
Grey Coat

Number 151



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY 2009

Dear Parents,

On page 15 we have some lovely pictures of Grey Coat in the snow. Everything looks beautiful, but we all know what chaos the snow brought to transport in London. It is very rare that forecasts of extreme weather conditions are definite enough for decisions to be made in advance about whether or not the school should close on the following day. However, modern communications make it possible for us to ensure that a message goes on the school website and on the answerphone by 7.00a.m. in cases where we wake up to impossible traffic conditions. If there is no special message, please assume that school is open as normal. The phone number to ring is 020 7969 1998. I hope you all received a letter sent home during the week of 9th February about this. If not, please ask your daughter to search her bag.

The letter also set out our usual procedures in case of unexpected emergencies which might make it necessary to evacuate the school and send students home early. Please discuss alternative routes home with your daughter, and ensure she knows who to contact if you are temporarily out of reach by phone. If you did not receive this letter, please read the copy on the website in the Parents section.

Could I also remind you that it is extremely important to make sure the school is notified of any change of phone number or change of address so that we can always contact you in case of emergency.

Now for some very positive things. We have, from time to time, had to warn some of our students about inconsiderate behaviour on the buses. This week, I was reminded that the few who misbehave do not represent the student body as a whole. It was very heartening to receive the following message from a member of the public: 'I was on the 507 bus passing the school on Wednesday afternoon, when about a dozen girls from your school boarded. I would like to say how impressed I was with their behaviour. They were cheerful, polite, well spoken and well mannered and I was very impressed by one girl in particular who was very concerned about an elderly man who was having difficulty disembarking from the bus. I am a secondary school teacher myself and well aware of all types of behaviour from secondary school students and I thought your girls were an outstanding example of good behaviour.' Thank you to all those students who regularly behave well and are a credit to our school community.

February is the month when our Year 13 Head Girl and prefects come to the end of their term of office, and interviews for the new Year 12 team take place. I would like to thank Georgina Howitt, the Head Girl, and Gladys Odoemelam, Emily Button and Sarah Harvey, her Deputies, for their year of outstanding service to the school. With their very strong prefect team, they have made a huge difference to the school, bringing enthusiasm and a genuine spirit of service to the job. It has been a delight to work with them. The new team, led by Camille St Omer, take over after half term, and I will introduce them all in the March issue of the Newsletter.

Rachel Allard

Attendance & Punctuality

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



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

Attendance & Punctuality Years 7, 8 & 9

Even with a two day closure due to severe weather conditions, attendance is still good and we are still above the national average. Well done to all those who have managed to get in this week despite having a rather difficult journey and let's hope we have seen the last of this sort of weather.

Punctuality has been good but please remember that incidents can happen to affect transport at a moment's notice so it is important to allow enough time for alternative routes to be taken.

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

Attendance & Punctuality Years 10 & 11

Attendance has dropped slightly due to lots of winter bugs that have been going around. Please ensure that the school is notified every single day that an absence occurs and please follow this up with a note upon your daughter's return to school. Punctuality remains good although there are still students who are letting their form down who are not leaving enough time for their journey should anything go wrong. Bad weather conditions mean that extra time is needed on wet and snowy days. Please allow at least 20-30 minutes more than you usually need to get to school on time.

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

Jack Petchey Award News

The January Jack Petchey Award winner was Mimi Newman in Y13

Mimi has helped out on numerous plays and events in the Drama department and also events to raise money for Charity – such as the fashion show. She co-produced 'Oh What a Lovely War' and was the assistant manager for 'Our Country's Good'. She is a very determined student who has shown a great resilience, despite poor health. She is very thoughtful and kind – often putting others before herself.



Year 9 Learn to Earn Day

All year 9 pupils took part in the Youth Enterprise Learn to Earn Programme on Monday 19th January 2009. They were off timetable for the day in order to take part in this exciting and valuable initiative.

The Learn to Earn Programme is designed to give 13-15 year old students an activity based introduction into the relationship between learning and the attainment of personal goals. The programme aims to support and guide students in exploring the concepts of success, independence and employment and in understanding the relevance of learning and education in their future. It also offers students the opportunity to begin planning for their ideal lifestyle and future careers options.

Trained volunteers from the business community delivered the programme and acted as role models to the students, leading discussions and delivering activities on the day.

The school has taken part in this initiative for a couple of years and past students have found it extremely valuable, particularly at a time when they are thinking about their GCSE choices and future options. The Learn to Earn Day will complement this term's PSHCE focus on 'Future Options.'



