

## Expanding our First Choice School

The sun has shone every day since the start of the new year at Chauncy and this seems to match the mood of our Year 7 students. They have settled very well and this may be because many of the new students have attended clubs, lessons and summer schools here and been taught by our teachers in their own junior schools. Credit also to Mr Rooke and the team who worked so hard to smooth the transition from junior to secondary school.

It is our aim to be the school of choice for local families. I have the official figures for September 1998 on my wall and they show 420 students at Chauncy, including 41 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. We now have 970 students on roll with 199 in our blossoming 6<sup>th</sup> Form. More children need more teachers and we have 6 new staff this term. Our new building will be completed by Christmas and that will give us another 5 classrooms to keep up with our growing numbers.

12 years of record GCSE results earned the staff, and cost me, champagne and chocolates. Excellent A level results have set the tone for our new 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, 25 of whom have joined us from other schools. Their targets, and ours, get harder each year but I am sure that the higher the expectation the higher the achievement by students and teachers. I am saving up to celebrate 2010 results.

*Dennis O'Sullivan*

## Ypres 2009

On the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 44 year 11s experienced first hand life in the trenches. The weather was perfect for our annual visit to Ypres. Students in year 11 study the battles around Ypres for their GCSE coursework. Ypres saw some of the bloodiest battles of the First World War.

Students had an opportunity to walk round a genuine First World War trench, wellies were a must! At the Sanctuary Wood museum students were horrified by the graphic images showing the aftermath of battle. From Sanctuary Wood we visited a couple of cemeteries and we rounded off the day by a tour of Ypres itself.

After dinner we returned to Ypres town centre for the ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate is a massive war memorial listing over 35,000 names of men killed and missing from the Ypres Salient. Every night at 8.00pm the road through the gate is shut and the Belgian fire brigade come out to play the last post in a moving ceremony. Wreaths are laid and it gives students the opportunity to reflect on the human cost of war. A wreath was laid on behalf of Chauncy by Bethany Kendall, Dan Collin and Jodi Smith. For Bethany it was particularly important as she has a relative at the Menin Gate.

The following day we had a rather action packed itinerary. We visited the museum at Passchendaele. From here we travelled to Essex Farm Cemetery. Here John McCrae wrote his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*. It was this poem that inspired the use of the poppy as our symbol of remembrance.

The German cemetery was very different to the British cemeteries. Many more men were buried there yet the area was considerably smaller. We then visited the largest Commonwealth War cemetery at Tyne Cot. Over 11,000 men are buried in the cemetery. Here another wreath was laid by Rob Price and Emma Dudley. This was poignant for both students, Rob's Great Great Grandfather is buried in the area and Emma had a Great Great Uncle whose name appeared on the memorial wall at Tyne Cot. To end the visit we went to the craters of two of the mines that exploded at Messines. Lunch was eaten at Hill 60. The site of a massive mine explosion in 1917. The ground is still very cratered and one of the German pill boxes still remains. The trip had a lasting impact on those who visited and here are some of the comments of the students who went. "It was upsetting to see how many people died for our country. Every time we visited a cemetery, we would write in the visitor's book and show our respect." "The trenches had little puddles in them and we thought that it was terrible, but then thinking about how bad the conditions were during the war it was nothing."

## Boulogne—sur—Mer September 2009



On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, we took 115 year 8 students on a day trip to Boulogne and enjoyed a very busy day of activities around the town. We visited the sea centre of Nausicaa, went to a sweet factory, toured the historical town and saw the medieval castle, discovered the dungeon and finally spoke French with the locals. We had time for shopping and a few people came back with quite a lot of cheese. Mrs Harris, the learning coordinator for year 8 said it was the best Brie she's ever had! On top of everything the weather was gorgeous and Mr Walton took his group to the beach! A



student asked me, "Is it always so hot in France" I felt I had to say the truth! "Yes, of course" I replied. Many students found Boulogne "lovely" and told me they understood now why so many people love France. I am thrilled it went so well and can't wait for next year to go back!



