



*The*  
**CHATHAM & CLARENDON**  
**GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
*Federation*

**NEWSLETTER: JULY 2013**

**Merger**

We have had formal notification from Lord Nash that the two schools can merge with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Therefore from 1<sup>st</sup> September the school will be known as Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School.

We are now working hard to make sure that all our administrative systems are ready for that date. Our SIMS computer databases have been 'sent off' to be merged into one. For those students already in the school (and those due to arrive in September) there will be no noticeable difference to how we operate.

**School Day**

From September we are changing back to a five one hour period day, this will not change the start or finish times of the school day, however both break and lunchtime will be later and while your sons and daughters get used to this they may want either a snack or money to buy a snack at break time. I would also remind you that breakfast is available in the canteen at the Chatham Site every morning.

**Uniform**

From September 2014 we are changing the girls' uniform slightly; they will be expected to wear a blouse with a reverse (open neck) collar. They may change to this style from September 2013 if they wish, however it will be compulsory from September 2014. If you are unsure of the uniform requirements, the uniform policy can be found on our website by clicking on the "About Us" tab and then clicking on "Documents" or follow the link

<http://www.cgrammarschool.co.uk/uploads/document/Uniform%20Policy%20-%20Approved%20%20June%202013.pdf> .

May I also draw your attention to the sections of the policy which cause the most disputes; "shoes should be of a conventional style" therefore trainers, skater shoes and canvas shoes are not acceptable, hair and jewellery; may I politely request that you do not send your son/daughter to school with hair which is not a naturally occurring colour, or two tone in appearance and ear stretchers and facial piercings are not allowed.

**Other Policies**

You can find all relevant school policies published on our website in the Document Zone.

## Student News

Our students have amazed us this year with both their academic and sporting talent, listed below are some of their achievements.

**Lydia Crosher** has won a place at the National Youth Theatre; she competed against 4600 other students for only 500 places. Her brother **Simeon** won a golf tournament at Easter, having only just got his handicap he managed to win the Thanet Leisure Force Trophy. A great start to a budding career perhaps?

### International Hockey caps for Isaac

Chatham and Clarendon Grammar school 6<sup>th</sup> form student **Isaac O'Connor** won his first international Hockey cap in Spain. Travelling to Valencia with the Under 18 England hockey team, Isaac played in a 4 way tournament between England, Spain, Germany and Holland. Despite playing well together for the first time as a team, England just could not match the level of play from the other teams, but for Isaac the experience, "was just overwhelming" and he "was really proud to walk out in front of a crowd representing my country."



Isaac plays for Canterbury hockey club and his journey to international success started in November 2012.

After many weeks of attending selection camps he was told that he had been selected to play for England Under 18's Hockey team. Since November he has travelled up to the National Sports Centre many times to train with the England squad.

Looking ahead, Isaac's next matches will be in the summer with a trip to Belgium for a training camp/tournament and then the season will end in Vienna where he hopes to play at the European Championships.

**Josh Clarke** in Year 11 sailed in the Laser Radial Youth European Championships in Croatia and finished 90<sup>th</sup> out of 300 but 16<sup>th</sup> in the under 17 age category. He is entering the Men's World Championships in Ireland in August. We wish him continued success. This is Josh's report on the Croatia Championships Laser Radial Youth Europeans, Split, Croatia, 2013:

*"I worked out from the days' training before the event that when the wind came through it, it was glamour, sun, warm sea and waves and a good 12-15 knots of wind, perfect conditions.*

*The event started with only two of the boys' fleets out of the four completing a race, I managed to put in a great result of 13th however after being 5th to the windward mark I learnt the top guys are extremely quick on the run. After this result it put me as first British boat after the first day.*

*The second day consisted of two races for me and three for the other fleets so after racing, all boys would have completed three races. Again, I put in a good performance getting another 13th and then a 23rd in the second race. With one more day of qualifying this secured my place in silver fleet out of the four (Gold, Silver, Bronze and Emerald).*

*The final day of qualifying was not so good, getting a poor result in the last race and wasting my discard however, I was in Silver fleet, the top half of the whole event and that was certain so I was very happy at this point.*

*The next day was unfortunately abandoned due to a thunder storm.*

*The first day of silver fleet was the toughest racing I have ever encountered, sailing with the top 100 Radial boys from Europe is always going to be tricky. On the first day we had two abandoned races where I was lying in good positions, unfortunately the only race completed was my worst result."*

## Work Experience

A successful week of Work Experience with all students in Year 10 taking part.

Students' placements included a variety of settings, local primary schools and businesses and further afield such as Jaguar Landrover, Camberwell College of Arts, The Trafalgar Hilton London and an animation studio in London.

From feedback received from the students it seems that, despite their apprehension, they enjoyed the experience and felt it gave them a real insight into the world of work.

As soon as we are back to school in September the new Year 10s will be sorting out their placements for the following summer.

## Business of Enterprise

Project Day - in school in March with all Year 9s taking part in this event by working in teams of 6, each team had to come up with an idea for a product or a service. By the end of the day the teams had to produce paperwork, posters, a proto type and give a five minute presentation to their classmates and a panel of judges.

