
Grey Coat

Number 155



THE PARENTS' NEWS LETTER OF THE GREY COAT HOSPITAL

SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Parents,

It is good to be back in such a positive atmosphere and to welcome all new parents, students and staff to the Grey Coat Community. The exam results this summer were outstanding, and we are all so proud of our students! In Y13 the A level results were an average of ABB, which is a huge achievement in a comprehensive school, and the average points score of 321 is the highest we have ever recorded. The average includes many students who scored A grades in all their subjects. The vast majority were able to confirm their places at the university of their choice, including Caroline Devereux (English), Georgina Howitt (Classics) and Elizabeth Roche (English), who will be starting at Oxford this Autumn.

GCSE results were also very good, with over 91% of Y11 gaining five or more grades A - C, and 87% achieving this including English and Maths. We also saw some remarkable successes in Y10, so this year's Y11 have a head start, as they set out to equal or surpass the record of last year.*

It is exciting to see that the building programme for BSF has well and truly started, and some areas of refurbishment have been completed over the summer, to encourage us to believe that the disruption will be worthwhile. In the meantime, we have an enormous temporary building in the playground at St Andrew's as well as the builders' compound. We are learning to manage in the spaces in between. All the students and staff must enter and leave the building by the front door this year. It gives us all the opportunity to admire the lovely old façade of the building, which has been beautifully painted and restored over the summer.

Our theme this year is 'Freedom'. This fits perfectly with our mission statement, which commits us to helping the students to prepare themselves to live as independent young people. We shall also be reflecting on the words of St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians: 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.'

Rachel Allard



Above: Shani Daley-Roberts and right Bryony Wellburn and Lucienne Blakely-Droz celebrate their A Level results

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 are taken into account in all aspects of school life.

Attendance & Punctuality Years 7, 8 & 9

The term has started well with excellent attendance in all years. Punctuality has also been excellent in all years so well done to those students who have managed to get themselves back into School mode again after the summer break.

Please remember to give us as much notice as possible of any appointments and please make sure we get a phone call every single day when you are absent due to illness.

Have a great year!

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

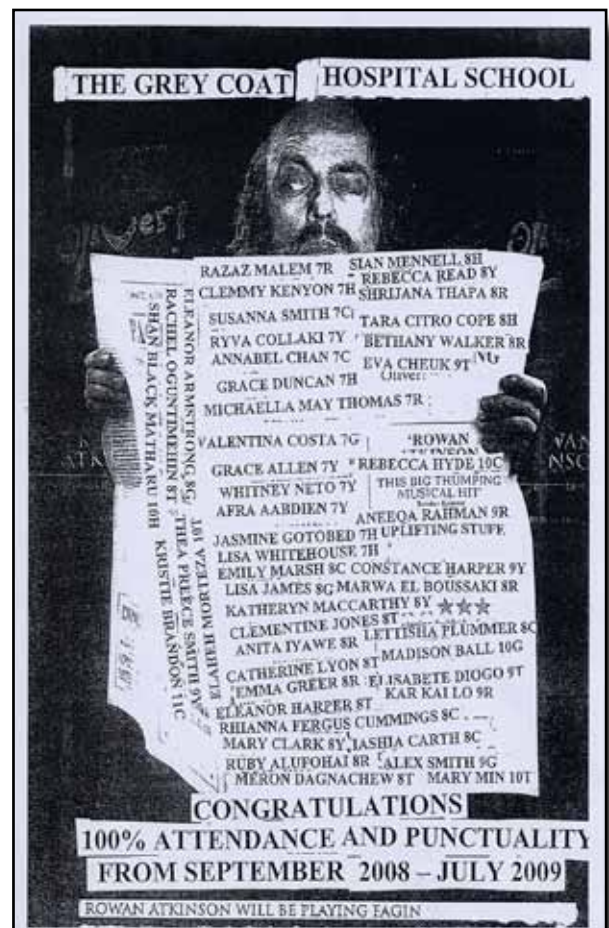
100% Attendance & Punctuality from September 2008 – July 2009

This poster shows the names of the students from Years 7-11 who earned the reward for 100% Attendance and Punctuality. The school purchased tickets for them to attend the theatre to see the musical production of Oliver! It was a wonderful afternoon of entertainment and I know all the students that attended really enjoyed it.

Attendance and Punctuality is considered of the utmost importance at Grey Coat and we take lateness very seriously. Please ensure that your daughter leaves for school in plenty of time to be in her form room before the 8.30 bell.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all year 10s to St. Michael's and welcome back all year 11s looking very smart in their navy sweat shirts. I hope you all had a lovely summer and you have come back refreshed and ready for this academic year.