### *Viel Spaß beim Lernen - Fantastisch!*

Year 9 students currently preparing for their Short Course German GCSE later in the year were recently able to have fun practising their language skills with a class of 33 "real" German students visiting Chauncy as part of a week-long stay in England. Our visitors from the Albert Magnus Gymnasium in Cologne really enjoyed their time with us and it was a very positive learning opportunity for all of the students concerned. Special thanks to Mrs O'Neill for her delicious freshly baked cookies and to our German friends for the gifts they kindly brought with them for us all. *Vielen Dank!*

## Booked Up!

As part of the Booked Up scheme promoting reading for pleasure, every Year 7 student has chosen a free book which they will receive shortly. Each Year 7 was given a catalogue including a selection of 13 books and a couple of audio books to choose from, they also had the chance to look through a sample of the books during one of their English lessons to help them make their decision.

Some of this year's titles include 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman, 'Underworld' by Cathy MacPhail and a collection of short stories called 'Wow! 366'.

We hope all the Year 7 enjoy reading their new books!

## ICT Department

This year the department is offering a new course in Year 12 - BTEC National Award IT for Practitioners. The course has a vocational focus suited to students who enjoy practical work and wish to achieve a specific qualification in IT as well as equipping them with skills needed for the workplace.

At key stage 4 many students are currently studying three IT units from the Diploma of Digital Applications course; Using ICT, Graphic Art and Multi-Media. Some of these students have already completed the ICT in Enterprise unit in Year 9 and therefore have the opportunity to achieve the full Diploma.

Mr Suleyman is again this year running an extra curricular G & T club programming Lego Robots. The students will enter the national Lego Robotics competition in December.

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## Science Museum Trip

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The Science Department took Year 7 to the Science Museum on 24 September. They experienced "Sea Monsters" in 3D at the Imax cinema which looked at animal adaptations in prehistoric times. They attended a "rocket show" in which they learned about Newton's Laws and were slightly surprised by a few large explosions.

Afterwards they had time in the launch pad area which is a hands on gallery where the children get to "have a go" at over 50 physics interactive exhibits.



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## Music Department News

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**Festival Fun** - August was a busy month for Chauncy Rock bands "The Fuses" and "The Hankerchiefs", with "Rock at the Castle" inviting our budding rock stars to open their event. In addition to this, our two talented singer songwriters Alicia Hookway and Chloe Turner both wowed the appreciative audience with polished performances on the acoustic stage.

**Uke fancy a strum?** - The Chauncy music outreach programme has got off to a high pitched start this term, with Year 3 and Year 5 pupils at Thundridge Primary School benefiting from ukulele ensemble class on Monday afternoons. Ah

yes, the ukulele continues to be a favourite of our department - so much so that a Ukulele Club has now sprung up on Monday lunchtimes in the music block. So, if uke fancy a strum, come and join in!

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## Mathematics

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**Gifted & Talented** : The dates for the UK Maths challenge are; Seniors, 5th November; Intermediate, 4th February and Juniors on 29th April 2010. The Top set of Year 9 students are studying for a GCSE in Statistics, which they will set next June.

**Help with Maths homework**—Mathematics homework drop-in session is run every lunchtime between 1.30 and 2.00 pm in one of the maths rooms.

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## The Textiles Department

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We would like to thank the parents who have donated fabrics. We are always grateful for any spare pieces of fabric which you don't want.

We are now looking forward to our annual trip to The Clothes Show, which this year will be on 8<sup>th</sup> December. It is open to Year 9 students and Year 10 students who are studying GCSE Textiles. If your child hasn't received a letter and would like to go, please send them in the direction of the Textiles Room.

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## RE News

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Six students from Chauncy (Jack Spence, Adam Westlake, Ella Sullivan, Georgia Harrison, Katie Addison and Chloe Carlson) entered the national 'Spirited Arts' competition in the Summer term. This is an annual competition in which students design a piece of art along a spiritual theme. This year over 20,000 students across the country were involved. Although they were not winners this time, our student's efforts are recognised with certificated of congratulations. Well done!

