



The
CHATHAM & CLARENDON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Federation

NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2012

Student News

Congratulations to Mr Burney's latest group of budding Apprentices who triumphed in the first round of the 2012 Young Consumer competition. The competition is not product based. It is a university challenge style buzzer type question competition with specific knowledge on:

Consumer Rights and Regulations Knowledge, European Trading information, Money, Credit and Finance information, Food and Drink knowledge, Health and Safety Regulations knowledge, General Knowledge and main items on the news in the last year.

The Year 12 girls' team consisting of Vanessa Cole, Chloe Bayliss, Francesca Dennis and Chloe Spellman were the winners and now progress to the regional finals in April.

Pursuing the Young Apprentice theme, congratulations also to Year 9 students who participated in the "Business of Enterprise" element of recent Focus Day which was run by EBP. All the students worked in teams of six through the day working with business representatives, planning a product or service. The students produced financial plans for their company, posters, leaflets, information sheets, proto-type and finished with presenting a five minutes power point presentation to their peers.

Anne McNulty from EBP comments "an impressive standard was achieved by so many groups on the day – there would not normally be so many potential winners from one school. So many of the young people had a mature and very professional approach to the whole process.

Eleven teams have gone through to the next round, they will be working with business support leading up to the In School Final on 28th May. Two teams will go on to the Inter-Schools Final.

The Lower School House Art competition was held on 27 March and there was an incredibly high standard of entries in all categories which included two dimensional art, food and drink, photography, three dimensional craft and kits. The result was very close and the winners were Rothschild Pearce just pipping Mann-Somerville to top spot followed closely in third place by Thomas-Sharman and Knight-Heath gamely brought up the rear.

Saddle Up for Equestrian Club

Federation students are invited to saddle up and join the federation's equestrian club. The group meets on Thursday lunchtimes at the student support centre at the Chatham Street campus. Three of the regular club members recently enjoyed lessons at the Nelson Park riding centre at Woodchurch. Jemma Smith, Magdalena Grela and Caitlin Cronin were joined by club organiser Mrs Scott-Smith, and the group hope to return to the centre for another indoor ride as well as going for a hack and a beach ride.

Staffing News

Best wishes to Physics teacher Simon Bowman, who leaves the Federation on Friday to take up a new post at Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar School from the summer term. Simon has proved to be one of our very best young teachers, and through his participation in our "G2O" training programme clearly has a bright future in the profession. We are sorry to lose him, and wish him every success and happiness at Manwood's: our loss is their gain. Joining the

Federation Physics department from July, we welcome Dr Michael Feeny who has a Masters in Physics from Lancaster University along with a doctorate in Physics gained at Yeditepe University in Turkey in September 2011. He has run undergraduate laboratories, conducted research and published papers in national and international journals. During the course of his doctorate he realised he truly enjoyed teaching, and so joined a PGCE course at Christ Church in September 2011. He is currently with us as a PGCE.

Our thanks also go to long-serving Clarendon-based ICT Technician Mr Widdus, who has decided to take a break from working in schools for a while to concentrate on domestic responsibilities. Clive has immense knowledge of the technical aspects of computing and we hope that in due course he is able to return to working in education, particularly as the government is shifting the focus away from teaching ICT in schools to promoting Computer Studies.

Master Chef in the Making

Jamie Baker (8MSb) recently took part in Thanet Earth cooking competition with his recipe for Ground Provision soup and did so well he won. As part of the prize he was awarded a cook book, trophy and a visit to the Minnis restaurant in Birchington where he will cook a three course meal for his family and of course on the menu will be his winning soup. He also won £250 of Tesco vouchers for the school and his recipe will be included on a recipe card that will be available soon at Tesco Extra. Well done Jamie!.

“Luck Be A Lady Tonight!”

The latest school production, “Guys and Dolls” was a triumph and showcased how well Chatham & Clarendon have integrated since Federation. The collective team work of the cast, and the combined efforts of students and staff, on and off stage, were the key to its success – many thanks to producer & director Mrs Magill, Subject Leader for Drama. Amongst the many stand-out individual performances, two that will linger long in the memory were from Craig Alder giving a unique and hilarious interpretation of the chief villain; mobster “*Big Jule*” and English & Media teacher Mr Hayward delighted the audience with a previously unsuspected talent for dance – the Gene Kelly of the Federation! A short film documentary about the production is coming soon to the school website

Music in the Spring Term

We’ve had a very busy term of musical activities as always, and it is great to see so many students taking part.

