gave joy to the congregation and participants. The members of the GCH Chamber Choir felt privileged that Mrs Gibson had given them the opportunity to contribute.

Ms McMellan

Prize Giving 2006

Whilst politicians are often seen as double-dealing, self-regarding and mercenary, Tamsin Dunwoody made a completely different impression at Prize Giving on Thursday, November 23rd. A former GCH student and the daughter of the M.P. for Crewe, Tamsin spoke eloquently about her areas of responsibility as a Deputy Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government. Like Gwyneth Dunwoody, Tamsin is particularly concerned about Transport, Fuel, Renewable Energy, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport. In addition Tamsin feels passionately about other major issues such as Climate Change and Carbon Emissions, Forestry, Affordable Housing, Flood Defences and Animal Welfare.



Tamsin Dunwoody speaking at Prize Giving

When introducing the Guest of Honour, Lady Laws impressed the Hall with her ability to speak Welsh. The Chairman of the GCH Governing Body also mentioned that, on her Pembrokeshire small holding Tamsin cherished not only her five children but 33 animals, from pigs to ponies. Whilst Tamsin continues to learn Welsh, she has little time to relax and enjoy her hobbies of embroidery and drawing. Though two other careers have been pursued, the lure of the

family's political tradition has ultimately proved irresistible and Tamsin declared that she "lives, breathes, eats, dreams and sleeps politics". Her children's active interest in current affairs suggests that they will be the fifth generation to enter politics.



Students perform a song from the Music & Film International Project

Tamsin declared that her years at GCH had not only provided her with a good education and university qualifications but had

contributed to her awareness of the community. *Ms McMellan*

Grey Coat Named in Ofsted 'Outstanding Providers' List

You may recall that we were judged to be an 'outstanding school' following our Ofsted inspection which took place in November 2005. One year on, and we are delighted to have been included in the Ofsted list of outstanding providers of education which was published alongside the HM Chief Inspectors Annual Report on 22nd November. You can download the full Ofsted report from the website.

Gym & Dance Display Provides

Each November, the PE department hosts a 'Gym and Dance Display' which showcases some of the amazing talent that our students have across dance and gymnastics in front of an audience that includes students, teachers and parents. This year was no exception and featured performances in areas as diverse as Haka, Lebanese, African, Hip Hop, Ghetto and Tap with the junior, senior and GCSE Gymnastics students also performing. Proceeds raised from the sale of tickets will go towards developing ICT within the Physical Education department.



an Evening of Energetic Entertainment



Photos: Participants in the Gym and Dance Display 2006

Science Club

The Science Club is a great opportunity for Year 7 and 8 pupils to further their science understanding as well as working towards the CREST award.

Mondays After school in A32
Come along and see....

you never know
you might just have some fun!



Year 9 revision starts now!

There are 13 school weeks left until the SATS exams and 13 chapters in the revision book that all Year 9 pupils now have.

The only sure way for your daughter to do well in her science SATS exam is for her to revise a chapter each week and for her to continue to work through the past SATS questions that we will supply her with.

Week commencing 11th December - Chapter 1

Week commencing 18th December - Chapter 2

Week commencing 8th January - Chapter 3

Information on preventing and surviving coughs and colds.

These websites might be of help:

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleId=494>

<http://www.gesundheitsinformation.de/sore-throat.242.56.en.html>

<http://www.chic.org.uk/chicmco/spotlight/downloads/coldandflu.pdf>

Finally, if you think you've got it bad . . .

The record for the longest sneezing bout ever goes to a Donna Griffiths, from Worcestershire. Donna started sneezing on 13th January 1981 and didn't stop for 987 days; her next sneeze-free day was 16th September 1983!

Staff Netball Tournament at St Michael's

During November, the PE department organised a netball tournament that included the staff and students. Team A – comprising staff members Ms Kaur, Mr Lee, Ms Savage, Mr Stephenson Ms Wild, Ms Grose and Ms Stark - played against Year 10 and Year 11 netball students on 7th November in a game that they succeeded in. Team B – comprising staff members Ms Lecky, Mr Armshaw, Ms Harvey, Ms Morrish, Ms Bond, Ms Bryant, Mr Powell, Ms Marriott-Clarke and Ms Worsfold also won their game the following week on 14th November against the students.

