

Grey Coat



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY 2008

Dear parents,

One of the most important things we hope to gain from the Building Schools for the Future programme, is improved disability access. The St Michael's building is already fully accessible, and the new arts block at St Andrew's will be too. It is not possible to make the listed building at St Andrew's totally accessible, but a lift will be installed that should open up the hall to disabled visitors as well as to students with limited mobility, and at the same time give access to specialist DT workshops and science labs. In the meantime, we need to find out what other adjustments would make the most difference to disabled parents and visitors. If you can help us with your comments and suggestions, please write to me, or Ms Parish, or email the school.

Ms Parish is also working on a travel plan for the school. This is a government initiative designed to encourage students and staff to use healthier and more sustainable means of travelling to school. There is some funding to support this work, which makes it realistic for us to put forward suggestions to the city council about safety features or other improvements that we would like to see in the vicinity of the school. If you have suggestions about where extra crossings, or road signs should be sited, or about other changes that would make the roads safer for our students, or suggestions about how public transport could be improved, your ideas would be very welcome. The Upper and Lower School Councils have been working on these questions and their ideas will feed into the school travel plan. This also is part of the BSF programme.

I am sure that many of you will be pleased to hear that green issues must be taken into account in any building work done for the BSF programme, and that the funding depends on certain requirements being met. It is certainly an important concern for our students. As the plans for Grey Coat are developed over the next few months, I will be able to let you know about how our own BSF project will meet these requirements.

As always, this Newsletter celebrates a wide range of activities and achievements, which give you an indication of the breadth of education we offer at Grey Coat. I think the students sometimes take the opportunities open to them here a bit for granted. This is natural, perhaps, as, for most of them, this is the only secondary school that they know. But it is, in fact, quite unusual to have so many clubs, trips, musical, dramatic and sporting events going on in school. The government has set schools a challenge to give students access to 5 hours a week of sporting activity. This is already possible at Grey Coat, for those students who are keen enough to participate in a number of after school and lunchtime sporting activities. (We could not, however, provide so many hours for every student, simply because we do not have the space - all our sports facilities are used to the maximum already - so out of school sports clubs will have to do more in the future to attract and hold the interest of young people if everyone is to take part.)

Now we hear that the government is planning a similar challenge to provide five hours a week of cultural activity for school age children. Again, I think that we are ahead of the game in this, although it has yet to be revealed what activities will count towards the five hours. (Undoubtedly, some lessons will be included, as they are for sport.) I am tremendously grateful to the dedicated staff who provide so many extra-curricular activities at Grey Coat, by giving up their own time to plan and run them without extra pay. Students sometimes need to be reminded that teachers are human beings with a finite amount of time and energy, so everything the students can do to make lessons go smoothly will also help make it possible for staff to put time and energy into enrichment activities, rather than wasting it on sorting out behaviour or running detentions for people who have not done their homework. It takes the commitment of the whole school community to make such a broad educational experience possible.

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.



Good Attendance & Punctuality

Despite the many viruses going around most of the students are getting in and Attendance and Punctuality are good in all years. Please remember to ring in when your daughter is sick and please remember to follow it up with a note on the first day back.

*Angela Trainor & Vivien Moore
Attendance and Punctuality Officers*

Artists of the Month



The following students have been named Artists of the Month (January and February) for:

Outstanding artist achievement in making and illustrating beautiful animal creation stories.

**Year 8Y
Nerissa Williams
Alexandra Law**

Congratulations!

Design & Technology students prepare for coursework deadline

Year 12 and 13 Product Designers are currently working really hard on their coursework. The artefacts are well underway as the deadline is soon approaching. Watch this space for more updates on these promising young designers. Here are some images of the latest textiles developments.

Good luck from all D&T teachers and keep it up. Not long now!



Work Experience is a Pantomime for GCH Student

This is the Fourth year that a student from Grey Coat has been invited to participate in Work Experience with the annual Pricewaterhouse Coopers pantomime. This year Jessica Kennedy 10T was selected. Here is the account of her experience.

