



The
CHATHAM & CLARENDON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Federation



NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2012



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my first newsletter which seems to have been a long time coming as my feet don't seem to have touched the ground since I started in September! Although it seems a little while ago now it is most appropriate to start the newsletter by celebrating the success of our GCSE and A level students in the summer:

GCSE Results 2012

Our current Year 12 students are to be congratulated on a fantastic set of results in the summer. The girls achieved a pass rate of 95% 5A* - C with 15% of the grades at A* and 42% at A* to A. The boys achieved a pass rate of 92% 5A* to C with 7.6% of those grades at A* and 28% at A* to A. We wish all the students continued success whether they have stayed on with us or joined other 6th form institutions.

Our top 22 students, this year achieved outstanding and well deserved results which are listed below:

Girls - Leena Abdel Magid 8 A*, 3 As & 1 B, Christina Adamson 10 A* & 1 A, Isobel Cook 8 A* & 3 As, Danielle Elmer 10 A* & 1 A, Nicole Fletcher 6 A* & 5 As, Naomi Garrod 6 A*, 4 As & 1 B, Rachael Goodfellow 4 A*, 5 As & 1 B, Emma Gwynne 5 A* & 6 As, Sophie Lewendon 8 A*, 2 As & 1 B, Abigail Pearson 6 A* & 5 As, Georgina Pegden 5 A*, 4 As & 1 B, Elizabeth Sandwell 4 A*, 5 As & 1 B and Bethany Seaman 4 A* & 7 As.

Boys - David Aspital 8 A* & 4 As, Samuel Clark 4 A*, 5 As & 2 Bs, Connor Hope 8 A*, 2 As & 1 B, Alex Kirkpatrick 11 A* & 1 A, Sean Moore 7 A* & 4 As, Oliver Quinney 5 A*, 6 As & 1 B, Mathew Speed 6 A*, 3 As & 3 B's and Callum White 5 A* & 6 As.

Alex Kirkpatrick should be doubly congratulated as he was one of only four students in the country who achieved full marks in the maths GCSE, what a fantastic achievement!

A Level Results 2012

Our A level students excelled once again this summer with a pass rate of 99.8% from over 700 exam entries. Almost 25% of the results were at A & A* grades and over half at A* - B grades. We wish all our students continued success with University courses or employment.

Our top 20 students this year achieved amazing results and a third of these came from students who joined us from local high schools.

Irzam Ahmed 2 A* & 2 As, Danielle Aspital 4 As, 1 B at A level & 1 A at AS level, Charlotte Brown 2 As & 2 Bs and came to us from St Georges, Connor Brown 2 A*, 3 As at A level & 1 A at AS level, Richard Cannon 1 A*, 2 A & 1 C, Kavisha Chapman 1 A* & 2 As, Laura Elmer 3 As & 1 C at A level & 1 A at AS level, Grace Gupta 2 A* & 2 Bs, Benedict Hawkins 2 A*, 2 As, 1 B at A level & 1 A at AS level

and is going to read English at Queens College Cambridge, David Hewett 3 As, 1 B at A level & 2 Bs at AS level, Jessica Holder 3 As and joined us from Charles Dickens, Rebecca Howlett 2 As, 2 Bs & 1 A at A level & 1 B at AS level and joined us from Herne Bay High School , Emma Overy 3 As & 2 Cs, Dheshendran Padiachey 3 A*, 2 As at A level & 2 Bs at AS level, Vicky Richmond 2A* & 2 As at A level & 2 Bs at AS level, joined us from St Georges and is going to read Pharmacy at Nottingham, Ryan Rodway 1 A*, 1 A & 2 Bs, Katie Ryder 3 As & 1B joined us from Ellington and is going to RVC to read Veterinary Medicine, Naomi Ward 2A* & 3 As, Jethro West 2 A* & 3 As at A level & 2 Bs at AS level going to Bristol to read Maths and Philosophy and Jacob Willey 3 As & 2 Bs.

Well done to all, these results were the culmination of two years hard work by both students and the staff who taught them.

Public Consultation Document – Case for the Formal merger of Chatham House and Clarendon House Grammar School

It is our aim to gain approval from the DFE to formally merge the two schools and to this end we have produced a document outlining our case. The document can be accessed by clicking on the link on the home page of the website. The consultation period will finish on 1st February 2013. Details of how to respond can be found on the last page of the document.