This meant that the two staff teams went head to head in a championship final which took place on 21st November. It was a close call throughout but Team B won with a score of 10-9 against Team A. Ms Kaur, however of Team A was declared the 'most valuable player of the game'.



The staff netball team



Ms Kaur in action

Design & Technology News

Ethical Textiles

Last week Lyla Patel from Traid came in to talk to the textiles students in DT.

TRAID - Textile Recycling For Aid And International Development.

is a charity committed to combating world poverty by recycling at home.

It deals with issues about textiles recycling, remade fashion, the life cycle of textiles products, ethics and environmental issues. Traid supports Third World projects by selling clothing through outlets across England and Wales, and they have recycling clothing banks in many boroughs across the country.

Lyla did a practical workshop with Year 8 students and they remade t-shirts. With the year 10s, 12s and 13s she discussed issues about how we can be more environmentally conscious designers. She gave us shocking facts and figures about shops that we all enjoy shopping at, like H&M and Primark, and the scary facts behind how they can afford to make and sell such good quality garments at such low prices by exploiting workers in the factories. She talked about Nike and Michael Jordan adverts, and the wealth of the head of the Arcadia group who owns many high street shops. The girls were very interested, concerned, and participated fully in the discussions.



Lyla Patel from Traid giving a practical workshop to Year 8 students



Lyla was a fantastic speaker who got us all thinking. Hopefully we will become more ethically conscious as we go about our Christmas shopping this year. *Ms McDermott*

Geography Trip to the Seaside!

At the beginning of November, year 11 Geography students braved the elements to spend a day at the exclusive coastal resort of Walton-on-Naze. Students were studying the impacts of coastal erosion and considering the positive and negative effects of the sea defences that have been put in place. Despite the driving rain and bitterly cold winds, students got into the seaside spirit and spent a short time supporting the local economy - discovering the highlights of amusement arcades and teashops. Some even ventured as far as the Save the Naze charity shop. Back at school, it's down to work and students have been preparing their second piece of coursework, to be presented as an oral exam just before Christmas. Good luck girls!

Ichigo Bracelets Launched

This year the sixth form young enterprise company Ichigo have launched a range of chunky beaded bracelets. The beaded bracelets are all uniquely hand made using a range of colours, shapes and sizes. The prices vary from £6.00 to £10.00 and for an extra £1.00 you get a beautiful red gift box.

Ichigo had their first opportunity to sell at Prize Giving in November where they managed to sell 80% of their stock. They have been extremely popular with sixth form students and teachers. They are now taking orders for Christmas and plan to set up a stall during the lunch time at both sites. They have already received numerous orders from teachers and are now busy getting the orders completed before Christmas. Ichigo would like to take this opportunity to thank students and teachers for all their positive feedback and support by purchasing their bracelets. Treat yourself or someone special with an Ichigo bracelet this Christmas. *Ms Kaur*



Ichigo bracelets



Members of Ichigo display their bracelets

The Many Faces of Henry V

November 2006 brought the production of **Henry V** to life. With directors Miss Bond, Miss Hadaway and Miss Field, and an extensive cast, hand-picked from years 7-12 the production took place. This was not just any old Shakespeare play with the tricky language and droning speeches this was an exciting, fresh and comical production with a modern twist of the confusing **Henry V**.

Henry V is the main character of the play, obviously! He is effectively thrown into the job of king when his father dies, many are not happy with this as rumours of Henry's partying days had spread around England fast. The slightly conniving advisors saw what they thought was their chance to take over but the young king proved to rise to the challenge well. Most of the play takes place in France as Henry quickly engages in war after feeling that he had been 'taken for a doughnut' by France, and felt he needed to get his revenge. All the time Henry had his eye on the young French Princess Katherine, his aim was to conquer France and have Katherine as his bride. The story is shown from many different sides including humour, tragedy and romance.

