
Grey Coat

NUMBER 139



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

JANUARY 2008

Dear parents,

It is a pleasure to welcome two parent governors who have agreed to take on this demanding role. They are Ms T. Skeete and Mr G. Vyvan. Governors work hard in the service of the school, but I hope our new appointees will also find it interesting and rewarding to be a governor. Some of you may have seen the piece featuring Julian Slater, one of our experienced governors, in the Evening Standard special supplement celebrating success in London schools. He spoke about working as a governor, and about the range of opportunity available for students at the school.

Another important way of getting involved with the school is the Parents' Guild. Members of the Guild do a great service to the school, running social events which allow parents from our far-flung community to meet and get to know each other, while at the same time raising money to help the school. The planning meetings are open to all and newcomers are always very welcome. Dates are published in the Newsletter, so do come along, even if you have not been able to put your name down beforehand. The next event on the Guild calendar is the Quiz night and fish and chip supper on Friday 1st February. Do make up a team, or come along on your own and get to know some other parents on the night. Either way is enjoyable! I look forward to seeing a good number of parents and children on that evening.

The Sixth Form at Grey Coat was graded 'outstanding' in all aspects during the Ofsted inspection of 2005, but since then we have not stopped working to improve even further. The exam results in the summer of 2007 were the best ever. We have now had confirmation that not only were the grades achieved unusually high for a comprehensive school, but the value added for individual students was also exceptionally positive. Value added in the sixth form is measured on the ALPS system, which takes individual students' GCSE grades as the baseline, and sets them targets at the 75th percentile. 975 schools and Sixth Form Colleges in England use this system and Grey Coat has come out in the top 2% in the country.

It is very rewarding to know that the hard work that goes into Sixth Form teaching and pastoral care has produced such an outstanding outcome for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who taught Sixth Form classes last year, together with the pastoral team under Ms Lecky's leadership, for all the work they put in to achieve this result. I know that this year's teachers and the current pastoral team, with Ms Stevenson as the new Head of Sixth Form, are already aiming to achieve the very best again for all the individual students in their care. They know we can do it and are not daunted by the challenge. Students in the Sixth Form at Grey Coat really do have all the support and challenge necessary to achieve their full potential.

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.



*Angela Trainor & Vivien Moore
Attendance and Punctuality Officers*

Attendance & Punctuality Years 7, 8 & 9

We have had a very good start to the year with very few absences and punctuality has also been very good in all years. Please remember to make sure you call in if your daughter is absent and please make sure a note is provided for the first day back. Also please could you give as much notice as possible for Medical/Dental Appointments. Happy New Year.

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

Omission

In the November issue we omitted to mention Bethany Walker from 7R who got 100% attendance and Punctuality for the autumn tracking period and is now on the Roll of Honour. Apologies for the oversight. *Ms Trainor*

Year 10 - 100% Attendance & Punctuality

September 5th - October 17th 2007

10G

ROCHELLE ALLEN
GEORGIA BONSU
DIANA GRYECHKO
NICKITA MENSAH
LIZ MUCHATAT
DEBORAH OUNOUNOU
ONOMUSA SIBANDA
SHARON SIKOD
IMOGEN WILLIAMS
CATHERINE BRADY

10R

JENNIFER BELL
BETHAL ESKENDER
KATHERINE GUESS
CARYS HAINES
AMY LEITH
OLUWAFUNMILOLA MEGHOMA
WILLOW MERCER
ELEANA VALENCIA

10Y

DEBORAH ABBAN-MENSAH
ESTHER AKINADE
VANESSA ANAMAN
AILEEN BRENNAN
HELEN CHIU - AMY PANG
EMMA GRAY - SARAH NWANDU
LYDIA HEHIR - THEA POYSDEN
JADE MENNELL - MERCY WELBECK
ISOBEL MUIR - FLORENTINA OYELAMI

10C

JESSICA ADAMSON
AURORA BEADLE
KRISTIE BRANDON
VANESSA CASIWAN
PATRICIA FIGUEIREDO
LIDIJA JANMEIJS
KAI NOEL-LALGIE
KATE QUANE - T. SOBOGUN
NATASHA SAVOVIC
KHARIRUN SHAFIEI
ONOSIZI SIBANDA
KATHERINE THACKERY