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



Students who were taken to see 'Oliver'

Budding Grey Coat Reporter Joins Summer School

Our Head Girl and budding reporter, Camille St-Omer learned the tricks of the trade when she was chosen to join a summer school for journalists. Camille, along with 24 other students from across London, joined the Young Journalists' Academy. She was given a chance to see behind the scenes at Sunday newspaper News of the World and agency Reuters, experiencing everything from celebrity splashes to hard-hitting financial news pieces.

This year's summer school also included sessions run by high-profile media figures including The Times sports writer Matthew Syed and award-winning BBC World Service broadcast journalist Richard Lawson.

Camille said: "The fact that all our guest speakers seem to have a passion for their work has helped instill the same passion into all of us students here at YJA. The YJA has helped many of us to make connections and contacts with many in or involved with journalism, which will hopefully prove useful for experience and future job opportunities." The sessions, financed by City of London Corporation, were run by not-for-profit organisation Journalism Education.

Camille also received the 'Dave Hallswort Memorial Prize' for the best young journalist participant on the course and was given a hard back collection of poems by Shelley as her prize.

Sixth Form RS Conference

On Thursday 2nd July the whole of the Grey Coat Sixth Form attended the annual RS conference. The theme of the conference was, 'Smashing the Image'; its aim to focus on the concept of religious identity and the extent to which beliefs and practices are fundamental to religions.

The day began with a key note address given by Dr. Helen-Ann Hartley, (Lecturer in New Testament, Ripon College, Oxford) on how the first Christians shaped their identity in a Roman and Jewish world.

Sister Gina SSF (an Anglican Franciscan) talked about the life of the religious and the challenges and rewards of taking religious orders. Shazia Mirza (a female Muslim comedian) did a set that raised and confronted religious and racial stereotypes (as well as those about RS teachers!). Students were given the opportunity to pose questions to both speakers after their sessions. In the afternoon, a number of year 12 students delivered workshops based around the conference theme. *Ms Gill*

Jack Petchey Award News

Seun Akindeinde was awarded the June Jack Petchey Award for services to the Maths department. She has been a great asset to the class all year. She is always prepared and motivated to learn in lessons. She has demonstrated excellent independent study skills. She initiated her own revision notes and these have then been used by the whole class. She has been a regular mentor to pupils who attend the Maths Homework Club. Seun is considering spending her £200 on some online resources to help students revise at home. *Ms Parish*



Library Corner

This year, in addition to Year 7 Reading Club which will be launched as normal at the Parents' Tea Party we are also hoping to run Year 8 and Year 9 Reading Groups. These are smaller student run groups which meet in St Andrew's Library. New members always very welcome – come and see the Library staff about joining!

Ms Raddon, Librarian.

Art Department News

The summer term was a very busy one for the Art department. We were really excited to be able to offer 15 Yr 7, 8 and 9 students workshops with textile Artist Yemi Awosile. This project was set up by the Royal College of Art 'Reachout RCA' scheme. Yemi came to Grey Coat and ran 5 workshops on Monday afternoons in June and July on the theme of 'Making something beautiful out of something ordinary'. Students explored ways of creating patterns for textile designs relating to different things they observed and photographed in the garden at St Andrews. They had opportunities to work with many different materials, in particular cork, Yemi's signature material. Of most value was the opportunity to learn about how an artist thinks and the journey they go on when developing and realising ideas for a piece of Artwork. The work of the students will be displayed later this year in an exhibition at the Royal College of Art.



Artist Yemi Awosile shows students how to use the knitting machine

Well done to Geraldine Crowe and Eleanor Armstrong in 8G who had work selected for exhibition at the Mardi Gras Exhibition at the SW1 Gallery in Cardinal Walk, Victoria in July. This was part of the Southwest Fest, an annual showcase of work from the local community.



Bethany Lees discussing her work at the ICA

Over the summer Rachel Clarke, Posola Karunwi and Georgina Corrie attended a summer school for gifted and talented students in August at the National Portrait Gallery. They made work based on the theme of self portraiture and worked in a variety of media, culminating in an exhibition of their work at the NPG on Friday 28th of August.

