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# Grey Coat

Number 143



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

MAY 2008

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*Dear Parents,*

*By the time you read this the public examination season will have begun. Year 9 have already completed their Key Stage 3 tests, and in some subjects, such as Science, they are now starting GCSE courses. It is very important for the girls to realise that their education does not stop with the tests, but is an on-going process which they need to take seriously for the rest of the school year. In fact, they need to see this portion of time as just one small section of their life-long learning plan, and aim to make the most of every lesson and every extra opportunity to learn.*

*Year 11 enjoyed a joyful celebration of their last day of teaching on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The girls carried on this year's tradition of being a charming and memorable year group by entering into the spirit of fun without taking it too far, and all the staff present felt very proud of them as we shared some luscious chocolate cakes in a relaxed manner on the roof garden at St Michael's. I hope your daughters have now settled down to some serious revision, and are pacing themselves with appropriate meals and sleep so that they can do their very best right up to the last examination.*

*I am sure you will be interested to hear the latest news about when we can hope to see things moving on site in relation to the BSF programme at Grey Coat. Currently we are drawing to the close of the first phase when the designs will be agreed in outline by Governors. Then a new phase of the design work will begin, when the detail of every room has to be specified, down to the last power socket or coat hook. This is due to be completed by Christmas. The final planning application will probably run concurrently with this.*

*In May 2009 we should see the builders arriving on site. They will start with the new arts block, and the lift at St Andrew's, which should be ready in September 2010. When we have moved into the new classrooms, remodelling and refurbishment of the old St Andrew's building will take place, section by section. Because the St Michael's building is relatively new, there will not be major works on that site, and most of the work that does take place will be carried out during the summer holidays of 2009 and 2010.*

*Obviously, the building work will make things difficult in a number of ways, and we will have a temporary dining room, and additional temporary classrooms in the playground at St Andrew's for five terms. We are currently in discussion with BPEC about how the work can best be managed to reduce the disruption to students' education to a minimum. I am well aware that five terms is a long time, and that however much we may look forward to the opportunities that will be opened up by the new building, students' safety and education during the building works must have top priority.*

*On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May we had another visit from Ofsted. The English department did so well in their inspection last November that another inspector came to spend the day collecting examples of good practice to illustrate the Ofsted English review that will be published in the Autumn. He spoke to a large number of students who impressed him by their enthusiasm for the subject, their ability to express themselves, and their references to inspirational teaching. I look forward to reading the report when it comes out, knowing that Ms Thomas and her team are among the examples held up for others to emulate.*

*Rachel Allard*

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# 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

## Note:

In April's newsletter we omitted to include Emma Greer From 7T who achieved 100% Attendance and Punctuality for the tracking period 18th October to 6th March 2008 Apologies for the oversight. *Angela Trainor, Attendance & Punctuality Officer, St Andrew's*

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## The 2008 Carnegie Award at The Grey Coat Hospital

For the last five years our Y7 Reading Club has been an official Carnegie Shadowing School. This means the students read all the short-listed books, discuss them and vote online for their favourite.

2008

NATIONAL Year  
OF Reading

This year we have two groups reading through the 7 books on the list. Year 7 Reading Club have been joined by a group of 35 Year 10's who will also be shadowing the award.

As 2008 is also the National Year of Reading we have challenged all the Y8, 9 & 10's to read at least one past Carnegie winner or short-listed book during the month of May.

Please encourage your daughter in this challenge. The Carnegie Award has been recognising and rewarding great literature written specifically for young people since it was started in 1937. Many of the country's best authors have won the award – some more than once!