The production of Guys and Dolls at the beginning of March was a fantastic success and one of the strongest shows for many years – a really talented cast, both in terms of acting and singing.

Intermediate Wind Band played the Thanet Olympic Torch in and out of the Olympic assembly with numbers including Chariots of Fire, and made a great sound in St George’s church, certainly adding to the ceremony of the occasion.

Then Senior Wind Band took to the floor as House Band for the Thanet Schools’ Prom – we played seven numbers and well extremely well received. Such occasions give us a chance to truly represent music at Chatham and Clarendon in the wider community and it was especially good to be heard by so many local primary schools.

Our Barbershop ensemble, The Lowtones, was invited to be special guests at the Thanet Festival of song last week and sang a fantastic version of What a Wonderful World, as made famous by Louis Armstrong.

We had a double event on Sunday 25th March – firstly in the morning the Percussion School Advanced Class performed in the regional finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth (we have to wait until April to find out if we are through to the finals in Birmingham), and then in the afternoon the Jazz Band and soloists gave an excellent concert in Broadstairs as part of the Broadstairs Recital Society concert series. Well done to all involved.

Finally, on Monday 26th March dozens of musicians from Thanet's primary schools congregated in the Chatham Assembly Hall to undertake a special rehearsal and concert in collaboration with our school wind bands – forming a mega-band of over 100 musicians! A great morning and a great opportunity for our students to get involved with younger musicians in the area.

Music in the Summer Term – dates for your diary.

- Tuesday 17th April, 7pm – Meeting for parents of Italy Tour musicians – drama studio.
- Friday 4th May – Senior House Music – all day
- Friday 1st June – Junior House Music – all day

Half Term.

- Friday 15th June, 7pm – Junior School Concert, Chatham Assembly Hall.
- Monday 18th June at 2pm – Senior Wind Band perform at Broadstairs Bandstand as part of Dickens Week.
- 23rd June at 2pm – Intermediate Band perform at St Andrew's Village fete in St Peters.
- 29th June, 7pm – Leavers' Concert – featuring Year 13 musicians and various ensembles. Chatham Assembly Hall.
- Tuesday 3rd July, 7pm – Percussion School Concert - Chatham Assembly Hall.
- Sunday 15th July 9.30am – Final rehearsal and concert (3pm) for Italy Tour musicians

Forthcoming Event

Don't miss the next PTA Friends Quiz Night – a Film & Music Quiz Night being held on Friday 27th April in the Chatham House Hall, starting at 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30 start. For further information & to enter a team please contact Mrs Hurrell by email: shurrell@ccgrammarschool.co.uk or by telephone 01843 598980.

Sporting News

'Read all about it' in the Sporting Newsletter within the website Newsletter section.

Thanet Festival

Once again, a large number of our students (mostly girls) took part in this year's Thanet Music, Dance and Drama Festival, and the majority of them won one or more classes. All should be congratulated even for just having the courage to take part. Quite a number won trophies too; in Piano: Megan Bithel-Vaughan and Martha Carter won a cup each, and Bethia Carter won two. In the Vocal section, Johanna Pearson-Farr, Bethan Fahy each won one trophy, with Molly Mallon securing two, and in Speech and Drama, Grace Murray, Milli Harris, Phoebe Sola and Thomas Oliver all won awards. These are to be presented at the Gala Concert Friday 30th March at the Sarah Thorne by Sir Roger Gale, and in the presence of all three Thanet Mayors. Thomas Carter, the Carter twins and Lydia Crosher with Johanna Pearson-Farr will also be performing at this prestigious event. Johanna should have a particular mention as she takes part in four of the five sections of the Festival! What talent we have here.

Careers Guidance News

From September 2011 former Clarendon Assistant Head, Mr Fenner, moved into a new part-time non teaching role as the Careers & Guidance Officer for the Federation. To date Mr

Fenner's work has concentrated on supplementing the H.E. advice given by the CCVI team, working with Year 10 & 11 students, and liaison with Connexions (which winds up this year). We will be extending our careers & guidance programme further down into Key Stage 3 during 2012-13, not least because our students will be starting the GCSE cycle a year earlier in future, and thus making option choices when they are in Year 8. There has been a lot of media coverage focusing on the increased costs of going to university and the difficulty of securing places. Encouraging progression to Higher Education remains one of the core purposes of the Federation, as it is for all grammar schools, so we will do everything we can to foster and support those aspirations. In that spirit Mr Fenner has organised a programme of visits to university and college open days by senior students throughout the year, and from time to time we will publicise relevant information which will be of interest to all students. To take a topical example...