As an Art department in a central London school we are really lucky to be offered so many opportunities and to be able to make links with many different galleries and museums. Another recent connection has been with the Institute of Contemporary Art on the Mall. In July, Ashley Ekeh, Madeleine O'Keefe, Josie Petrie and Bethany Lees went along to the ICA to take part in their new 'Chitchat' project alongside Paddington Academy. The students had to prepare a presentation of the work they had done in Art this year and the students spoke about their Artwork. In particular the education staff at the ICA were very impressed with Bethany Lee's presentation. She had prepared a powerpoint and spoke really confidently about the wonderful work she had done in Miss Prince's class. The ICA were so impressed with the students that they have invited them to become involved permanently with their youth forum – a discussion group for young people in the ICA's catchment area. The girls were really enthusiastic about taking part in this.

We would like to congratulate our GCSE and A level students on their fantastic exam results and we wish those going off to do Art foundation course the best of luck for the future. *Ms Lyons*

NRA Day Fashion Show

The NRA Day is one of the most exciting and talked about dates in the year 11 calendar. One of the main reasons for this is the fashion show - which showcases the work of the year 11 textiles students.

This year was no exception. Year 9, 8 and 7 models rehearsed for weeks before the show and on the day itself they got dressed up in fantastic creations from around the world - all the 5 continents were represented - African prints on glamorous gowns, the sophistication of Europe's catwalks, Asia's sparkles, patterns and vibrant colours, hot salsa dresses from south America, and the elegant evening wear section. Imogen, Musa, Jennifer and Diane from Year 11 presented the show in a most professional manner, and the music, lights and glamour everywhere set the scene for a most spectacular fashion show. Mrs Hayhurst and Miss Hernandez were very proud of what their students had achieved and the year 11 girls themselves enjoyed watching their creations coming down the catwalk, modelled by the wonderful lower school students. *Ms Hayhurst*



Lower school students model some of the beautiful work produced by Y11 textiles students for this year's annual NRA Day fashion show

My Cultural Identity

Last year's theme was 'Identity' and as part of the project our Cultural Awareness senior prefect *Efua Boakye* organised a competition for Year 7 students where they had to write about their cultural identities. The winners will be taken to see a performance of 'Wicked' this September. Here are two of the winning entries:

My Cultural Identity - Julie Dang 7T

Before I started writing this I thought about how culture is part of us and our identity. Everyone has their own distinctive culture which makes us who we are and which also makes us unique. I looked up 'culture' on the online dictionary and it came up with lots of meanings but there were two that made sense to me. The first one was 'the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.' and the second one was 'the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group.' I have... well a quite interesting culture. I am Vietnamese, Chinese and also English. My dad is a Buddhist and my mother is a Christian. I also have my own belief – Christianity. Every single one of us has a different sort of culture which means our parents perhaps may want us to behave in a certain way or believe in one particular belief. Also culture sort of links to race. Race is also a distinctive quality in all of us. It links to culture because if you take, I don't know . . . another person with has the sort of same skin colour as me; you may find they might believe in the same belief as me or you may find they are from the same country as me. I don't know about you but as my parents are Chinese and Vietnamese we have traditions and a way we must behave. Like, how we need to pray during the time of Chinese New Year or like, how we need to respect the elders always to show a sign of respect. I know for one that many of us have our own Celebrations days. I have my own and one of the important ones is Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year means a new year and a fresh start. Every single different Culture has a different way of celebrating and a different meaning to the occasion. So yeah...Culture is a unique quality

My Cultural Identity - Erefua Boakye 7R

My culture is Ghanaian. I have one sister and one brother. At home my mum and my dad speak Ghanaian but I do not. That is because I was born in London. I am 11 years old and in my whole life I've never been to Ghana but I would like to visit Ghana and see my two grandmas which I have never seen before and I would like to see my homeland and how it looks like. Our culture is very similar to English culture except we are more traditional, we celebrate Christmas, Easter and all the other events. At home my parents speak Twi, we eat things like jellof rice, plantain, ken key, soup, chicken and many other things. Every day I see different cultures and I learn about them and I see that all cultures are different even if it is just a tiny bit. I love my culture and would never change it if I had the chance to and I'm sure nobody else would too. I am very proud of my culture and so is my family because that is what makes me different from everybody else. My culture is my identity: it's me.

Y7 Rounders Tournament

On Wednesday 24th June the Year 7 Rounders team played in the final of the Westminster Schools Rounders tournament against the mighty St Augustines. The Year 7 team lost the toss and batted first. There was some superb batting from Jasmine Gotobed, Bobbi Benjamin-wand and Gmanoh Choloply and Grey Coat racked up 46 points in total with not a single player being out.