If your daughter is in Y7 and isn't in Reading Club, why not talk to her about the award and read a book together. Public Libraries will also all have copies of the list which includes:

Crossley-Holland	Gatty's Tale
Glass	Ruby Red
Laird	Crusade
Landman	Apache
Reeve	Here lies Arthur
Rosoff	What I was
Valentine	Finding Violet Park



The Year 7 Carnegie  
reading club

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## Access to the Arts and 'High Culture'

There was an ironic contrast between the 2 most recent extra-curricular events attended by members of Debating Society. On Monday, 7th April, Vernon Ellis, Chairman of ENO, was discussing cuts in the Public Funding of the Performing Arts and on Tuesday, 22nd April, the Rt Hon Margaret Hodge, MBE, was promoting the expenditure of TENS OF MILLIONS OF POUNDS on the Youth Culture Trust to organise the Government's "plans to offer children 5 hours of access to arts and 'high culture' per week".

As Chairman, Culture Broker Peter Jenkinson touched on the problem of monitoring the offer by wondering whether 4 hours would be too little or 6 hours too much. He had however been impressed by the role of DANCE UNITED whose 30 hours spent working with young offenders in Bradford had produced an uplifting performance at the Alhambra. Whilst acknowledging the transformation in the young offenders, Mr Jenkinson did recognise that some might wonder what gain there would be for the artistes who had devoted skills and time to the production. "Might some artistes be begging for children-free days?"

Margaret Hodge, the Secretary of State for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism believed that the offer would create 'sheer pleasure, that creative partnerships would raise standards and develop more jobs in the creative economy'. Whether the Government should be prescribing the quantity and

types of culture to which children should be exposed via school was an issue raised by others at the Channel 4 session.

The second speaker, Jeremy Hunt, the Shadow Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, mentioned that, following a Nicola Benedetti violin solo at the Labour Party Conference, those present felt the arrival of Gordon Brown came a poor second. Unbiased by his early career in education, Mr Hunt paid tribute to teachers who had planted cultural seeds when he was 10 by ensuring that he read and recited POEMS FROM THE UNDERGROUND and listened to the entire RING CYCLE.

Jeremy Hunt felt that the starting point should have been an evaluation of what is currently happening in schools so that a target rather than an aspiration could be identified. His concerns included the findings that 40% of primary schools would like resources to teach children to play musical instruments and that the teaching of art in state secondary schools no longer included the study of anatomy or the History of Art. Agreeing with Alain de Botton's declaration that 'good architecture helps a nation thrive not survive', Jeremy believes that culture accomplishes this too.

Speaking next, Tony Lyng was keen to emphasise that whilst Headmaster of Brockhill Park performing Arts College, he was a physics graduate. To Mr Lyng, the amount of time allocated (20% of the school week) was less important than a widespread discussion about managing

the inclusion of culture in school. From his 15 years' experience, Tony believed that maths and much else could be taught through music and dance. To do so he felt it was necessary to free up the demands made by KS2 and KS3 and so to restore the time schools used to have. In addition he agreed with Jeremy that pilot schemes should address the issue of 15-year old single mothers and anyone else who was out of touch with cultural opportunities.

Before opening the debate to the floor, the Chairman introduced inputs from the 3 other speakers: Helen Reddington, musician and lecturer; Anna Cutler, Head of Interpretation and Learning at Tate Modern, and the Rt Hon Estelle Morris, Baroness Morris of Yardley. Working with schools at the bottom of the league table, Helen focuses on song-writing and helping children to understand and engage with the process of creativity as they choose the subject matter or the words and recognise that their contributions have value. Anna Cutler is aware that some children who are looking for culture feel angry that others are controlling access to it. During her time as the Junior Minister for Education, Estelle Morris was conscious of a contradiction between the statement from schools that creativity was being squeezed out of the curriculum and the pride schools exhibited in their creative achievements. Hostile Heads would bluntly remark that there was no time to teach creativity but adopting the same attitude to maths would be unthinkable. *Ms McMellan*

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## Mandarin Students Meet Chinese Visitor