Now that universities can recruit as many students with AAB as they want, there is a '*grants race*' amongst middle and lower tier universities who are keen to maintain their numbers and fear that the best students will gravitate towards universities with 'elite reputations'. Bradford, East Anglia, City, Liverpool Hope, Northumbria, Worcester, Salford and Surrey all offer non means tested bursaries for students who gain AAB. City offer a very generous package for students applying for engineering; £1,000 for AAB grades, £2,000 for AAA and £3,000 for an A* AA. An added incentive for universities is that league tables use the average A level score of recruits as one of the factors

Uniform News

- The Schoolwear Centre has now moved to bigger & more accessible premises to 56 Addington Street Margate Kent CT9 1OS (opposite AMF Bowling) Telephone 293555.
- Following the demise of Ernest Newsom in Ramsgate, we are pleased that another local firm "Trews" (130 High Street Ramsgate Kent CT11 0DE Telephone 599466) has filled the vacuum and will be selling the Federation uniform in the town.
- Restoring the access-all-areas uniform service, "Barnums" in Herne Bay (Unit 2, 14-16 William Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EJ Telephone 01227 365220) has changed hands and the new proprietors have also agreed to make the Federation uniform available.
- The Federation PE kit will continue to be supplied via the "Ambition Sport" internet-based service.

Change of uniform: this is an appropriate opportunity to remind parents/carers of students in the current Year 9 cohort, that their sons and daughters will be members of the Upper School from September, based on the Clarendon site and will need to wear the Upper School uniform. Full details are available via the school office/federation website, but essentially black replaces green as the colour for badged items & the girls' skirts, with fitted jackets in place of blazers.

Parents/carers of students in the current Year 11 may wish to donate any unwanted items of Upper School uniform at the end of this school year, (and similarly any unwanted Lower School uniform when students move from Year 9 into Year 10) – we are always happy to 'recycle' uniform items where that can be of benefit to others.

Ofsted & All That

From the point of view of school inspection, the Federation presents Ofsted with something of a challenge: technically still two Academies with two DfE numbers, yet we operate as one – a mixed Sixth Form, mixed GCSE option subjects at Key Stage 4, an integrated co-ed pastoral system based on twinned Houses, and boys & girls sharing facilities on both sites. It may not be totally unique, but there really aren't many other school partnerships like it. With, however, a growing national trend for more schools to collaborate in formal arrangements such as Federations and Sponsored Academy partnerships, government has had to respond to the change and consider inspecting linked schools at the same time. To complicate things a

little further, our partner schools had different Ofsted grades the last time they were (separately) inspected in 2008. Chatham was graded 1 “Outstanding” – and therefore as the rules currently stand is exempt from further inspection, whereas Clarendon was graded 2 “Good” and could be inspected at 3-5 year intervals.

Parents may have picked up from media coverage of changes in education policy, that there is now a new Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, and the new 2012 inspection framework is more rigorous than previous arrangements. In DfE terms they have “raised the bar” as a means of driving up standards in schools across the system. It is now, deliberately, much harder to be classified as 1 “Outstanding”. In Sir Michael’s view, what was deemed “Outstanding” under the previous regime cannot be assumed to remain so when new definitions of excellence are expected.

After some deliberation Ofsted has now confirmed that whenever it happens Chatham & Clarendon will be inspected at the same time as one functional entity. Although no-one at Ofsted has said so explicitly, it would appear that now they are in effect aggregating the two previous inspection verdicts and therefore categorise the Federation as a whole as 2: Good. Meantime their annual “risk assessment” monitoring exercise for all schools categorised as Good - based on exam results, attendance & exclusions data - revealed no particular concerns and so we would not need to be inspected before Summer 2013. An official letter to that effect was distributed to all parents last week.

Not officially part of that monitoring process, but no doubt informing it, we were also subject to a (random?) sample Subject inspection for Art on 14-15th March. The visiting HMI, Janet Mercer, confirmed that previous disappointing GCSE Art results for the boys were a concern, and had been a factor in prompting the inspection. The official mini-report letter will be published on the Ofsted website in April, however the *interim provisional* verdict is that the subject was graded 3 “Satisfactory”. For the purposes of arriving at a single overall inspection grade, previous separate grades were considered together. At Clarendon over the last five years GCSE, A Level grades and progression to Higher education would certainly be categorised as Good, whereas at Chatham over the same period they were significantly weaker. Therefore when aggregated overall achievement was subject to a limiting judgement as 3: Satisfactory/Improvement Needed. During the HMI’s visit most of the teaching was graded as 2: Good and the curriculum was also graded 2: Good. From the evidence we presented, she accepted that the federation strategy of integration, and deploying all staff for maximum positive effect, operating mixed classes at both GCSE and A Level, is having a positive effect and *will* do what we intend: bring about the necessary improvements for boys and girls.