Year 8 'Me as a Beast' Project

Currently some Yr 8 classes are working on a project on the theme of 'Me as a Beast'. Students have been looking at drawings made by artist Nicola Hicks and also Chinese make-up artist Hangzhou Mao Geping.

As part of this 8H, 8R, 8C, and 8T each produced a most breathtaking fashion show. This was set as an Art homework, but many girls had spent all week working on their costumes, some finely sewn.

Here is how *Diana James of 8H* reviewed her class show.

"Today everyone was excited – and there was a reason for that! 8H had made their 'Me as a Beast' costume catwalk. Nearly everyone made a costume, even those who did fashion drawings participated as helpful assistants, choreographers, music, lighting and splendid photographers.

Every costume sparkled and there wasn't a single person who didn't enjoy the most fabulous animal fashion show made by the whole of 8H and our Art teacher Mrs. Bullough. Teamwork was really bursting out"

The rules were such:

- . speak to the commentator
- . do 2 catwalks up and down the room
- . stop and pose for photographs
- . move in time to the music



One of the 'Beast' costumes produced on the day

We had a wonderful time for one whole hour, and Mrs Bullough was convinced that the girls from 8H were brilliant animals.

Watch this space for some beautiful drawings and body adornment projects from the other Yr 8 artists.

Design and Technology Trip to The Design Museum

At the beginning of this term the year 10 graphics groups went on a trip to the design museum to see an exhibition of work by the graphic designer and illustrator Alan Aldridge. The visit to the exhibition was a vital part of the year 10 project as well as a great opportunity for the girls to see the work of such a prolific designer.

Aldridge illustrated lyric books for the Beatles, created album covers for The Who and Elton John, was Art director for Penguin, illustrated children's books and designed adverts for iconic brands such as the Hard Rock Café. The exhibition was a visual extravaganza that explored Aldridge's magical world through his colourful, elaborate and psychedelic illustrations.



Alan Aldridge *There is a place* 1969

Citizenship News

Congratulations to Nazhat Shaheen Y9. She is the winner of a Westminster-wide competition for young people organised by **The Racial Harassment & Discrimination Unit**. She has won a Bose Sound Dock, normally costing £300!

She answered the following question correctly:

Q: *The Racial Harassment & Discrimination Unit provides advice and assistance to anyone living or working in Westminster who is affected by discrimination in which 7 areas?*

A: Employment, Education, Housing, Goods or services, Public functions, Stop and search, Attacks on the street.



Winner, Nazhat Shaheen

Music Update

Westminster Youth Orchestra

On Friday 13 March and Saturday 14 March, The Grey Coat Hospital is hosting the Westminster Youth Orchestra. The intensive rehearsals lead to a concert performance at 5.00pm on the Saturday. This is a fantastic opportunity for players of all instruments and abilities from all over Westminster. This year the orchestra will also get the chance to perform with some members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. This event is free!



Please see Mr Jones or email music@gch.org.uk for an application form.



Flutewise Workshop

On Saturday 7 March (2.00 - 4.00pm), The Grey Coat Hospital is hosting an Exploration Flutewise workshop. The day will involve various workshops on all aspects of playing the flute including an opportunity to rehearse and perform an ensemble piece on the day. The event costs £7.00 and is open to players of any standard.

Please see Ms Bertolaccini or email music@gch.org.uk for an application form.

Library Corner



There are currently 3 active Reading Groups within the Grey Coat Community. Our Year 7s, Year 8s and a large group of staff are all reading avidly and widely!!

If your daughter/son would like to be in a Reading Group and have the chance to meet with others to read and discuss books, please encourage her/him to pop into the St Andrew's Library and talk to the Library Staff!

The comment we hear most often in these meetings is "I would probably never have read this if I hadn't been part of this group."

National Cipher Challenge

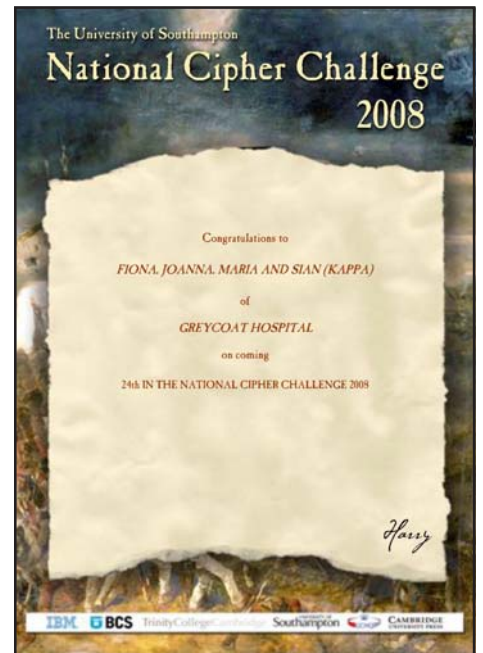
One Wednesday afternoon waaay back in September, a group of what the Maths department had decided were the Mathsiest people from each year convened in A41 to hear about the wondrous task awaiting them over the coming months. We had been entered into the National Cipher Challenge!