I was so excited when I was offered the chance to take part in the Pricewaterhouse Coopers Work Experience Programme from the 19th to 26th of January because of my interest in Drama. I was to help with their latest pantomime production 'Babes in the Wood' that was going to be shown to 7,500 people across Britain and it was based at the London Peacock Theatre in Aldwych. Every day, I was taken to the theatre in a chauffeured car which

made it even more special! When I got to the theatre, I was introduced to the cast and crew and given a tour around the whole theatre which was quite overwhelming. After this I was shown to my working room- the wardrobe, and worked with Mamie, who was also on the work experience from Harris Academy in Bermondsey. We were given lots of work to do, like sewing, stitching and at one point I was taken to the men's dressing room to help them with their make-up which was a bizarre experience! I also got

to watch the pantomime several times but I never got tired of it because it was so entertaining with men dressing up as women and vice-versa. Each day was so packed and busy, sometimes chaotic, and by the end of

the day I was knocked out as my car dropped me home but I loved everyday of it and I'm so glad and feel so privileged and special that this opportunity was given to me!!



A scene from the Pantomime



A behind the scenes view



Jessica Kennedy pictured during her work experience

Beeb! Beeb!

On the 14th of January 2008, STEMnet (Science, Engineering & Maths Club) went to the BBC! The topic was communication and technology. We went on a few trains to White city where the BBC was. When we got there we went through security and handed in our scissors (which we got back in the end) and got our passes. We went around looking at where they did the news programmes. (We saw Jeremy Paxman, which was a bonus!) They were making all the final arrangements for the 6 o'clock news. We went into studios to see all the technical bits. The studio was really famous and had been used for Strictly Come Dancing, Little Britain, and they were going to film Never Mind The Buzzcocks the next day. The studio seemed much smaller in real life than they look on TV.

We went to see the Alan Tichmarsh show filmed, and it went wrong so they had to stop filming and made everyone start again. The BBC always uses live audiences, so there were a few oldies there too!

Tiffany got to present a weather forecast. She stood in front of a blue screen and was filmed, while we got to watch on a TV screen. She couldn't see the weather map and was just pointing at a blue screen, but the map was filled in by computer and appeared on the TV screen. The Weather Port was really complicated because the picture gets flipped back to front and you don't know which way you're pointing. Tiffany tried it out and had difficulty, but it seemed like she had quite a lot of fun! And we found out that you can't wear blue otherwise you will blend in with the background! We found out how Harry Potter's invisible cloak was made (just a blue sheet!) and made Madison disappear on TV.

At the end we went into the interactive studio where we got to pretend to be on T.V. some of the group were the audience and others got to be filmed. It was all displayed on a big flat-screen TV. Shakira and Alex got to pretend to be Newsround presenters! We had to read from an autocue, and talked about a news clip. Shenell, Deborah, Nerissa, Blaire, Preye and Jessica got to play a quiz game like The Weakest Link! Before we left we went into the shop and bought a few reminders of our day.

Thank you Mr Stephenson and Mr Hart for a great trip!

Alexandra Law and Shakira Noel



The students pictured at the entrance to the BBC Television Centre

GCH Hosts First Primary Conference

Grey Coat has proudly hosted its first Primary Conference for MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) on 21st January 2008. The purpose of the conference was to introduce the borough's primary teachers to the MFL department at GCH, to provide language training for primary teachers and to promote collaborative working practices in the implementation of the Key Stage Two Scheme of Work.

The conference included information about Primary Language initiatives, a sample lesson delivered to teachers in the target language by a native (Spanish) speaker and a group session for planning and sharing ideas.

One of the key action points from the conference was to ensure that teachers had easy access to materials, support and advice, and I hope that our new Primary web page will provide a forum for teachers (both primary and secondary) to continue to share ideas in the future.

Grey Coat was privileged to be working with our Westminster colleagues and the feedback from attendees has been extremely positive.