As far as your son or daughter is concerned the formal merger will not affect their day to day experience of school.

Breakfast Club



Lower school pupils worked hard before the October break to design a new menu for the breakfast service at the lower school. All pupils were involved in discussions during form tutor periods about what they would like to appear on the new menu. Pancakes and waffles were amongst the most popular choice, but

bacon sandwiches and the 'full English' still made an appearance. The new menu started after the October half term and is available to all Lower School pupils from 7.30am. For those parents who would like to see what actually made it onto the final menu, please look at the new food section coming soon to the school's website.



Publicity

We are always keen for the achievements of our students to be publicised both on our website but also in the local media. To this end we have asked some of our 6th form students interested in a career in journalism to take ownership of this. Last week they attended a workshop with Rebecca Smith from the Thanet Gazette and Thanet Times. Rebecca gave the students tips on what makes a good story and how they should present an article, although she made it clear that there are no guarantees that stories will be published in the local press. If your son or daughter has an unusual hobby/interest or has achieved something outside of school which you think we should know about and are happy to have published on the school website or if possible in the local press, please let us know. I am hoping that future newsletters contain contributions from our 'press gang'.

Raising Aspirations - Saturday University Open Day Visits

During Term 1 Mr Fenner arranged three Saturday visits for around 10 Year 12 students to University of Sussex, London University Queen Mary and the University of East Anglia. These are a chance for students to find out about university life, courses on offer and campus resources.

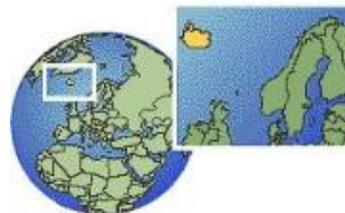
Mr Fenner is currently planning visits to Queen' College Cambridge and Oxford's, St Hugh's College in the Spring for Year 10 students. Mr Fenner also recently attended a course about students accessing degree courses in Holland!

Report of Iceland Visit October 2012 – Mr Wilson-Queen



During the half term break 41 students, not all Geographers, from Years 10 and 11 together with 4 staff members went to Iceland. Despite a late departure from Gatwick due to baggage handling problems the group arrived with enough time to visit the Blue Lagoon on arrival which was enjoyed by all. However, it did mean a late arrival into our accommodation in the early hours of the morning.

During our stay, despite the chilly arctic winds the group visited; Thingvellier the site of the tectonic plate boundary between Eurasia and North America; Gullfoss one of the most amazing waterfalls in the world and Geysir notably famous for the Uncle Ben's rice advert. On Wednesday the group went to the Westmann Islands by ferry. Here the impact of the eruption of Edfel (volcano) on Heimaey in 1973 was examined and we also took an opportunity to swim in the island's activity pool despite the low temperatures. Thursday's adventures had to be curtailed due to the extreme winds in parts of Iceland making coach travel impossible, instead of glaciers, waterfalls, stacks, caves and arches it was geothermal power stations and urban exploration in a cold windy Reykjavik.



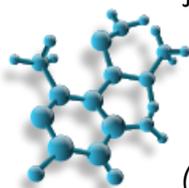
The group returned to UK having had a thoroughly good but exhausting time. We look forward to returning to Iceland in 2014!

Rugby Tour to Barcelona – October Half Term

On Thursday October 24th students travelled to Barcelona for the annual Rugby tour. The tour was an amazing success, three wins from three, including a very good win against Sitges who are fourth in Catalonia! We have been undefeated on tour for three years! No injuries too!