This is a marvellous event that occurs in the winter term of every year. It starts off relatively easily, allowing amateur cryptographers to get the hang of simple Caesar ciphers before being launched into the far more daunting realms of possible Vigeneres and Playfair Ciphers.

The main trick is to recognise the type of cipher then to use a crib to work your way into it. We began at the very beginning with humble frequency analysis, then using Word to find and replace, taking care to be case sensitive to differentiate between the cipher text and plaintext. FA served us well, to the last challenge, but by this stage we had progressed onto using Excel's VLOOKUP as our magic weapon.

Admittedly, we weren't very prepared for this year, just making it up as we went along and researching between challenges, but we persevered and were paid off with exclusively substitution ciphers. We were thrown by the introduction of hieroglyphs in challenge 4 and 5, then many dastardly nulls and doubly encoded letters in 6 delayed us a bit, and a code with all the numbers from 0-211 was our last task. Nevertheless, we managed an incredibly respectable 24th place overall, effectively joint tenth place. I relished the endeavour and now have great plans for next year! *Fiona Reid*

[The students who took part in this year's challenge were Maria Bergquist, Sian Ditchfield Fiona Reid and Joanna Thom; all currently in year 12 studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics]



Gifted & Talented Project

Here are 2 articles from members of 7H who are participating in the Gifted and Talented Project which involves learning mathematical concepts in different languages. Lessons have been running every Monday after-school this term and will finish with two more lessons at the start of Half Term 4.

In our second maths in languages class we did algebra in Polish, with Miss Goral! It was really interesting and as we hadn't done that subject in algebra yet so we got to learn two subjects in one. Just to let you know Algebra in Polish is: algebraiczny. For the first half of the lesson we learnt the numbers in Polish which is always good to know when you are doing maths. Then Miss Goral went through the task in Polish (this was quite confusing as we had work out what she was saying while grasping the concept of the maths). Next she gave out a sheet of exercises to complete which was easier as there was just an equation for us to complete and we didn't have to do it in Polish. I have found the last lessons of Maths in foreign languages very testing and enjoyable as I have learnt many new words and phrases but have been able to get better at maths in the process. *Grace Duncan 7H*

On Monday 12 January 2009 (the first week of our Gifted and Talented course) we learnt Spanish fractions or as Seniorita Camp said "las fracciones". We found this really fun and interesting to work out. As we already learn Spanish but not Maths in our everyday lessons, it was quite challenging but we really enjoyed having the opportunity. We can see all the work that went into it and so we'd like to say a huge thank you to Seniorita Camp for organising the lesson for us. We really appreciated her taking her free time to work with us and we hope that other students at this school will have the same opportunity.

Mimi Buchanan & Luka Kenyon 7H

Young Timebank

Turning young people's ideas into action, through creative, youth-led projects

I'm a Volunteer Facilitator (on behalf of an organisation called Young Timebank) at The Grey Coat Hospital and come in with another volunteer on Monday afternoons during the lunch break. I work fulltime nearby in Whitehall for a defence 'thinktank'. My facilitator role is basically to encourage and support a group of motivated Y7 students and to help turn their ideas for a campaign (on an issue of their choosing) into reality. The group decided they wanted to highlight the dangers of teenage violence (i.e. gun and knife crime) and the effect it has on their peer group. They wanted to do something unique and therefore organised a Y7 t-shirt competition. We supported them to organise and promote the competition, which included making posters, Internet research and public speaking in school assemblies. We encouraged the group to make collective decisions and to work together, whilst also trying to individually use their initiative and discuss their ideas openly. The competition generated quite a lot of interest and the group recently picked the winning design and two runners up designs. The winning design will soon hopefully be printed on to t-shirts and showcased in an assembly which will discuss teenage violence. The group are keen to invite a speaker to the assembly to discuss gun and knife crime and how it affects communities and why it should be eradicated. In all, the t-shirt design competition has proved an innovative way in highlighting this issue in the school, and with Y7 in particular.