Legal Merger: where are we now?

After a great deal of detailed work to fully document the reality of our situation, the outline Business Case for Legal Merger has been completed, was formally endorsed by the Trust Board (Governors) on 27/3/12, and has been submitted to the DfE. It is our contention that Chatham & Clarendon cannot survive as separate entities and that a merger is the only rational, sustainable way to manage falling rolls and the resultant financial pressures, protect the curriculum and raise standards. Our target date for the merger to begin would be September 2014, when the cohorts of students whose parents originally chose Chatham & Clarendon, pre-Federation as separate entities, will have left Year 11. For organisational purposes if we could advertise and recruit to a mixed PAN earlier than that, in September 2013, it would make curriculum planning, timetabling, and balancing the budget very much easier. The Secretary of State will now consider our application and decide whether it has sufficient merit to go forward through a formal school reorganisation process, with wider consultation including primaries. As part of that process a copy of the Business Case will be placed on the Federation website

Improving the Learning Environment in 2012: Update on Building Projects

A team of staff have also been working on detailed bids for capital funding, to address much-needed improvement on both school sites.

A former private house which is part of the Clarendon campus and was formerly used for some Sixth Form teaching, "The Red House" in Chapel Place, is now surplus to requirements. Since September 2011 A-Level Social Science teaching has been consolidated in the CCVI Centre in Cavendish Street. Whilst we will retain the recreational spaces & Technology huts around it, the "Red House" itself will be sold, and the proceeds used to fund much-needed improvements to the main Clarendon buildings.

These plans include, radical improvement to specialist accommodation for Art, converting the present Clarendon Library to an ultra-modern "Art & Design Barn" for GCSE and A Level teaching, good enough to match anything constructed for those schools which did get their BSF rebuilds. (N.B. See also the item on Ofsted Inspection of Art above!). Upper School students will be enrolled as members of Ramsgate Library, directly adjacent to Clarendon - and encouraged to make even more use of its splendid facilities.

We also plan to convert the central Hall within Clarendon to a multi-purpose "Study Hub" for Upper School students, creating for them a facility of the same standard as the CCVI Centre enjoyed by Sixth Formers. The space will be adapted to provide a lecture theatre big enough to support both assemblies & presentations, drama lessons and also other multi-group teaching during the timetabled pattern of lessons, a computer-equipped private study area, and function as a comfortable social space for Year 10-11 students to use at breaks. The scheme includes replacement of the existing dining "hut" with a modern servery, accessible from both the Study Hub and a sheltered outdoor courtyard.

At the Chatham House site the major project for this year is to replace as much of the existing substandard Maths huts and "Redman Wing" Science accommodation as possible. We have developed and submitted a bid to the Academies Capital Fund, costed at just under £2 million. This represents a bargain when compared to the £25million+ single site rebuild that was planned under BSF! Our scheme includes a new STEM Block (yet another educational acronym, STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths), a two storey modular building to be located on the hardcourt area in front of the present Science block. The hardcourt space, also crucial for PE/Sport and recreational purposes, would be re-created by constructing new fully-fenced MUGA's on the footprint of the demolished Redman Wing. Another element of the project is to concentrate all staff car-parking on the footprint of the demolished Maths huts, accessible from the Boundary Road entrance, thus separating most vehicle traffic from the student pedestrian area in front of the Chatham House building. The plan also deliberately leaves enough room in front of the present gym to replace it with a full size Sports Hall should the funding ever become available.

The various plans and bids have been submitted to DfE and their verdict is expected in early May; many thanks to Rita Wilding (Federation Bursar) and Steve Rose (Project Manager) for all their hard work.

Chatham Closure .

No, not the snow back again – however during the Easter Break Powergen/E-On are carrying out a major upgrade to the mains electricity supply at Chatham House. All the usual revision classes which take place during the holidays as part of our "Grade Booster" programme, will be based at the Cavendish Centre or on the Clarendon site. Normal service will be resumed when Term 5 starts, for everyone, at the usual time on Monday 16th April! Meantime we wish a safe, happy and relaxing break to all students and their families.