10T

CHARLIE BATES-PARRY
GLORIA CHOI
SHERAINE CRABBE
AKUA DANSO
VERNA GAO
CRISPINA JAC-DURING
CHRISTY PARKS
AURORA STARBUCK
CHLOE TOMLINSON
REBECCA WHITE

10H

OPHELIA GIBSON-BEST
ZOE KEMPSON
JESSICA MCCARTHY
SHAQUELLE NORTHOVER-NEITA
JENNIFER OPPONG NYANTAKYI

Year 11 - 100% Attendance & Punctuality

September 5th - October 17th 2007

11G

JADE FAY
EVELINA KOVALENKO
ELAINE LI
STEPHANIE LITTLE
GIORGIA MCALLISTER
MARGARET MUTUMBA
KEHINDE OGUNWOLU

11R

STEPHANIE BODENHAM
RHIANNON COMBES
AISHA KHAN
TAIWO OGUNWOLU
RHIANNE SINCLAIR-PHILIPS

11Y

MEGUMI AOKI
JASMINE DADZIE-BINNS
NAOMI NANA-ASARE
REBECCA TUTTLE

11C

LOUISE APATIRA
PHOEBE GIBSON-BEST
AMY PEGRAM
VICTORIA RAMANOOP
JESSICA SLATER
RACHEL SWANN
CELINE TINNE

11T

FOLAYEMI ADEBAYO
MORGAN BESTWICK-GREEN
SIAN DITCHFIELD
OPIA HAMADI
CHANICE MILLER
TRUDI OGNJENOVIC
ASHLEY-ROSE SCANTLEBURY
MOBOLAJI SOLANKE
JOANNA THOM
MARGARET WELSH

11H

JESSICA AKINYEMI
ALEXANDRA AMAADZIE
MARRIETTA KAMARA
EMELIA KORLEY
CAROLINE MENSAH
ANNA OGUNYEMI
KATERINA PORTIC
AMELIA HOEDEMAKER
SHARON PREKO
JORDELLE PROVIDENCE
EMILY TUTTLE

Well Done Girls.

Keep it Up!

French Exchange Trip to Angoulême

In November students from years 11, 12 and 13 visited the town of Angoulême in south-west France for a week. We all stayed with our respective exchanges at their homes which ranged from being 5 minutes to an hour away from their school which was in the centre of the town. We attended a few lessons at the school which was a media college, and so had a lot of high-tech equipment and even their own auditorium. The rest of the days were spent on outings out and about the province of Poitou-Charentes. We went on tours of the towns, where tour guides gave us information about the things we saw. For example even before New York City was called New Amsterdam it was New Angoulême. We also went to the cinema where we saw a French film, and to a restaurant where the food was delicious, a chocolate factory and the Cognac factory. At the Cognac factory we were taught all about the production of the brandy, and the family who have produced the last 14 cellar masters. We visited Bordeaux where we had the opportunity to go shopping and spend time in traditional French cafés. We all enjoyed ourselves very much and were surprised by how much French we could speak when we were put to the test. Unfortunately it was a very rainy week but we didn't let that dampen our spirits.



French language students pictured inside the Lycee



Sampling the local cuisine



Taking in the local art

“Speak Out” Challenge

At 6.30p.m. on the 11th of December, the Jack Petchey Foundation in association with SpeakersBank held the Final for the London boroughs of Westminster and RBKC of the “Speak Out” Challenge in the St Andrew’s Great Hall.

The “Speak Out” Challenge is a workshop and competition aimed at improving public speaking skills in Year 10. For the borough final, the competitors had to make a short speech about anything they wanted with the topics ranging from beauty products to life under fire in the Lebanon. All the speeches were interesting and some were very moving.

During the interval, the GCH year 11 ambassadors helped to ply the audience with food and drink whilst the GCSE music students played a number of exam pieces. The Grey Coat dancers and singers provided additional entertainment while the judges made their decision about the winning performer. The Grey Coat contender Sarah Nwandu did particularly well, coming second to Amir Aziz from Paddington Academy. *M. Bergquist, 11T*

Year 13 Textiles Trip

Last half term the textiles pupils were very privileged to have taken a trip to one of the oldest and most prestigious shoemakers in London, John Lobb on St. James Street.