Avnish Patel (Timebank Volunteer)

We are members of a project called Timebank and we have been campaigning against gun and knife crime. We decided to pick this topic because it has been in the news a lot. We have run a competition for all Y7 to design a t-shirt with a good slogan to stop gun and knife crime. The winner was Mimi Buchanan and the runners up were Tierney Andrews and Rita Hui. We have raised awareness in Y7 about gun and knife crime and our next plan is to hold an assembly, with a speaker to come and give our whole year more information. *Megan Bird, Bethany Kilminster, Holly Tarry, Katie Sapiano-Oakley, Chidima Abiaka, Cheraldine Amaadzie, Ketsia Mukumbay and Tamara Wilson*

Staff to Run in London Marathon

Five Grey Coat staff members have decided to run (possibly walk parts of) the Flora London Marathon.

Pictured from left to right Izzy Foley, Kirsty Bryant, Martina Lecky, Maarit Heiskanen and Carol Kaur have committed to raising £1400 each for the national charity Sense that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind.

The Parents' Guild has volunteered to collect sponsorship money on behalf of the runners and charity after half term. A gift



aid link will be set up on the website so that parents can sponsor the staff collectively. The staff would also encourage parents and students to come and support them on race day - they may be wearing the charity's signature orange afro wigs!

Chinese Students Recount

From Monday 19th January to Friday 6th February Grey Coat hosted two students from our sister school in China - Shanghai No 3 Girls school. This was initiated and sponsored by The English Speaking Union (ESU) through an ex-Governor. The two students stayed with host families from our Yr 11 Mandarin class. They primarily helped in Mandarin lessons but also attended some other subject lessons which they had expressed an interest in. There was a trip for the students once a week. The girls were asked to prepare an assembly on Identity which they presented at both upper and lower school. They have written their own account which follows below. *Ms Lecky*

Shang Hongjuan (Blue) A student from Shanghai No.3 Girls School

I have had a very good time during my stay here. I am very glad that I could have such a wonderful chance to come to Britain. I visited many beautiful places, met so many pretty girls and have had lessons with them. This visit has allowed me to learn more about Britain.

During my visit here, I have been very impressed by this lovely country. The weather in Britain is always changeable, but the people here are always friendly and helpful. When I am in trouble, for example, I cannot find the right way to the classrooms, many people are happy to help me. I have Mandarin lessons with the students; I am excited to see that all of them show a great interest in Chinese culture and try their best to learn Mandarin. They are always energetic and they can express their own opinions to others directly and bravely. The teachers here are also nice and friendly. They teach the students seriously; however, actually they are very lovely. The classes are often full of laughter.

Not only the people in school, but also the people outside school are kind. My host family (Imogen's family) are very kind to me. They try their best to make me comfortable and they treat me as a member of their family not as a guest. They also show great respect and give me a lot of freedom. I like the people in Britain!

During my visit in Britain, I have visited the London Eye, the Houses of Parliament and some other interesting places, like the British Museum. Moreover, I have even visited Wales and saw a brilliant historic castle. All of the places are wonderful. They allow me to see more of Britain. Among all of them, I like the houses in London best. The buildings in the city centre of London have a long history. I am keen on the structure of the houses; they all seem to be very magnificent and fantastic. British people like art very much.

The food here is also very different from Chinese food. At first, I could not get used to the food here, but later, I found that the tea and coffee here is very good. British people pay more attention to having a balance diet, and there are many vegetarians in Britain while there are only a few in China.

From this visit, I have learnt a lot and have seen things that I have never seen before. I have experienced a totally different culture and improved my English skills here. I think I will keep the experience here in my mind forever. It's an unforgettable memory for me. If I have a chance, I will come to Britain again to see and learn more.



Their Visit to London

My wonderful trip in London Jennifer(from Shanghai No.3 Girl School)

With time going by, my trip for three weeks in London came to end. I'd like to share my feelings with all of you.

Experience at The Grey Coat Hospital

We were willing to be helpful in the mandarin classes of different grades, so we attended most of the mandarin classes in the upper school and the lower school. The way of teaching here is so different from ours. Our teachers are strict with us and the homework seems to be endless. Studying by doing interesting games is always popular with the students here. It's impossible for me to have such funny, happy, relaxing atmosphere during a class. One music class left me with a deep impression: Students were required to design a model of a musical instrument by themselves with some junk like boxes or useless paper. After the opening given by the teacher, the whole class started taking out their colourful pens, plastic bottles, various decorations and other materials they prepared. Everyone cooperated with each other actively. The group that I joined in decided to make a guitar. They asked me to decorate the guitar and wished me a good time in London. At last, one of them praised me for my ugly drawings, I thought that was very kind of her to say so. The girls' passion, creativity, innocence and friendliness are an unforgettable part of my memory here.