When it was Grey Coat's turn to field the team showed some sensational skills with Katie Sapiano Oakley making an excellent backstop and Elena Rastorgueva showing solid hands on first base. Tierney Andrews who was fielding out deep made some superb, accurate throws. St Augustine's struggled to score rounders and had several players being caught and stumped out. Harriet Wright demonstrated some quick thinking when she stumped fourth base to prevent any further players from St Augustness returning to bat and thus finishing the game.

Final score Grey Coat 46 points to St Augustine's 10 points. A superb end to the school year. Congratulations to the Year 7 team for becoming Westminster Champions!

Team

Jasmine Gotobed	Bobbi Benjamin-wand	Gmanoh Choloply	Harriet Wright
Elena Rastorgueva	Susannah Lechmere	Tierney Andrews	Katie Sapiano Oakley

Year 12 Go To Court

Each summer term year 12 psychology students take a trip to Horseferry Road Magistrates' court. As part of the A.S psychology syllabus students study memory and in particular eye witness testimony and its significance for court convictions. Juries often convict on the basis of what an eye witness has "seen". Students sit in the visitors' gallery or well of the court. We usually observe about 6 cases per session. We see the magistrates, defendants, solicitors and court clerks in action. This is real life where causes and consequences unfold before our eyes. It is often the first time year 12 have been in a court. It raises questions for us all about human rights, democracy and the British criminal justice system. Afterwards students are more mindful about their hopes and expectations for a fair and just legal system.

Year 13 sociology students will visit court for their Crime and Deviance unit.

Year 12 psychology students visited the Freud museum - his house in London - for a reflective trip on psychoanalysis. *Ms Webb*

Music Department News

Busking Cancer 2009

On Wednesday 24th June, musicians from every year group gave up their lunch break to raise money for Cancer Research. As part of the national Busking Cancer event, the musicians entertained staff and students at lower school by busking in the playground (luckily, it was a sunny day). Over £300 was raised and thank you to all those who performed or gave generously.



Music students busking for Cancer Research

BBC "Go Sing"

On Tuesday 7th July many of our students performed with the BBC Singers at the famous "Go Sing" event. Students from Year 7 Choir, the Gospel Choir and the Concert Choir performed with several other schools from Westminster at Methodist Central Hall. The concert was recorded for BBC Radio 3 and the students even got to meet Gethin Jones.

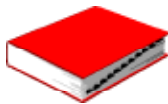


Hannah Timson, Sophia Rodrigues, Maia Rowe-Sampson and Chloe Woollett perform at Paddington Academy

Westminster Showcase

On Friday 10th July, Grey Coat was represented at a Performing Arts Showcase at Paddington Academy by a rock band containing music students Hannah Timson, Sophia Rodrigues, Maia Rowe-Sampson and Chloe Woollett. The girls impressed the audience in what was their first public performance, even performing one of their own compositions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



OCTOBER

2nd	D of E Silver Expedition (returns 4/10)
2-4th	Y12 & 13 Spanish Study w/e Devon
5th	Y6 Parents' Open Evening 5pm & 6pm
8th	Y6 Parents' Open Afternoon 2pm
9th	Guild Barn Dance 6.30pm
15th	Y11 Careers Day P-1-4
17th	Old Greys' AGM 11am-2pm
20th	Y7 Dance Workshops all day Spanish Exchange to Spain(returns 28th)
22nd	Y12/13 Trip to Barcelona (return 25th) Black Heritage Day (Y9) - P4-6
23rd	INSET Day - school closed for staff training HALF TERM
28th	German Exchange to Germany(returns 4/11)

NOVEMBER

1st	Year 10 Charity Week
3rd	Governors' Meeting 5pm
10th	Y7 Moon Watch P1-4 Autumn Concert, St Andrew's 6.30pm
11th	Y11 Science Workshop PM Guild AGM 6.30pm
12th	Academic Tutorial Day
14th	Play Rehearsal
16th	Thinking Skills Week
18th	Y11 Taster Lessons
19th	Annual Prize Giving, St Andrew's
20th	Early Finish
22nd	Play Rehearsal
24th	Gym & Dance Display
25th	Y11 Science Workshop PM
26th	YY10 Art Trip P 3-6 11>12 Open Evening, St Michael's 5-6.30pm
27th	Play Rehearsal
28th/29th	Play Rehearsal