At the end of the day 6 teams were chosen to move forward with their project with help from local business professionals.

The School Final in May was hotly contested by the 6 teams, who all worked so hard in the lead up to the Final. A panel of judges from local businesses judged Neochess the winner and PortaRoom as the runner-up.

### PORTAROOM



In July, PortaRoom went to the Runner-Up Finals at Cummins Power Generation to compete against other local schools. The Team of **William Addley, Daniel Wellard, Ben Moxon, Matthew Casey, Conor Field and Jamie Baker** produced a prototype of their portable room and were first up to give a very polished presentation. After the presentations and the judges assessing their stall and written paperwork the team were taken on a tour of the factory. Well done to the team for all their hard work.

### NEOCHESS

In preparation for their final, the Neochess Team visited Flambeau Europlast at Manston where they were given a tour and information on how their project could be produced and the processes involved. A big thank you to Andrew Huggett of Flambeau for arranging this for the team.



The team consisting of **Ben Graham-Horne, Henry Saunders, Aaron Martin-Coles, Peter Clapham, Connor Botting and Katie Knight** made some chess pieces, designed by **Aaron**, and produced using a 3D printer with the help of the DT department.

In July the Winning Neochess Team went to RBS/NatWest in London for the Final. Their conduct was exemplary, they were confident, self-assured and passionate about their product and they gave a polished presentation that many a seasoned speaker would have been proud to have delivered. One judge came to tell them "your presentation blew me away".

The Team came home with the award for Best Written Presentation. Well done to them all.

## **Chess**

Well done to the school's 2012/13 Inter-House Chess Tournament winners: **Kane Baker and Lucy Bristow** (Year 7), **Josh Attwell** (Year 8) and **Aaron Martin-Coles** (Year 9)

## **Higher Education and Careers Day**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013, the current Year 10 students participated in a Higher Education and Careers Day, during which they learned about possible further education paths available to them, in order for them to be able to make an informed choice after Year 11.

The day consisted of five different sessions: Market Place, Career Gym, a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Presentation, "Speed Dating", and Key Skills.

The Market Place gave students a chance to explore the different possibilities immediately after Year 11. Representatives from Canterbury College discussed the courses available to the students should they choose to study there after Year 11, and informed them of the various forthcoming open days which prospective students are welcome to attend should they require more information.

There were also staff members from East Kent College present, who similarly chatted to students about courses and open days, but also gave impartial careers advice to those who had general questions.

A representative from the National Apprenticeship Service explained more about what apprenticeships are, what they involve, and what they can lead to.

Students also went to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre, where they could talk to current students about their subjects. Students said it was interesting to talk to these 6<sup>th</sup> Formers and to discover how they decided which subjects to take.

The Career Gym was a session run by Chris, who works for CXK. In an interactive workshop, he explored how there are various routes to a desired career, and emphasised the importance of researching the different ways of getting the qualifications needed. Topics covered include accredited and non-accredited university courses, work experience and student finance.

In addition, the Year 10 students participated in a discussion with a group of 6<sup>th</sup> Form students. They spoke about why they chose 6<sup>th</sup> Form over the alternative options, what their lessons are like, their individual subjects, and the step up from GCSE to A level and the support they received throughout this. At the end of the sessions, there was an opportunity for the Year 10 students to ask any questions they might have had.

The "Speed Dating" session involved the students talking to professionals about their work. 12 professionals came into school, including a prison officer, a headteacher, an estate agent, a barber, a representative from the John Townsend Trust, and a BSL interpreter. Students, in groups of four, spent five minutes talking to each professional, discovering how they qualified, what their job is and what it entails. There was also a university student available to discuss her experiences of Bath Spa and the University of Kent.

The Key Skills workshop was run by Mr Fountain and Mr Harris. The students looked at the previous week's episode of The Apprentice, and evaluated skills required an interview by focusing on one person's strengths and weaknesses. Students said they found this useful, as the skills they focused on can be applied throughout their careers, not just at 6<sup>th</sup> Form or College.

Mrs Hood said that the purpose of the day was to open the students' eyes to the opportunities available to them. The concept arose after the students filled in a questionnaire about their education and the school, and it was noted that many pupils expressed the concern that they did not feel informed on their options for the future.

The event was appropriately timed, as the students had just returned from a week of work experience, learning first-hand what it is like to be in the workplace. The following day, the students travelled to Canterbury to visit the University of Kent, to give them a better idea of what university life is like.

Year 10 students said by the end of the day they had a better idea of what they want to do in the future and how to go about achieving it, which I think renders the event a success!

### **Years 8-10 Gifted & Talented (G&T) Day: Philosophy for Children**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July, the G&T students from Years 8-10 participated in a "Philosophy for Children" day, led by former teacher Sue Mattocks. The day began with an introduction to philosophy and its basic tenets and a selection of philosophical scenarios to test students' understanding of the key terms and to get them "thinking about thinking".