Life at the host families

I was not worried but felt lucky that I was arranged with two host families of the 11 girls. My first host family, the Muirs are really cute and kind. Isobel, my first partner, she is amazing to me because she is the one who walks faster than anyone I have met before. Her parents were so humorous and funny that made me happy and comfortable. They have 3 daughters, the other two are Anna and Messy. Sometimes after supper, they danced to the songs together happily and laughed cheerfully. I was impressed with the polite girl Anna, who is like an angel, so lovely, so sincere, and so helpful. To my surprise, Isobel's mother is quite fond of tea, especially Chinese ones - so I drank plenty of tea even more than I have drunk in China. I felt great with those pretty charming people. After about 10 days, I moved to Clio's house, which is very large and classical. Clio is different from Isobel; she's always passionate and energetic. During our free time, we cooked cookies together. But she finished most of the work, actually. She is a very capable and nice girl. The two families are both patient with my poor English. They tried their best to explain everything to me in an easier way. I will miss my host families so much when I leave here and never forget the sweet memory I shared with them.

Visits to the sights in London

Looking back on those days, I almost enjoyed every minute when I was attracted by this beautiful, historic, ancient and modern city. The English Speaking Union, the organisation which sponsored us, my host families and The Grey Coat Hospital provided me with a lot of amusing and meaningful activities. They showed me peaceful parks, famous Cambridge, wonderful museums, brilliant palace, incredible animals, Shakespeare's birthplace, well-known London Eye and so on. They generously offer me the opportunity to taste the Italian dishes, Greek dishes and typical English dishes. The most important thing is they have set a good type of British people. No doubt, they are thoughtful, elegant and civilized.

I'm thankful to all the people here for giving 22 fantastic days to me. I really enjoyed my time in London.

Photos: Some of Blue & Jennifer's activities whilst in London



Dare to Dance

On Friday 6th February a group of seven Year Nine students were selected to participate at Westminster Sports Unit's 'Dare to Dance Empowerment Day' at the Moberly Sports and Education Centre in Kilburn.

'Dare to Dance' is a pilot project which aims to increase participation in physical activity through the medium of Street Dance using Hip Hop Dance Techniques.

This project aims to attract young women through a medium that they can engage with. Hip Hop is a dance form that has become the voice of young people, breaking down racial, ethnic, gender, class, language and regional barriers. In terms of other physical activity, dance also continues to reach out to girls and young women many of whom prefer the more creative physical activity that dance offers, over the competitive aspect of other sport forms. Throughout the day the students participated in a variety of different sports activities. These included workshops with a professional break dancer as well as a professional street dancer who is part of Nike's 'D-Clash' Dance company.

In addition to the dance workshops the students also had the opportunity to participate in a boxing workshop which aimed to raise their awareness of self defence and the students also experienced a 'Parkour' or 'free running' workshop with some of the most experienced instructors in this discipline.



During the day the students also listened to an inspirational speech by Michelle Brown who is an ex-professional basketball player. Michelle spoke to the girls candidly about her life and the trials and tribulations that she had experienced.

Here are some of the comments from the students about the day:

'The day was fun, challenging and a very new experience' – *Josephine Sesay 9H*

'It was definitely challenging and fun, the parkour is something I want to try again' – *Deborah Ojumu 9H*

'It was just great fun, I am so happy I got chosen to do this and I would like to try these activities again' – *Nadia Futa 9C*

'I think today has been great as we have learned different

things which have helped to build our confidence. I hope an opportunity like this comes up again' – *Yemi Sobogun 9G*



Photos: Activities during the Dare to Dance Project

‘Union Dance’ Workshop

On Monday 19th January, fifteen girls in Years Seven, Eight and Nine were selected to participate in a workshop run by ‘Union Dance’. ‘Union Dance’ is a professional dance company, established in 1985, who have toured across the world. At a grassroots level, ‘Union Dance’ has a youth dance company called ‘Union Too’, which is based in Westminster.

This workshop was delivered by three of the company’s professional dancers who taught the pupils a sequence in a contemporary dance style. The workshop was designed to give the pupils a ‘taster’ of what it would be like to be a part of ‘Union Too’ and all of the pupils involved in the workshop expressed an interest in joining the youth group.

Praise goes to all of the pupils involved for showing great effort and enthusiasm when learning the dance movements. The representatives from ‘Union Dance’ commented on how impeccably the girls behaved throughout the workshop and how it was always such a pleasure working with Grey Coat students due to their excellent behaviour.