We were met and guided around the store by the great grandson of John Lobb who showed us many delights including the original foot moulds of royalty and film stars (unfortunately he couldn’t find Frank Sinatra’s that day.) We also witnessed the precise crafting of the unique and expensive bespoke shoes as the shoemakers painstakingly hand sewed each pair of shoes downstairs in the basement. It was like stepping back in time and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

Photo: A shoemaker at work at John Lobb’s workshop



A Disappearing Number

As part of the Theatre Studies AS-Level course, it is necessary to go and see a variety of plays to help us develop our understanding of drama, its techniques and performance.

On the 26th September, along with the year 13 Theatre Studies class, we went to the Barbican Arts Centre, to see the company Complicité perform ‘A Disappearing Number’. It was a devised piece of drama that incorporated a wide range of skills and techniques including the use of multimedia such as sound and projecting film and physical theatre through the medium of dance. It all combined to create a fantastic performance. The play itself was an amalgamation of interweaving stories from different eras and set in various places around the world, including England and India, however each plot had a connection to the resounding theme throughout the play, mathematics and its beauty.

The play was incredibly polished and professional, it seemed as though it had been meticulously rehearsed. Furthermore, it was very useful to us ‘budding actors’ as we could see such a variety of styles and techniques being successfully performed on stage. It was also inspirational as we can hopefully attempt to use similar techniques in our own devised pieces for our practical examinations.

South African Play 'Sarafina!'

Whilst many schools may have opted to end the autumn term with a trendy performance of *Jock and the Beanstalk* or *Cinderella*, GCH staged a musical which illustrated the climate leading to the Soweto uprising.

Sarafina! is the work of Mbogweni Ngema, composer, director, choreographer, writer and producer.

When *Sarafina!* opened in Johannesburg in 1987, the State of Emergency was at its height. Regular visits from

members of the South African Special Branch meant that many of the Ngema-Masekela lyrics had been rehearsed in conditions of virtual secrecy. This was not the case in St Andrew's where the activities of the cast of 54, recruited from Westminster City School as well as Upper School, had generated considerable interest from the day of the first auditions. All the performers had to be highly talented as their roles required a range of skills

including energetic dancing, singing and mastering an appropriate accent. Despite the painful presentation of the tragedies which stemmed from Apartheid, *Sarafina* contained much to entertain the audience. There were

heavy demands on Ms Duck and Ms Foley whose support network was almost as numerous as the cast. Shaping up serious numbers meant the director Ms Duck's having a very clear vision of the ultimate performance and a

firm grip on the content to ensure that the aims and impact of the text were fully realised. Whilst Ms Foley planned the lively dance routines, Mr Hogan ensured that the military were to be fully appreciated as the unpleasant members of society which they undoubtedly were. Invaluable help came from a cohort of sixth form acolytes who not only aided key staff but served as stage managers or

created costumes and painted the set. The audience, and indeed all those who attended the Speak Out competition, praised the impressive, imaginative and extensive set which Damon Hayhurst had constructed for *Sarafina!*.

Musical accompaniment was the



also tears when the audience was moved by the mental and physical suffering experienced by Sarafina because of her involvement in the death of Sabele and her torture at the hands of the SASB interrogators.

Whilst the performers were committed to the long sessions of evening and weekend rehearsals, there were very



Performed at Grey Coat

responsibility of a quartet of sixth form musicians under the guidance of the talented Debbie Okeowo who also supervised the singing of the various numbers such as a show-stopping version of the Lord's Prayer sung by the students at Sarafina's school. Whilst the performances of the whole cast met a very high standard, Jessica Kennedy starred in the demanding title role. There was a significant contrast between the convincing dignity of the stand for non-violence delivered by Mrs Masombuka (Obioma Orazulume) and the painful journey into maturity which Sarafina had to undergo. *Ms McMellan*



Year 7 Medieval Fair 2007

On December 12th the whole of Year 7 took part in the Grey Coat Hospital Medieval Fair 2007. The Great Hall at St. Andrews was transformed into a Medieval market place over lunch time with a range of stalls offering Medieval food, crafts and games. In the afternoon the Year 7 students excelled themselves with performances of Medieval dances and fashion parades of medieval costumes and hats. The afternoon was rounded off by the music department with Medieval music and singing. Year 7 raised £221.71 for the Promise charity which supports children with disabilities in the community and orphanage system in Russia. Congratulations to Year 7 for all their efforts and for making the fair so enjoyable for all involved.