MFL teachers Louise Miller (AST in MFL), Claire Stacey (Community Links) and Carla San Julian (Spanish and French teacher) worked closely with Flavia Lambert (Deputy Head, GCH), Sally Wicks (Senior School Development Office, Westminster City Council) and Susi Sahmland (AST, Pimlico School) in preparing the conference.

We are all very much looking forward to the next conference and hope to run future conferences on a half-termly basis.

Claire Stacey



Ms Lambert speaking to the primary school teachers

Senior Solo Recital

Well deserved applause greeted each performer in the Senior Solo Recital on Thursday, 31st January in the St Andrew's Great Hall. The contributions came from students from year 10, pianist Takiywa Danso playing Heller's *Prelude in C sharp minor*, to year 13, guitarist Nicholas Quanrud performing *Dear Old Stockholm* by Stan Getz. None appeared to be intimidated by the occasion, the audience or the size of the venue.

The evening opened with Izzy Rose on clarinet playing Finzi's *Prelude* from *Five Bagatelles* and ended with Emma Penrose's accomplished singing of Purcell's *Music for a While*. Other vocal contributions came from Hannah Robbins' *Porgi Amor* from *The Marriage of Figaro* and Martha Kilpatrick's *Du Bist die Ruh*, one of Schubert's most famous lieder. In between there was an excellent variety with Robert Amissah's viola contributions from Handel's *Sonata in G minor Op. 1, No. 6*, Yasmin Baker playing *Mouvements Perpetuels* by Poulenc whilst Helena Carlin and Miriam Damanhuri performed respectively Gaubert's *Madrigal* on the flute and Baermann's *Andante No.46* from *Vollstandige Clarinett-Schule, Op.63* on the clarinet. In addition to the student participation, the audience was also delighted to listen to performances from accompanists Mr Carlin, Mr Penrose, Mr Hunter and Ms Platt. A truly enjoyable recital staged under the eagle eye of Mr Jones.

Ms McMellan



House of Commons hosts Student Parliament

On Friday, 1st February, 2008, an eager group of sixthformers submitted to parliamentary bodysearches as a preliminary to a debate in Committee Room 10. The motion to be tackled was "That this House believes that developed countries should force developing countries to protect the environment by making it a condition of aid".

Discussing the topic at a Debating Society session had, courtesy of the geographers, introduced members to the correct terminology of "less economically developed countries" & "newly industrialised countries" etcetera. The meeting had also revealed that most sixthformers were opposed to the motion. Nevertheless the participants were to be in role with 8 functioning as members of the Government and the other eight serving as members of the Opposition.

The opening speech on behalf of the Government was given by a sixthform boy from Camden School. The Opposition response came from GCH's Gladys Odoemelam who delivered her speech firmly and clearly. A particularly impressive feature was the ability of Gladys to deal with interventions, whether from her own side or from Government Backbenchers - including one from Jordan Loughlin.

After these 2 opening speeches the Backbenchers had their chance to participate and an animated debate ensued. Grey Coat students frequently rose to speak but did not always manage to catch the eye of Mr Speaker. One of the most successful was Ayo Sobowale whose persistence secured her the opportunity to deliver at least 4 contributions. Whilst Ayo's points were made in support of the Opposition's case, Catherine Evans and Holly Harris were on their feet to deliver speeches from the Government benches. By the end of the floor debate the voices of Olivia Udoyen, Samantha Koranteng, Thomas Stewart and, at length, Gladys had strengthened the arguments for the Opposition.

The closing speeches were delivered by representatives from Lewisham College and Portsmouth Grammar School. The most telling comment, however, came in an intervention when Thomas pointed out that 'with thousands of children dying each day, the world needed to put children before windmills'. The Government motion was soundly defeated.