Our Year 10 Mandarin class had a visit from Miss Ma on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Miss Ma is an accountant at PriceWaterhouseCoopers who came to live in England when she was 15. She was very interesting to listen to because she has been in both the Chinese and the English Education Systems. We asked her lots of questions about life in China and we were amazed at how good her English accent was. We hope that Miss Ma will become a frequent visitor to our Mandarin lessons as she greatly enriched our understanding of Chinese culture and the lives of its people. *Isobel Muir 10Y*

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# Celia Pym Postgraduate Student at The Royal College of Art visits Grey Coat

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of April artist Celia Pym came to Grey Coat to work collaboratively with AS art students on her 'MEND' project. This is part of her final work for her MA studies at the Royal College of Art. Below Celia sets out the background to the project and how and why she wanted to involve the students here at GCH. This workshop followed a talk earlier in the school year about her work.

## MEND

For the past year I have been working on mending, darning and repairing holes. I have asked people to bring me clothes with holes in through exhibitions, posters (put up travelling around the country on mending expeditions) and by email. I have mended the clothes not invisibly but with my own distinct mark and returned them.

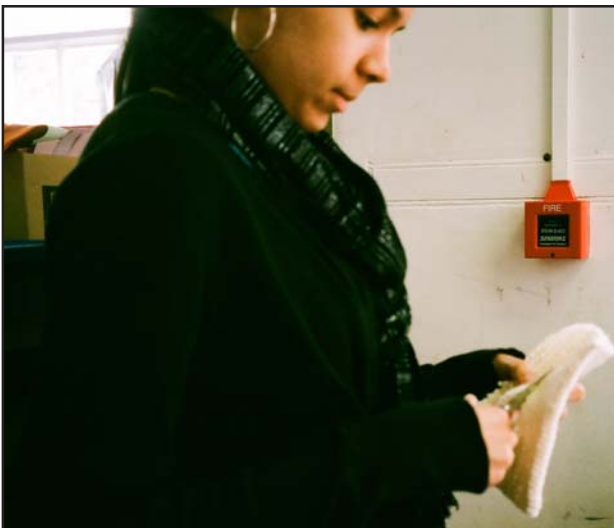
I became interested in repair when I inherited my great-uncle Roly's sweater. The sweater is hand knit by my aunt Elizabeth, but had been so worn down in the elbows and sleeves that the original knitting had completely disappeared and in its place was repaired yarn. I found these marks of repair, different yarns woven in and out of each other very tender. I wanted to touch and mend people's clothes with the same feeling that was in uncle Roly's sweater.

Darning is about making marks, marks that change the surface of the textiles being worked on. Traditionally darning is invisible and anonymous. I came to Grey Coat Hospital School because I wanted to see if I could gather some different darning marks. I prepared white knitted squares and asked students to cut holes in the squares and then darn them. I was interested to see how different or similar these darned holes and the stitch marks would be. A variety of blue yarns were provided for the darning. So that there was a uniformity to the holes and squares when finished.

My intention is that with the completed squares I will knit them together and make a blanket. A bit like making a patchwork quilt but because of the similar yarns and holes it would be more anonymous. All the students who participated in the cutting and darning will be listed as the artists (The blanket is nearly complete and I will send along an image of it when it is done) I am interested in the hidden and unseen but also how often things that are hidden are still known intuitively or instinctively. With this piece of work I was interested to see if the makers of the holes really would remain anonymous or if their marks would stand out as different from one another.

Coming to Grey Coat I wanted to let go of control of the darned mark making and to see what it felt like for students to cut into hand knitting. I loved that the squares took maybe a couple hours to knit but the holes only took a few minutes to make.