When we first got the script, there were many worried and confused looking faces wondering how on earth we were ever going to learn the lines, produce the play in about a month and most important of all understand what Shakespeare was going on about! But we did it, after many late rehearsals, unpredictable finishing times and with the help of many, including Madame Baali who spent hour after hour perfecting the rather interesting French accents that were required for the play; really and truly, be thankful for that, because otherwise you may have been hearing some rather dodgy Danish accents! But of course numbers of people gave up their free time to help

with the play and we couldn't have done it without them, a big thank you to Miss Bond, Miss Hadaway and Miss Field but also all of the set designers, lighting and costume people, backstage help and in general everyone who took part in helping to make such a fantastic production.

To make the play more interesting to audiences of today many of the long speeches were transformed into quirky outbursts and parts were added to relate the wonderful script to today's main issues. Technical lighting, inventive set pieces and hours of rehearsals gave the play a polished and professional look.

Our first performance was to the extremely critical audience of Year 9, whispers behind the doors of 'they're the hardest audience to please,' created fear in many but when we took our bows we knew it had been a success. The two evening performances went even better and by Friday evening we had successfully performed a perfect production and



were very relieved but most didn't want it to end. We had worked hard, made lots of new friends and all enjoyed being part of the wonderful **Henry V**.

Mercy Welbeck & Clio Chartres 9Y

is 'Perfect Production'

Shakespeare's **Henry V** was a fantastic play. The actors and actresses gave us bundles of comical humour, as certain cast members pranced around on hobby horses! We must not fail to remember Henry himself, or should I say Henrys. Henry V was played by five different actors to draw attention to the different parts of Henry's character; all five gave appeal through their ranting and raving to their cool seductive mannerism. We must also not overlook the talents of those in drag, as I think it's safe to say they did tremendously well. With a huge thanks to those who produced the music, as it was very pleasing to the ear and was well recognised, well done! Also to the people who helped behind stage, as your assistance has not gone unrecognised! Well done to all those who took part, you have not been forgotten, in addition a huge congratulations to Miss Hadaway, Miss Field and to Ms Bond for putting together a fantastic play! *Jordanne Robinson 11G*



Photos: Members of the cast give an enthusiastic performance

Chinese Speaking Competition

Setting out from St. Andrew's at 9 o'clock in the morning we were all very nervous but also very excited. We had been rehearsing long and hard for the competition and the day had finally arrived. All we could talk about on the train on the way was how great it would be if we could manage to win the trip to China that we knew was the prize for the best entry. We arrived at Kingsford Community School in Beckton in East London at 10 o'clock to find twenty other schools had entered; now we were even more nervous: how could we beat twenty schools?

The competition is a yearly event for schools throughout the UK where Mandarin is taught and is the most prestigious Mandarin event organised by the British Council. There are two separate categories; group performance and individual speaking. The group performance takes the form of a short play or sketch, acted entirely in Mandarin, while the individual speaking part involves one student giving a pre-prepared talk and then answering questions from the judges, all in Mandarin. For the group performance, we had chosen to act out a scene from one of the most famous works of Chinese literature, *The Story of the Stone* (<http://www.complete-review.com/reviews/orientalia/tsots.htm>) by Cao Xueqin. We called our scene, *A New Home for Lin Dai Yu*. As the point of the competition is to encourage Mandarin in schools, the judges are looking for good use of National Curriculum language and good pronunciation so Mrs Martin edited the scene to remove complicated language that was in the original text and added curriculum language that the girls had learnt in their lessons. Although the competition is principally about speaking, we put a lot of time and effort into our acting, our costumes and the set, spending three lunchtimes a week for a month on rehearsing and designing our set.



While we were doing this, the individual performer composed and practised her speech on her own, in her own time.