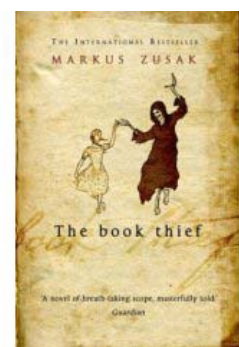
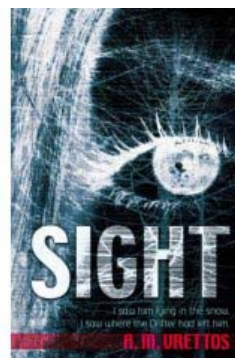
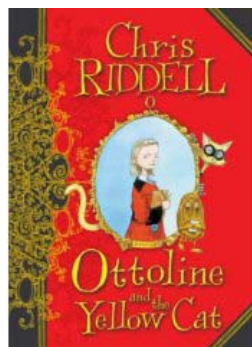
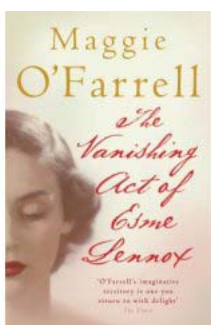


Year 7 students taking part in the Medieval Fair

Library Corner



Happy New Year from the Library!
For those of you who have resolved to read more and to encourage your daughters to read more, this is the perfect year to choose. 2008 is the National Year of Reading! Why not start with some of the following! All new to the School Library in the last few weeks!



Debating Skills to the Fore at GCH

By 5.15p.m. the mini-dramas were over: the Rochester train had safely delivered the Chairman of the Adjudication Panel and Wimbledon Hill had been conquered by the King's College School debating team. By contrast, though still listed on the order paper, the GCH Debating Prefect was incapable of speech and whichever way they were read the runes declared that Rachel Annandale was the chosen substitute.

At least GCH was not appearing in the initial debate, "This House would make all school leavers give a year of service to the state", which was proposed by St Martin-in-the-Fields H.S. and opposed by K.C.S. All too soon it was time for Dunraven and GCH to argue for and against "lifting the cap on the fees universities may charge for tuition". Fortunately Rachel and Layla Mahmood were able to deliver a range of points before giving way to the teams from Westminster and Ibstock Place School. The final motion, "This House believes that we would all be better off if social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, Bebo etc) had never been invented", proved to be the most entertaining and these two teams will progress into the next round. We wish Dara Barkhordar, Samuel Littlejohns, Louis Haines and Anna Forsyth continuing success in the English-Speaking Union Mace Debating Tournament. *Ms McMellan*

QUIZ NIGHT

With a Fish & Chip Supper

Please join us on

FRIDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

7.00 -10.00pm

The Great Hall, St Andrew's

Adults - £10.00 Children £5.00

**Come and join a team at a table or bring a team of EIGHT of your own
Wine and Soft drinks will be available at the Bar
Corkage will be charged if you Bring Your Own**

Tickets closing date : Friday 1st (morning) - We need to order the fish and chips

We have pleasure in inviting you to meet other parents, teachers, and pupils. This Quiz Evening is one of the most popular events of The Guild's year and you are urged to get your application in as soon as possible, for a fun evening and a great way to continue making friends with other members of the school community. There will be a raffle and cash bar.

For further details please see the school website at: www.gch.org.uk

THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL GUILD

AN ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF



Welcome back and a happy new year to everyone.

We were delighted to have such a large number of parents and carers turn up to our Annual General Meeting in November. We would encourage all of those who attended at that meeting to continue supporting the Guild by attending future meetings and volunteering at fund-raising events.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair and Carol Service were deemed to be a real success last year. The Christmas puddings sold incredibly well and most of the attendees of the fair were high spirited and lively.