In the afternoon Mr Higginson remained with a small group of sixthformers keen to watch genuine MPs engage in debate. They found themselves in agreement with Mark Todd, the Labour MP for South Derbyshire who had acted as Mr Speaker for the Student Parliament. At 2p.m Mark Todd had congratulated all 4 schools on their pertinent contributions and stated that 'the morning's debate was much livelier than anything that would be heard in the House of Commons'. Ms McMellan



Mark Todd MP who chaired the debate

THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL GUILD

AN ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF



Dear Parents and Carers,

The darkness of the winter is now behind us and the longer days are now fast approaching.

As usual the guild has a lot of exciting fundraising events and opportunities for the year ahead. In order to raise money at these events, we need willing volunteers to help out at functions. It is an excellent way of getting to know other parents and meeting new people.

Quiz Night – fish ‘n’ chip supper

The Quiz Night, which was held on Feb 1st, was a real success this year! The Guild wishes to thank all of you who attended and supported this exciting and intellectually stimulating event. It is estimated that there were 70 to 80 people who turned up and Rona performed her quiz mistress role in her usual inimitable way – many thanks Rona.

200 Club

The lucky winning ticket holders for the month of February and March will be drawn at the next guild meeting on 5/03/08.

International Fair

As mentioned before, the Grey Coat Hospital International Fair is scheduled to take place on 17th May 2008.

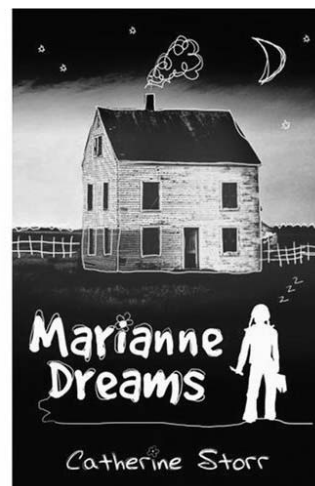
We would encourage all parents and carers to support this event in every way that they can.

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.

Library Corner



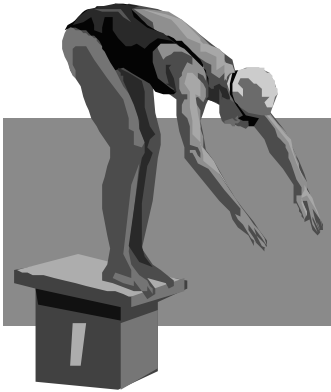
2008 is the National Year of Reading and we will be having extra activities. In March we will be having story telling in the Library – more detail to follow!





Swimming

The school swimming team are having a very successful swimming season. They recently won the Alleyn's school invitational swimming gala against some of the top school swimming teams in London and will now go through to the finals on 28th April.



Westminster Champions

More recently the team participated in the Westminster gala, this was our best ever performance as a team, winning the event by a staggering **38pts!**

In fact GCH won every event except two in which we came 2nd.

All girls are credit to the school, not only in their swimming performance, but also in their team work, co operation and respect for each other and all staff.

The following students are members of the successful team:

LUCY SANDERSON 9
AMY YUAN 9
ELLE PAGE 9
DANIELLA OLALEYE 9

AMELIA FLUIN 7
LOUISE HAMILTON 7
ELLIE WARWICK 7
MAYA BAKER 7
JESSICA FERGUSON 7

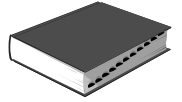
LAYLA HARRIS 10
CHLOE SEXTON 10
DEVON ROBBINS 10
CHARLIE BATES PARRY 10

PAIGE GORDON 8
SOPHIA CATTINI 8
ALICE HAWKINS 8
HARLEY GREER 8

NICOLE SEXTON 13
EMILY BUTTON 12

REBECCA BETTINELLI 13

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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**

APRIL

- 1st** Swimming Gala
- Y9 Drama Showcase, St Andrew's 6pm**
- 3rd** End of term Service & Talent show
- 4th** INSET Day - school closed for staff training
- 21st** **START OF TERM**
- 24th Y10 Trip to Epping forest
- 29th** **Y8 Parents' Evening**
- 30th** **Guild Meeting, 6.30pm**