After six schools had been on the stage, it was the turn of the six Grey Coat girls. With Mrs Martin controlling the music, Peggy Wang (Mandarin PGCE student from Goldsmiths College) videoing the performance and Aileen Brennan managing the set, Mercy Welbeck, Alice Clark-Edwards, Sophie Hale, Imogen Williams, Emma Gray and Lara Semple-Kinshasa gave their

all. Everything went to plan; everyone's acting was magnificent but more importantly, everyone's Mandarin sounded perfect. All of the hard work had paid off; we could not have wished for the play to be better.



After our performance, we had to wait nervously for all of the other schools to complete their entry and then, before the results, go and cheer on Aileen in the individual competition. When the results were finally read out by the panel of judges, comprising representatives from the Chinese Embassy in the UK, HSBC Bank (the sponsor), the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) in London and the British Council, we were absolutely delighted when they named The Grey Coat Hospital overall winners for the group performance prize and therefore the recipients of an all-expenses paid trip to Beijing.



Considering that Mandarin has only been taught at Grey Coat for one year, winning the group performance prize ahead of twenty other schools is a tremendous achievement. Although the individual speaking prize went to a student from St George's School for Girls in Scotland, Aileen Brennan gave a very accomplished speech of which she should be very proud, especially as she only started learning Mandarin a year ago. The students thoroughly deserved the recognition of their achievements by the British Council and equally deserve their hard-won prize.

Group performance: Mercy Welbeck, Alice Clark-Edwards, Sophie Hale, Imogen Williams, Emma Gray and Lara Semple-Kinshasa.
Individual performance: Aileen Brennan *Mrs Wei Martin, Mandarin teacher*

Photos: Top-Group performance, left- Presentation to Grey Coat Winners, Right- Aileen Brennan gives her individual performance

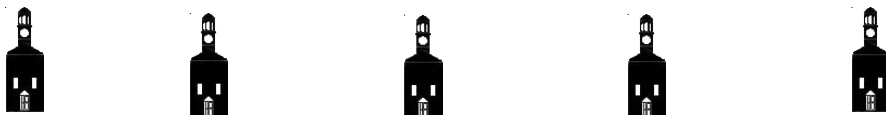
Japanese Exchange 2006/2007



Grey Coat students with their Japanese exchange partners

The Grey Coat Hospital said "sayonara" to our Japanese friends on 9th November after their 10-day visit to London to meet their Westminster based exchange partners. Every year, students from Year 10 at Grey Coat join forces with Westminster City School and St Augustine's High School in an exchange programme that begins with students from three schools in Tokyo visiting London in November and culminates in a visit of the London schools to Tokyo in May the following year. Whilst in London the Japanese students stay with the family of their exchange partners and visit school, going to lessons with their partners on some days. This is also reciprocated on the visit to Tokyo although there is time for sightseeing too. In between these visits students have weekly Japanese lessons at The Grey Coat Hospital where they learn about the language and culture of their new found friends.

THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL GUILD AN ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF



Dear parents and carers,
We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. And we look forward to meeting new guild members in the New Year.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

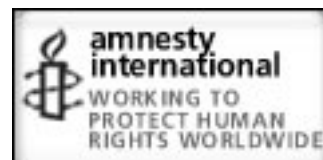
The new guild committee members who were elected at the recent AGM on the 9th November are:

Elizabeth Gibson (Chair)
Sarah Kasmin (Vice Chair)
Eric Meanwell (Treasurer)
Jack Anintoteloui (Vice Treasurer)
Sam Fores (Secretary)

Elizabeth Gibson (Chair) Sarah Kasmin (Vice Chair), Sam Fores (Secretary), Eric Meanwell (Treasurer) and Jack Anintoteloui (Assistant Treasurer).



Amnesty International at Grey Coat



The Amnesty International Group is now up and running! Come along to the Lower School Chapel on Wednesdays from 1 o'clock. The group is run by Mr Swinton and Miss Worsfold. Our first fundraising event, a cake sale, will be held at lunchtime on Friday 15th December, so please come along and support us.