The Guild Carol Service was well attended and had an impressive and diverse range of talented performances from the children.

200 Club

The lucky winning ticket holders for the month of Jan go to:

3rd place ticket number 128

2nd place ticket number 72

1st place ticket number 125

Key Guild Dates for 2008

Guild Meetings:

5th March 2008

30th April 2008

9th June 2008

Other Guild Events:

1st February Quiz Night Fish and Chip Supper

17th May International Fair – 11am until 2pm St Michael's

27th June - New Greys' BBQ – 4pm St Andrew's

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, Greycourt Place, LONDON SW1P 2DY.



Westminster Schools Netball Tournament Fixtures

Year 7

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT
Thursday 24 th Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Augustine's
Thursday 28 th Feb 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	Quinton Kynaston
Monday 10 th March 2008	3:30 – 6:00pm	Regent's Park	Portland Place
Thursday 13 th March 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Marylebone

Year 8

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT
Mon 21 st Jan 2008	3:30 – 6:00pm	Regent's Park	Quinton Kynaston
Thursday 24 th Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Augustine's
Thursday 13 th March 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Marylebone

Year 9

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT
Thursday 17 th Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Augustine's
Thursday 31 st Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	Quinton Kynaston
Monday 3 rd March 2008	3:30 – 6:00pm	Regent's Park	Portland Place
Thursday 6 th March 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Marylebone


Year 10

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT
Thursday 17 th Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Augustine's
Thursday 7 th Feb 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	Quinton Kynaston
Thursday 6 th March 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Marylebone

Year 11

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	OPPONENT
Thursday 31 st Jan 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Augustine's
Thursday 28 th Feb 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	Quinton Kynaston
Monday 17 th March 2008	3:30 – 6:00pm	Regent's Park	Portland Place
Thursday 20 th March 2008	3:30 – 5:30pm	St Michael's GCH	St Marylebone

Physical Education News

 On Tuesday 15th January the year 8 cricket team went to Lords Cricket Ground to play in the MCC (Middlesex Cricket Club) under 13s tournament. We played two matches, each lasting eight overs.

The first match started well when we won the toss and chose to bowl. We had a wicket first ball which was brilliant! We continued to bowl very well throughout the first half, but when it came to batting we couldn't match the other school's score and lost the match by twenty-two runs.

The second match went very well. The other team chose to bat first and we performed some excellent bowling which left us chasing twenty-nine runs. Our batting was fantastic and we got the runs with overs to spare; a worthy victory.

Unfortunately we didn't get through to the next stage but we all had great fun and gained some good experience for matches in the future.

Rachel Ditchfield and Rosie Steel

Athletes of the Term

Miss Campey's athlete of the term: Ellie Atkinson 7C

Miss Wild's athlete of the term: Ashley Ekeh 7Y

Miss Morrish's athlete of the term: Jessica Phung 8T

Miss Bryant's athlete of the term: Amy Yuan 9T

KS4 - Athletes of the Term

Congratulations to the following girls in Year 10 & 11 for their outstanding work in Physical Education.

Year 10: Monday's Group

Canoeing – Georgia Tully; Trampoline – Jennifer Oppong; Aerobics - Kim Cooper
Fitness – Sonia Onyeka; Squash - Takiyiwa Danso

Wednesday's Group:

Squash – Helen Chiu; Dance Leaders - Isabella Ferret Williams
Aerobics - Sheraine Crabbe (Betty); Volleyball – Natasha Savovic

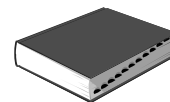
Year 11: Thursday's Group

Trampoline – Emelia Korley; Squash – Sian Ditchfield;
Junior Sports Leader Award – Lucia Ruggiero; Dance - Bola Solanke

Friday's Group:

Squash – Gemma Palopoli; Volleyball - Rhiannon Combes;
Step Aerobics - Sam Reilly; Aerobics - Nadia El-Telbani

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



JANUARY

- 25th Key Stage 3 Mocks
29th **Y10 Parents' Evening**
31st **Senior Solo Recital, St Andrew's 6.30pm**

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

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