After a very impressive and interesting student-led feedback session, they were then asked to discuss a range of key ideas, including an extremely lively discussion on "what is art" where students were invited in groups to try and come up with their own all-encompassing definition; a task which led to some heated debates!

The students were then shown a stop-motion animated version of Plato's famous cave allegory, in anticipation for the afternoon session where they were asked in groups to come up with a play/model/demonstration/poster/discussion that fulfilled the brief of being linked to the days' key ideas and was both challenging and thought-provoking. Yet again, the students didn't disappoint with an extremely high calibre of presentations in the final feedback session, which demonstrated reflective thought, understanding and clear stimulation from the many ideas discussed during the day. The winning group was four year eight boys who created a three minute presentation on the nature of imagination, going into such metaphysical realms as the difference between the mind and the brain, where ideas come from and what makes a person a person...

Sue Mattocks described the students' responses and involvement as "mind-blowing...staggeringly impressive" and is looking forward to the opportunity to run similar days for different groups next year.

### **Departures and Arrivals**

We have a number of staff who have left or are about to leave at the end of this term.

Mrs H Sutton (Head of Maths) left us at Easter to take up a post as Head of Maths at The Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone.

Mr R Orford, science technician, retired.

Miss S Ruiz Gonzales (teacher of French and Spanish) left on 14<sup>th</sup> June to take up a teaching post in Columbia.

Miss S Arthurs, Miss G Bolt and Mrs F Shuttle – Cover assistants are leaving us at the end of term to embark on teacher training programmes. We thank them for all their hard work this year and wish them all the best on their training courses.

Mr A Hudson (PE), Miss N Lambert (RS) and Mr M Spain (D &T) all passed their Graduate Teacher Training Programme with us and all have teaching jobs to go to. We wish them every success as they join the profession.

Miss G Hudson Head of PE is leaving to take up a teaching position in Indonesia. We wish her every success in her new post.

Mrs S Lawrence – (Science) is leaving us to spend more time with her family.

Miss C O’Kelly (MFL) is leaving us to take up a post in a school in Rochester.

Finally, Dr P Birchley Head of School, Miss S Cole (English), Mrs V Gill (Maths), Dr N McCanch (Biology) Mr D McQuade (English) and Mr P Thorne (Geography) are all retiring from the profession.

These are mainly long serving members of staff and although they will be sorely missed we wish them all a long and happy retirement. I know that they all have a variety of plans for their retirement which include travel and throwing away their alarm clocks!

Mrs S Fowles is taking a break from her post as Assistant SENCO to train to be a teacher with us. I have every confidence she will be successful and make a fantastic teacher.

### **Arrivals**

- Mrs S Walters joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> June as a teacher of Spanish.
- Mr G Brooks and Mr W Bennett joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> July as teachers of Physics and Physics and Maths.
- Miss R Griffiths joins us in September as teacher of French and Spanish
- Mr M Hutchings joins us in September as teacher of Humanities
- Mrs V Joynson joins us in September as teacher of Biology
- Miss D Price joins us as teacher of English (and she is also a former pupil of the school)
- Dr A Sutton-Jones joins us in September as teacher of English.

We also have several support staff who have joined or are joining us:

- Mr C Freeman joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> July as Business Manager
- Mrs J Bogue – SENCO and Mrs S Larrigan - Exam Manager (maternity cover).
- Cover Assistants - Mr N Argyrides, Mrs D Berry and Mrs M Philips.

### **Promotions**

- Mr C McFarlane has been appointed Deputy Headteacher from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- Mr T Richford has been appointed Head of PE from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- Mrs M Holman has been appointed in charge of KS3 modern languages from September.
- Mrs S Sonnen became Head of Maths on her return from maternity leave in June, this is a shared role with Mrs A Jarvis who is currently 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge of Maths.
- Mr N Wakefield has been appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge of PE from September with
- Mrs C Edwards in charge of Girls’ games for the academic year 2013-14.

### **Congratulations**

Our congratulations go to Mr N Wakefield and Mr A Cartland who are both getting married over the Summer holiday. I do hope that the sun shines for them both on their respective wedding days and wish them and their respective partners long and happy marriages.

We also wish Mrs Uzzell, Mrs Weedon and Mr Gibbons all the best on the forthcoming arrival of their respective bundles of joy. We can’t wait to see the pictures and it gives me an excuse to go out shopping for baby clothes!

### **End of Term Arrangements**

School will end on Wednesday 24 July when students are dismissed following Registration at 1.20pm.

### **Exam Results**

AS & A2 results will be available on Thursday 15 August from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre common room. GCSE results are available on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August from 9.00am in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre common room.

### **Start of the new Academic Year**

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Staff development day
- The new term begins for students in **Year 8-11** (register at 10.05am) & **Year 13** (register at 10.45am) **on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Year 12** begin the new term at 8.40am on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.**

I should like to wish all staff, students and their families a very relaxing, safe and hopefully sun filled summer break prior to returning with new vigour at the start of the new academic year.

Mrs D Liddicoat  
Headteacher