The students involved were:

Alethia Adewole	7R
Maame Afua Adful	7R
Wumi Fatoki	7R
Laura Ivey	7R
Michaela May Thomas	7R
Sana Sodki	7Y
Margaret Ajakaiye	7Y
Tiffany Campbell	7C
Kara Eversley	8T
Catherine Lyon	8T
Charis Richards	8T
Tara West	8T
Ann-Marie Williams	8T
Ramona Oppong	9C
Eunice Raciwu	9C

Dartmouth House Debating Society

Wednesday, 28th January, found members of GCH Debating Society at Dartmouth House ready to listen to first-class debating. *Video killed the radio star* was chaired by Rosie Unwin, Programmes Officer at the English-Speaking Union. The speeches, proposed by Andrew Marshall and Chellsie Muirhead and opposed by Andrew Tuffin and Tarit Mukherjee, were delivered with wit and aplomb. For all the drive of the proposition’s argument that the visual medium offered more, the audience was not persuaded. Listeners were however in tune with the familiar reminder that “the images are better on radio”. Whilst Chellsie declared that the radio’s importance was declining because the general public sought ever newer celebrities, Tarit emphasised the educational value of radio and the power of the English language to captivate.

The second motion, *This House believes there’s nothing to look forward to*, was chaired by television presenter and E-SU Alumnus, Paddy O’Connell. Before the debate began, Paddy asked the adjudicators about their debating experiences and what they would expect to note in the forthcoming speeches. Irin Mumtaz from the Youth Parliament stressed the need to publicise debating so that “young people’s voices could be heard”. Stand-up comedienne Jo Caudwell commented on the lack of confidence many felt when asked to speak in public. Then Anthony Howard, political historian and journalist, highlighted the value of structuring a good argument whether for debating or a leading article in a newspaper.

After the opening 2 speeches, proposed by Emily Pearce, Heathlands School, Hounslow and opposed by Ben Woolgar, St Paul’s, the judges were asked to convey impressions at that point. Whilst both had delivered impressively, the judges thought that starting from a position of doom and gloom had left the proposition with nowhere to go. The advantage for the opposition was to be presenting the case for technological progress and for optimism, always more appealing. Then Jack Gamble, Aylesbury G.S., gave good support to the proposition as Melanie Pope did for the opposition. The even quality of the debate was reflected in the fact that the audience vote went to one team whilst the judges chose the other. *Ms McMellan*

Baking at Pimlico Academy

As part of a joint project Year 8 German students went to Pimlico Academy to bake German biscuits. They read recipes in German working out the different ingredients before baking the biscuits. Whilst waiting for the biscuits to be ready our students had an opportunity to exchange experiences about learning German with the students from Pimlico Academy. Most biscuits were eaten as soon as they came out of the oven and never made the journey home. Thank you to Mrs Sahmland from Pimlico Academy for organising the event. *Mr Waltl*



Year 8 German students baking biscuits at Pimlico Academy

Locked Horns at the MUNGA

An outstanding performance came from Angel Lambo who threw herself wholeheartedly into the role of the delegate for Saudi Arabia in the MUNGA activities on Monday, December 15th. Following the morning's first-class presentation on Saudi Arabia to the whole Sixth Form, Angel sustained a totally uncompromising stance in the afternoon debate. Two other impressive deliveries came from Japanese representatives, Clare Harding and Ekua Mills Robertson. For the Model United Nations General Assembly, each of the 12 sixthform tutorial groups had chosen 2 nations and students were then assigned to 1 of these countries. In 12R for instance Lamia Farag represented Botswana whilst Hamza Almesaouil represented the UK. Certainly it was clear from the presentations and from the debates that students were strongly identifying with the national (and often the self-) interest of the country whose flag they bore or whose costume they wore, a splendid Ugandan dress in Janat Kiwanuka's case.



The 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the basis of the autumn term's Speakers'

Programme and of the motions devised by Miss Kaur. In the sports hall at St Michael's, delegates deliberated the motion THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD SUBSIDISE FARMERS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND ALLOW THEM TO TRADE FREELY ACROSS BORDERING NATIONS. THIS SHOULD HELP MAINTAIN HEALTHY PROFIT MARGINS AND ENABLE THEM TO COMPETE WITH SUPPLIERS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. Under the chairmanship of Dr David Evans, CEO of the Tutu Foundation, this motion was eventually amended to: ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KENYA, SENEGAL PROPOSED THAT THE UN SHOULD CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL

AID OFFERED BY THE DEVELOPED NATIONS TO FARMERS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS AND TO REMOVE ALL TRADE BARRIERS AMONGST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The officially appointed delegates carried the amendment by 11 votes to 9 and this result was

strongly supported by the wider assembly with 48 votes to 27 and 5 abstentions.