Amnesty International is a great cause because it helps to free people who have been imprisoned for their beliefs. We have already been busy writing Christmas cards to send to some of these prisoners, to give them hope, as many of them have been separated from their loved ones. *Issy Muir 9Y*

PE Department News

Yr7 vs Francis Holland 15th Nov 2006 - Game 1

The Yr7 netball team played in their second match of the season against the much feared Francis Holland. The Yr7's got off to a rocky start and made several clumsy passes, Francis Holland defended well and it was soon obvious that it was going to be a close match. Stephanie Black made an excellent Centre and worked well with her Wing Attack Rosie Steel to bring the ball up the court. Bella Spencer and Melita Emanuel Carr struggled against their defenders but were soon able to get free and score a goal between them. Francis Holland fought back and had soon scored a goal despite the valiant efforts of Paige James and Athalia Bradshaw as Goal Keeper and Goal Defence. The score at half time was 2-1 to Grey Coat with all still to play for.

Grey Coat came back even stronger in the second half and defended extremely well, making Francis Holland struggle to get the ball up their end. Esther Ounounu played an excellent Wing Defence and helped bring the ball up to Grey Coat's shooting end, where the goals kept rolling in. Danielle Belcher had come on as Wing Attack and used her fast pace to make several vital interceptions and passes. The final score was 5 -1 to Grey Coat, a well deserved victory!

Team List

Stephanie Black	Danielle Belcher	Athalia Bradshaw
Paige James	Bella Spencer	Esther Ounounu
Melita Emanuel Carr	Rosie Steel	

Player of the match

Esther Ounounu

Yr7 vs Francis Holland 15th Nov 2006 - Game 2

Another Year 7 team, with some new players played in a second game against the almighty Francis Holland. Grey Coat got off to a good start and soon intercepted Francis Holland's centre. Alex Law made an excellent Centre and used her speed to outmanoeuvre her opponent several times. There was lots of support from the Wing Attack Maria Fernandez and Goal Attack Sade Fergus, however Francis Holland had a quite a strong attack themselves and soon brought the ball up their end. Demi Aristotelous and Olivia Langley worked extremely hard as Goal Keeper and Goal Defence and intercepted several passes and shots. Francis Holland were leading 2-0, when Grey Coat made a sudden break through and got the ball to Sabrina Brown (Goal Shooter) who scored an excellent goal, making it 2-1 to Francis Holland at half time.

During the second half Esther Abban Mensah played Centre and soon dominated play in the centre third. Hope Barker came on as Wing Attack and made several vital passes. Sade Fergus worked very hard as Goal Attack and Reem Ayoubi came on as a strong Wing Defence. Grey Coat fought for every ball and were unlucky on a couple of shots; however Francis Holland started to get more balls up their end and soon scored. Final Score 6 -1 to Francis Holland. A valiant effort by the girls, especially those who were new to netball.

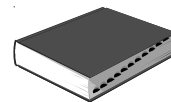
Team List

Demi Aristotelous	Hope Barker	Alex Law
Maria Fernandez	Reem Ayoubi	Sade Fergus
Olivia Langley	Sabrina Brown	Esther Abban Mensah

Player of the match

Olivia Langley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER

- 20th Year 11 Mock Exams end
- 21st School Carol Service, St Margaret's
- 22nd **INSET Day - school closed to students for staff training**
- END OF TERM**

JANUARY

- 8th **START OF TERM**
- 16th **Year 11 Parents' Evening**
- 17th **Guild Meeting & Ice Skating 7pm**
- 19th Year 10 Mock RE Exam
- 24th Year 9 Holocaust Memorial Day
- 26th Mock KS3 exams
- 30th **Year 10 Parents' Evening**
Year 11 Careers Day

FEBRUARY

- 1st **Year 12 Geography Trip to Barcelona (returns 4th)**
- 2nd **Senior Solo Recital, St Andrew's**
- 5th Y12 Internal Mock Exams begin
- 9th Year 9 RE Mock Exams begin
- 12th Head Girl Presentations
- 13th **Year 9 Parents' Evening**
- 16th Y12 Internal Mock Exams end
- HALF TERM**
- 28th Ash Wednesday Service, 9.20am
Westminster Abbey