DECEMBER

1st	St Andrew's Day Service, St Margaret's 2.15pm
1st-3rd	Y6 Tests, 3.30-6pm St Michael's
3rd	Y11 Mock exams begin (end 17th)
2-4th	School Play, St Andrew's
7th	Y9 Charity Week
11th	Guild Carol Service, St Stephen's 6.15pm Christmas Fair 7.30pm
14th	Sixth Form MUNGA
16th	Medieval Fair-Y7 P 4-6
18th	Carol Service, St Margaret's 9.15 am
	END OF TERM

JANUARY

4th	INSET Day - school closed for staff training
5th	INSET Day - school closed for staff training
6th	START OF TERM
11th	Public Exams start (end 3/2) Y10 & 11 Maths Modular Exams
13th	Guild Meeting, 6.30pm
14th	Y11 Parents' Evening
15th	Early Finish
18th	Thinking Skills Week
21st	Y10 & 11 Maths Modular Exams
25th	Y9 Freedom Week
26th	Y10 Parents' Evening
27th	Late start
29th	Guild Quiz Night, 6.30pm

FEBRUARY

4th	Y9 Parents' Evening
5th	Early Finish
10th	Y12 Parents' Evening
11th	Late start
12th	Y9 Geography trip to Wales (returns 14th)
22nd	6th Form Charity Week
23rd	Y9 Internal Maths SATs (end 26th)
25th	Start of Lent Service, Westminster Abbey 9.15am

MARCH

1st	Thinking Skills Week
3rd	Guild Meeting, 6.30pm
4th	World Book Day
8th	GCSE Art exam
9th	GCSE Art exam
10th	Academic Tutorial Day
15th	Science Week Y13 Parents' Evening (late start on 16th)
17th	Y7 GRY to National Gallery AS Art Exam
18th	Y7 CTH to National Gallery Spring Concert, St Andrew's, 6pm
19th	Y7,8 & 9 Bug Expedition
22nd	Y7 Charity Week Y8 GRY to Natural History Museum PM
23rd	Swimming Gala
24th	Y8 CTH to Natural History Museum PM AS Art exam (ends 26th)
25th	Y10 Industry Day P 1-6
31st	End of Term Service & Talent Show

APRIL

1st	INSET Day - school closed for staff training
15th	AS Biology Trip (returns 18th)
19th	START OF TERM
22nd	Y8 Parents' Evening (early finish 23rd)
23rd	D of E Bronze Expedition (returns 25th) Y12 Geography Trip to Wales (returns 25th)

27th	Y10 Trip to Epping Forest
26th	Guild Meeting 6.30pm
29th	Y7 Parents' Evening (early finish 30th)
30th	D of E Bronze Expedition (returns 2/5)

MAY

3rd	May Day (bank holiday)
4th	Y9 GR to Imperial War Museum
5th	Y9 YC to Imperial War Museum
6th	Y9 TH to Imperial War Museum
8th	International Fair, St Michael's 11am-2pm
10th	Thinking Skills Week
13th	Ascension Day Service, St Margaret's 2.15pm
17th	Public Exams begin (end 30th June) Y12 Study Leave
21st	D of E Bronze Expedition (returns 23rd)
26th	Y8 to Kew Gardens
28th	HALF TERM Last Day for Y13, Strawberries & Cream, St Andrew's Garden, 3pm

JUNE

7th	Y10/11 Maths linear exams (ends 11th)
9th	Y12 UCAS & tracking starts Y12 start lessons
11th	D of E Bronze Expedition (returns 13th)
16th	Guild Meeting
18th	Y7 to Hampton Court
19th	Old Greys' Summer Tea Party 11am-5pm
21st	Y9,10,11 Maths Modular Exams pm
24th	GCSE Art Exhibition
25th	Admissions Day Y7 to Kew Gardens/ Y8 Take Your Daughters to Work Day/Y9 Activities D of E Silver Expedition (returns 28th)
28th	Thinking Skills Week
29th	Y10 exams start (end 9th July) Sports Day, Battersea Park
30th	NRA Day

JULY

1st	RE Conference, St Michael's
2nd	Academic Tutorial Day
7th	Annual Service, Westminster Abbey 6.30pm
8th	Y10 Work Experience preparation PM
9th	End of Y12 Lessons
10th	Play Rehearsal
11th	Play Rehearsal
12th	Y10 Work Experience begins (ends 21st)
14-16th	School Play, St Andrew's
16th	D of E Gold Exhibition (returns 21st)
21st	Year trips/USA Trip(returns 30th)
22nd	Y10 Work Experience debrief End of Term Service, St Michael's