Meanwhile in the Great Hall at St Andrew's with Jeremy Olver in the Chair, delegates were heatedly considering THAT ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMITS OF 180 DAYS TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ALLOWING THEM TO BEGIN RECOVERY. AT THE CONCLUSION OF 6 MONTHS THEY



SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY OR APPLY TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCY. Whilst agreeing with the motion in principle, many nations including Nigeria and India raised financial concerns. The Lesotho accusation from Emily Button



that South Africa "was not doing enough" brought a prompt reminder from Morgan Bestwick that S.A.



resources were being channelled into “propping up Zimbabwe”. When however China’s Shereife Riley declared opposition on the grounds of cost, there was a sharp rejoinder concerning lavish expenditure on the Olympic Games. Italy’s Gladys Odoemelam, a signatory to the EU Trafficking convention, stressed that the principle should be to stop trafficking at source rather than on arrival. Gladys was well aware that Nigerians are learning Italian to facilitate careers in the sex industry. In response



to Namibian delegate Rachael Annandale’s statement that trafficking organisation was initiated by rich countries, the UAE representative Ruby Pickard-Pasong emphasised that the sex trade was meeting tourists’ demands and the buyers should be targeted. Staunch support for this

position came from the UK’s Obioma Orazulume. Amna Burzic’s claim, that France’s priority was to aid its former colonies, was smartly rejected by Senegal’s Zainab Afolabi.

The proposed amendment, to interview victims in order to track and prosecute traffickers, was heavily defeated. By contrast there was solid backing for the Lesotho amendment **THAT ALL FINANCIALLY ABLE COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMITS OF 90 DAYS TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALLOWING THEM TO BEGIN RECOVERY. AT THE CONCLUSION**

OF 90 DAYS THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY OR APPLY TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCY. ALL FINANCIALLY ABLE COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ADVISED TO ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES CLASSED AS LESS ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED.

The standard of the



afternoon’s sustained and lively debating delighted Miss Stevenson, Miss Kaur and the Sixthform tutors. Sixthformers had continued to ask pertinent questions during the latter weeks of the Speakers’ Programme. Talks were given by Katharine Robinson on genetically modified food, Nick Oakeshott on asylum seekers and by Old Grey Sophia Ostler from Save the Children. Specific reminders about the stewardship of resources and the distinction between human trafficking and people smuggling were also given by Dr Evans and Parliamentary Assistant Jeremy Olver whose invaluable contributions were much appreciated. *Ms McMellan*



Photos: Sixth Form students engaging in the debate at this year’s MUNGA

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN INVIGILATOR?

ARE YOU: Reliable and punctual Flexible Accurate
A Confident Communicator Firm but Fair Comfortable under Pressure

HELP EXAMS RUN LIKE CLOCKWORK

Working as a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring a calm environment for the exams, giving candidates confidence in the examination process.

There are two examination sessions a day (three during Mock Exams) of varying length, depending on the examination timetabled. Most exams last two hours or less but some may be up to three hours long. The Public Exam pay rate is £28 per three hour session (£16 for two hours or less); the Mock Exam pay rate is £8.00 per hour.

We are looking for more invigilators to help oversee our exams. Invigilators need to be reliable and punctual, highly flexible, able to relate to learners and comfortable in a high pressure environment. It's casual work but it can make a real difference. Full training will be provided once we have drawn up a shortlist of candidates. Also details will need to be taken for CRB checks for all people who undertake the work.

A training session will take place on Monday 16th March 2009, details of which will be forwarded to you once you express an interest in becoming an invigilator

Exams for 2009

May – June	Practical Exams & Language Oral Exams
May – June	Public Exams
June –	Year 10 Internal Exams
December –	Year 11 Mock Exams

If you are interested in finding out how to become an invigilator, please contact

Ned McCoy (Exams Officer)
On Tel Number: 0207 969 1951
Email Address: nmccoy@gch.org.uk

Or write to
The Grey Coat Hospital
98 Regency Street
London
SW1P 4GH

Snowy St Andrew's

We thought some of you would like to see a series of photographs of the St Andrew's building captured during the recent heavy snowfall by our school Chaplain Rev. Garry Swinton.



More Swimming Success for Devon

Congratulations to Devon Robins from Year 11, who has recently won two bronze medals in an International Swimming competition held in Geneva.

Devon is extremely committed to her sport. She gets up at 4:45 am most mornings to swim and **then** travels to school, eating breakfast on the way. She meets all deadlines and does her homework despite the fact that she has to go back to the pool in Swiss Cottage 3-4 evenings a week and train again. She has never used swimming as an excuse.

These medals may gain Devon a place on the Olympic training team. She already swims for England on an International level.