Below: Students taking part in the MEND project



The blanket and photographs of the darning event will go into a catalogue of holes I am compiling. *Celia Pym*



Celia Pym displaying a piece of her work

# A Night at the Museum

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of April a group of girls in year 7 went to the science museum for science night. We all had a great time doing lots of scientific activities. On Friday night we looked at time lines, made plastic and saw a very exciting & funny science show. We went to bed at eleven-ish

but I bet none of us went to sleep straight away! Most of us slept under huge rockets that looked like they were going to fall on top of you, it was really cool! We had to get up really early on Saturday (6:45) to go to breakfast. We had croissants, a cereal bar, fruit and fruit juice. After that we went to the launch pad which is three huge rooms filled with interactive gadgets and games. We then went to the IMAX to watch Deep Sea, we both screamed when a giant 3D shark swam on to the screen (Hannah screamed loudest)! The screen was the size of 5 double decker buses put together! Overall, we all had a fantastic time and we would both like to do it again.

Emma Jemson & Hannah Watchorn 7C



Photos: Students enjoying their stay at the Science Museum





## Student Trip to Stamford Bridge

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, just hours after GCH had ended the Spring Term, 8 girls from Yr 7, 8 & 9 met Miss Clohesy and Dave, who runs football club, outside Fulham Broadway Station. We were off to watch the FA Youth Cup Final with Chelsea playing Manchester City in the 1<sup>st</sup> match of 2. We walked to Stamford Bridge, the Chelsea football ground. We had very good seats and were completely surrounded by Chelsea fans. The match started intensely with both sides playing very strongly. Chelsea missed 2 chances to score and by half-time the score was 0-0 yet it had been a great first half.

After that the game got more exciting. Suddenly there was a burst of energy from Manchester City and before anyone had realised, they had scored. 1-0 to Manchester City. You could feel the tension all around as there was a hope that Chelsea would score to level up. Around 10 minutes later there was a chance for Chelsea and they took it well and they did score and everyone went wild. After that it settled down but there were hopes that Chelsea would score yet again but alas that did not happen. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. Everyone who went on the trip was satisfied with the result and there were Chelsea flags that were underneath our seats that were waved enthusiastically. That was despite the fact that there were 4 Arsenal supporters among us!!

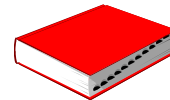
For those who are interested, the 2<sup>nd</sup> match resulted in Manchester City winning 3-1 therefore winning the cup 4-2 overall. Well done Manchester City!

*Bethia Atkinson 8Y & Ellie Atkinson 7C*



Getting ready to enjoy the match at Stamford Bridge

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### MAY

- 18th Japanese Exchange (returns 28th)
- 21st Chinese exchange (return 31st)
- 23rd Shortened day**  
**Last Day for Y13, Strawberries & Cream, St Andrew's Garden, 3pm**
- 23rd** Y8 to Science Museum  
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition (returns 25th)
- HALF TERM**

### JUNE

- 6th Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition (returns 8th)
- 9th Guild Meeting 6.30pm**
- 13th Y12 & 13 D&T Exhibition, 5-7pm, St Andrew's**
- 16th Exhibition of Y11 D&T Coursework begins
- 18th Y10 exams start (end 4th July)
- 19th Y7 to Hampton Court
- 20th Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition (returns 22nd)
- 23rd NRA Day**  
**Exhibition of Y11 D&T Coursework**
- 24th Y7 Drama Showcase, St Andrew's 6pm**
- 25th Y8 GRY to War Museum PM
- 26th Y8 CTH to War Museum PM
- 27th Admissions Day/ Guild BBQ (PM)**  
Y7 to Kew Gardens/ Take Your Daughters to Work Day  
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition (returns 30th)
- 30th Annual Service, Westminster Abbey 6.30pm**

### JULY

- 1st Sports Day, Battersea Park
- 2nd Academic Tutorial Day  
Y10 Work Experience Preparation (PM)  
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition (returns 6th)
- 3rd RE Conference
- 7th Y10&12 Work Experience begins (ends 17th)
- 9th Canada Trip leaves (returns 19th)  
School Play, St Andrew's (9th -11th)
- 11th Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition (returns 16th)
- 18th End of Term Service, St Michael's**
- 21st INSET DAY - school closed for staff training
- 22nd INSET DAY - school closed for staff training
- 27th Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition (returns 31st)