Science News

A Year 13 group of chemists visited a Royal Society of Chemistry lecture by Dave Alker at the Dukes of York's Military School on the evening of Wednesday 14th November. Here is a precis written by James Craswell. The lecturer was enthusiastic and encouraging and, *"Having no idea what to expect from the lecture, I was surprised at how interesting it was to get an insight into how Pfizer went about developing a new medicine. They aim to find a 'lead molecule' through testing and they then spend a long time modifying it. The lecture actually reassured me that I have chosen to study the right degree (Biochemistry), where I can be a part of what he was talking to us about."*



Year 12 visit to QEQM Hospital on the 19th November - In an attempt to stimulate interest in the hidden world of medical diagnostics Mrs Donohoe asked the QEQM Hospital if it would be possible to arrange a laboratory tour for any of our AS science pupils. They were happy to oblige as long as the groups consisted of pupils who were interested in their world as a potential career area. The tour lasted for an hour and a half and consisted of a short insight into entry qualifications, responsibilities and pay scales. We were then guided around the blood analysis area which was pretty amazing! We were shown the blood banks (£150.00 a bag) and a demonstration of how they type patients' blood groups. One of the favourite areas was the microscopy room. Here we were shown blood slides of; malaria, leukaemia, worm infestation and vitamin B12 deficiency which shows enlarged red blood cells which are inefficient at delivering oxygen resulting in the patient being anaemic. (Pictures available on the website).



John Downton Awards 2012

Mr Ashdown our Head of Art submitted art work from our students to the John Downton Art Awards. There were over 300 submissions from over 28 schools in Kent. Five of our students had their work chosen to be exhibited; Callum Duff, Ryan Jowitt, Gabriel Parker, Ellen Russell and Rosemarie Sayers. The Art Awards were held on 15th November in Maidstone. Gabriel Parker was awarded the Silver Prize for his 'Girl with a Hoop Earring'. All the students should be congratulated on their achievements.

Keep Kids Safe

This is the text message and email service we use to communicate with parents. Unfortunately it has come to our attention that there is an unsubscribe button for parents. Can we politely ask that you do not unsubscribe as it is quite difficult to then re-subscribe. We feel that this is a really valuable service that we provide which allows us to communicate important information quickly and effectively to parents.

Reports

Following feedback from parents we have decided to go back to our 'termly' reporting system at KS3 & 4. Generally, at the end of each new term (sometimes it is the first week back) pupils will receive a short monitoring report, plus once a year (twice for Year 9 & 10) pupils receive a written comment with advice on how to improve their work.

Full details of the exact timing of reports for all years is on our website under the 'Calendar' tab.

School Policies

These are published on the school website, click on the 'About Us' tab and then select Document Zone from the drop down box.

Consultation for September 2014 Admission Arrangements - as required by the School Admission Code the Federation's consultation document for the 2014 arrangements will take place between 1st January 2013 and 28th February 2013. The document will be available on the Federation website for that period, if you do not have access to the website please contact Mrs S Hurrell, Federation Registrar, at the Chatham House site who will send you a copy.



Drugs

We have recently had two cases reported to us of drugs being offered to our students out of school. It is our policy to contact parents to let them know of our concerns if we have any reason to suspect students may have been exposed to drugs. If you have any concerns about drugs and how to spot signs of use, www.talktofrank.com is a useful website.

Stranger Danger

Just a timely reminder as the evenings are now very dark very early, that students should endeavour where possible not to walk home alone and try to avoid isolated areas.

Forthcoming Events

- ❖ Christmas Concerts – Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December, 7pm at Holy Trinity Broadstairs. There will be refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies available during the interval courtesy of the Friends Association. Please come along, be Christmassy and support our talented musicians! If you would like tickets you can buy them from either

Chatham or Clarendon Music departments, the school office, or on the door on the night – prices are adults - £6, children and concessions £3.

- ❖ Upper School Trip to the Panto at the Marlowe Theatre Canterbury – Thursday 13th December starting at 7pm.
- ❖ Year 10 reward trip to the Winter Wonderland Bluewater – Tuesday 18th December
- ❖ All the Term 1 and 2 Sporting achievements will be reported in the Sports Newsletter published in the last week of term.
- ❖ Change of Date – The Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening has been moved from 23rd January to 22nd January due to a clash with a public exam. A letter confirming details will be sent out to parents closer to the date.

Farewell

Mrs Rhoda Davies is retiring after 22 years at the school. I would like to thank her for her service to the school both as a teacher and for many years as Head of Key Stage 4, then subsequently as Head of Rothschild House. All the staff wish her a long and happy retirement.



End of Term – Friday 21st December at 1.35pm (unless students have to serve a detention, in which case parents will be notified)



New Term begins Monday 7th January at 8.40am

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Debra Liddicoat
Principal