Devon shows off her bronze medals

Physical Education News

Football Win Puts Grey Coat Girls into Quarter Final

On Wednesday 14th January 2009 our Under 13 girls' football team played against Globe Academy in the 3rd round of the Inner London Cup competition. I am pleased to announce the girls won a thrilling game 7-6 after extra time.

After a nervy opening 5 minutes Grey Coat took control of the game and were 2-0 up after 15 minutes. The move of the half came when Gmanoh Choloply and Elena Rastorgueva linked up beautifully to play the ball between three defenders, before Gmanoh crossed into the box for Ellie Atkinson whose fierce shot managed to ricochet off the post and onto the keeper, pushing her behind the line for the goal to be awarded. The demands of playing on an 11 aside football pitch started to kick in just before half time and Globe Academy very much found their way back into the game taking the half time score to 2-2.

In the second half Grey Coat quickly fell behind but instead of dropping their heads they encouraged one another and started to settle into a rhythm and dictated much of the game. The final score ended up 7-6 after extra time and it was impressive to see that an under 13s side showed such courage and great teamwork to come back from behind to win this game against a very well organised team.

Our football team only gets practice on an 6 aside pitch and it is very different from playing on an 11 aside pitch, but that didn't stand in their way and now they have booked their place in the quarter-finals. I am very proud of all of these girls involved not for winning but for their spirit and the way they encouraged one another and stuck together. The girls involved were: *Philsy Jlu Johnson, Thomasin Adams, Lily Andoh Cunnell and Ellie Atkinson – Year 8 Charlotte Finn, Toyosi Sobogun, Laura Ivey, Elena Rastorgueva, Katie Sapiano Oakley, Jasmine Gotobed, Gmanoh Choloply, Holly Tarry and Ruth Oburoh – All Year 7. Mr. Powell*

We Reached the Quarter Final!

On Wednesday 14th January Years 7 & 8 had a football match against Globe Academy. They were a really good team; the first goal came as a surprise to them. Ellie Atkinson and Lily Andoh-Cunnell both helped each other to set up the goal which one of them scored.

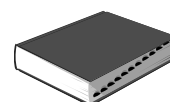
We thought that the game would be easy to win, but that wasn't the case, they scored in the next second. The match then went to extra time and that was great because then we had more time to finish this game and could maybe get through to the quarter final; and we did, we won by 7-6! We are now through to the Semi Finals.

Our next match was on the Thursday 23rd January against Thomas Tallis; they are one of the best schools at football in the competition and we are second in line.

GCH (7&8) played a wonderful match, one of the best we have played in the Inner London Cup and we will always remember this match because Philsy Jlu-Johnson had stopped her first penalty and that was great, the defenders (Charlotte Finn, Holly Tarry, Thomasin Adams and Laura Ivey) did a great job: they stopped the ball from coming towards the goal.

Player of the match went to Jasmine Gotobed, who played a magnificent game in the midfield. The final score was 0-2, with Thomas Tallis now going through to the semi-finals. I think we should be so proud of the year 7 & 8 team for making it in to the top 8 schools in London. *Philsy Jlu-Johnson 8C (Goal Keeper)*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY

- 25th Ash Wednesday Service,
Westminster Abbey 9.15am
27th A Level Drama Exams

MARCH

- 3rd **Year 9 Parents' Evening** (late start 4th)
4th **Guild Meeting, 6.30pm**
5th World Book Day
7th Duke of Edinburgh Gold training 10am-5pm
Flutewise Workshop 2-4pm
10th Y7 GRY to National Gallery in afternoon
11th Academic Tutorial Day
12th 7 CTH to National Gallery PM/GCSE Art exam
13th GCSE Art exam
Westminster Youth Orchestra Workshop
14th Westminster Youth Orchestra Workshop
- Concert 5pm
16th **Y13 Parents' Evening** (late start on 17th)
18th Y8 GRY to Natural History Museum
19th Y8 CTH to Natural History Museum
Spring Concert, St Andrew's, 6pm
AS Art Exhibition
24th Duke of Edinburgh Gold training 4-7pm
AS Drama Exams start
25th A2 Art exams (end 27th)
31st Swimming Gala

APRIL

- 2nd **End of term Service & Talent show**
3rd **INSET Day - school closed for staff training**
Ski Trip to USA (returns 11th)
13th Music Trip to Lake Garda (returns 19th)
20th **START OF TERM**
Y10 to Epping Forest
GCSE Drama exams start
23rd **Y8 Parents' Evening**
24th GCSE Drama Exams start
29th **Guild Meeting 6.30pm**
30th **Senior Recital, 6pm St Andrew's**