# Sports News

## Dates for your Diary

### October

14th OPEN EVENING 6.15—9.15 pm  
15th Year 7 Parenting Club  
19th Years 12/13 Eight week tests  
20th girls HPV Vaccinations  
20th Parenting Club 7—9  
21st Girls HPV Vaccinations  
21st Year 13 Media trip to Cineworld  
23rd Year 7 Reviews home  
HALF TERM 26th—30 October

### November

5th Senior UK Maths Challenge  
5th Parenting Club—Year 7 only  
10th Parenting Club  
11th 6th Form Open Evening  
12th Woman in Black Trip  
19th INSET DAY  
20th OCCASIONAL DAY  
27th Science Live trip Year 10

### December

2nd 6th Form Parents' Evening  
3rd St. Elizabeth's Party  
8th Clothes Show, trip  
8th Annie get your gun, trip  
9th Christmas Concert  
10th Student Christmas Dinner  
11th Staff Christmas Dinner  
18th Review of Reviews  
END OF TERM 1.35 PM

### January

4th TERM BEGINS  
18th Year 11 Reviews home  
20th Year 11 Parents' Evening  
25th INSET DAY  
27th Year 7 reviews home  
28th Year 7 Parents' Evening

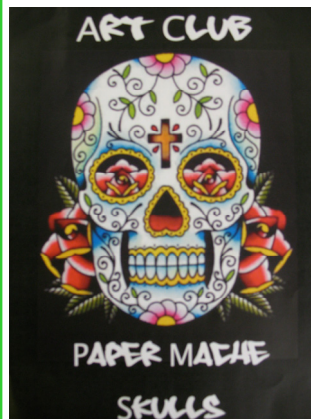
**Boys :** The following boys have made it into the District Football Teams for this year for Year 9, and for Year 8, Kane Castle, Harry Burtenshaw, Liam Hurley, Laurence Vaughan and Ross Judkins. A big well done to them and good luck in your forthcoming games!

**Girls :** We have been extremely impressed with the number of girls attending extra-curricular clubs this year and hope they continue.

Year 11 and Seniors attended the annual County Netball Tournament at Parmiters School in Watford. The year 11's won their group beating Beaumont, Broxbourne and Hatedashers, and drawing to Hitchin Girls. They then faced St. Albans and Herts and Essex, in a 3 way semi final, beating St. Albans 12—2 however, losing to Herts and Essex 12 -6.

The Senior team came runners up in their group facing Parmiters and Simon Balle in their 3 way final. They beat Parmiters 11—10 but sadly lost to Simon Balle 12—6.

We are extremely proud of both teams as it is the furthest Chauncy has gone in this competition! Well done girls.



## KS3 Art Club

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September the Art Department launched their new art club (available for years 7, 8, and 9). The first project is based on "Day of the Dead" a traditional Mexican festival. Everyone attending will get the opportunity to make his or her own papier-mâché skull to take home.

There are still plenty of spaces available. Come and join us every Monday at 3.45pm.

### **Year 9 Sculpture Workshop**

A select group of Year 9 students have been given the opportunity to create their own 3D sculptures using wood and metal. Every Thursday after school eight Year 9 students meet with professional artists Alison and Mark Davis to discuss and explore ideas. At the moment students are at the conception stage but watch this space as the sculptures take form!

## Media Studies

Out of the blue, the Chauncy Film Club received an amazing invitation: come and meet the director and watch the filming of the next St Trinians film. As there was a restriction on both the age and group size of the participants, Mrs Allison took four Sixth form Film Club helpers: Mitchell Banks, Stephen Mizen, Rob Scoppie and Tom Tilbey. The film was being shot on location at Langleybury House near Watford. The group saw both the excitement and the boredom of a film shoot, standing right behind the director while he spent over an hour getting a 90 second scene exactly how he wanted it - it took 15 takes! There was the added bonus for the Chauncy party in being able to mingle with a bevy of St Trinians extras (including the extremely glamorous Posh Totty) at the crew refreshment stand. Film Club is now running after school every Thursday and new Lower School members and Sixth form helpers are always welcome.