

CHAUNCY NEWS

APRIL 2011

Everything you ever wanted to know about Chauncy School

Our website is a thing of constantly updated wonder and beauty. It contains a diary of events, the dates you can expect the termly student review to come home, information on the curriculum, trips and school visits. You will find out how to set up parentmail, pay for school dinners, on line payments, all the policies, how to complain, and school prospectuses for Years 7 and the 6th Form. A search of the A-Z should provide all the information you need, for example, details of the summer uniform can be found under the letter "U".

The bid to become an Academy was unanimously approved by the school governors and we now enter the bureaucratic stage of legal transfers and contracts. Steve Walton has managed the entire process including staff, parent, students and community consultations and his expertise is such that he is now advising other schools on the process. Of course you may find out everything under "A" on the website.

We will continue to do as an Academy all that we have tried to do as a community and then foundation school. In difficult times for public services it is a thrilling time at Chauncy and I am looking forward to the next decade of continued achievement and improvement.

Dennis O'Sullivan

www.thechauncyschool.co.uk

New Cash-Less Catering

Paying for meals or snacks at the Canteen using "SmartCards" has now been replaced. We have introduced a new biometric system. The students have their fingertip "photographed", and they simply have to place their finger on a reading device to purchase their meal, making the Canteen system much quicker. Parents simply have to make online payments to the school eliminating the need to write cheques or give their children cash to take into school. All students have been added to the system. We are now urging parents to top up their account online, so that all students can use the new cash-less catering system. If you have not activated your account, it is very quick and very simple. The link to the "WisePay" system, is on the school website. Have a look. If you need help, please contact the Finance Department.

Year 11 Mock Interview Day—11th March

150 Year 11's were off timetable for the day and invited to attend an interview with one of our 33 external volunteers who gave up their time and expertise from various local companies. Each student had to prepare a letter and curriculum vitae applying for positions such as Mechanics, Beauticians and Physical Trainers to name but a few. Students attended their 20 minute interview wearing appropriate attire and all looked smart, nervous but very enthusiastic.

Our volunteers each interviewed five students, asking them relevant questions and

making the experience as informative as possible, to give each interviewee a realistic interpretation of how an interview will proceed when they move on from Chauncy for either further education, an apprenticeship or full time employment.

Although the environment was to be as realistic as possible, in this case our mostly apprehensive students, were greeted with a warm welcome and made to feel relaxed by our expert interviewers.

Constructive oral feedback was given after the interview. Each student also received written feedback, including what aspects of the session they performed well in, and on the areas where there is potential for further improvement. As they finished their interview, students emerged relieved and pleased with their performance and wondering why they were so nervous beforehand. Generally they were surprised as how well the day had



gone and felt confident about applying for positions in the future.

Chauncy wishes to thank all who participated and are grateful for all the positive comments they received. One interviewer said, "What a wonderful event! The students were impressive and seemed very responsive to my feedback. Well done Chauncy!" We are not sure who enjoyed it the most, the interviewers or interviewees. **Helen Farley and Karen Gray - Careers**



Music Department News



St Mary's Lunchtime Recital

The spring season opened on a high note with a group of GCSE and Sixth Form music students presenting a recital to an appreciative audience at St Mary's Church on the 7 February. Opening the programme was Hazel Ford with a stylish performance of Chopin, before Tom McPheat made his solo debut performing a challenging arrangement of the *Prelude in D min* adapted fittingly for electric Bass. With so many polished performances on the programme it was no surprise that by the time Ralph Madriaga took to the stage everyone in the audience was happy to tap along to his vibrant rendition of *Sampa Samba*, although nobody took up the chance to play the egg shaker! Well done to all who took part, and a big thank you to all the parents who attended.

Music Workshop at Cambridge University

On the 2 February 15 students were treated to a day of music workshops at Cambridge University, a welcome

opportunity to experience studying music as an undergraduate student, and a wonderful opportunity to meet lecturers and work with music students studying at Cambridge. After a bright and early start, (and a challenging lecture on 'Motivic analysis!') students were encouraged to work with each other to complete an ensemble composition which was then performed by

talented undergraduates on hand to do a spot of energetic sight reading!

Herts Battle of the Bands

On the 12 February four bands from Chauncy took part in an impressive list of bands from Sele, Barclay, Simon Balle, Richard Hale, Broxbourne and Turnford to battle it out for the Battle of Bands competition. Fielding a strong selection of musicians it was not long before Aaron Persico, Alex Barton, Josh Franks, Louis Shropshire and George Boyd had the audience in the palm of their hand with an outstanding performance of *Johnny be Good*. Not easy when you are the youngest band in the competition! The night was a resounding success, with every performer giving 100% and giving a dynamic performance. The evening was rounded off in style with Charlie Sinclair powering through on the drums before the prizes were given out, and all fifteen bands were brought on



stage. Three judges were unanimous in their decision to award **Emma Custis** (Best vocalist); **Matt Davidson** (Best drummer) and **Oliver Copeland** (Best Bass player). A massive congratulations to them, and to all who performed and put in their best effort!



English

In March a group of Year 12 English Literature students went to London for a day of university style lectures on 'The Great Gatsby' which is one of their exam texts.

It was an interesting and helpful day with a variety of lectures given by examiners and university professors on topics ranging

from 'the roaring twenties' to debating whether Gatsby is a tragic hero or not.

Gifted and Talented

Last November, 3 Gifted & Talented Year 9 students took part in The Rotary Club's competition called 'Youth Speaks'. Barney Rowlinson, Charlotte Booth and Jack Spence all took to the podium to speak about the recent Lego Tournament they had taken part in. After giving a re-

markable and engaging ten minute speech we were delighted when they won and made it through to the Regional Semi-Finals in February. This time the students spoke very passionately about cyber-mentoring and won a very respectable third place amongst some very tough competi-

tion. Barney, Charlotte and Jack worked extremely hard delivering an admirable and commendable performance on all occasions and are a credit to both Year 9 and Chauncy.

Skiing Trip to Austria

The Chauncy School bi-yearly Ski Trip / Staff Holiday (!) was a tumultuous event. It all started on a Friday morning at 8am when the unassuming legends that are John and Fraser turned up in their black and gold steed; the latter unaware that in a week's time he would win the prestigious, coveted award of "Best Driver".

Despite the destination being the idyllic glacial mountain resort of Obervellach, Austria, we all got to know Reims in France unexpectedly well...

We broke down in Northern France from Friday afternoon until Saturday tea time, and the Chauncy students, without exception, were nothing short of superb. They did not moan or make a difficult situation more difficult, but exhibited the sort of patience the staff were aspiring to. We arrived at our destination (having boarded a re-

placement coach brought down from Scotland!) at some un-godly hour on Sunday morning, and started our fun on the slopes immediately.

The action was unrelenting, with the student's vast supplies of energy well and truly tested, and an incredible amount of fun and excitement had by all...

A text to her mum from Beth on the third day: "Today was the best day of my life". Fairly unequivocal I think you'd agree.

Mr Rooke's group looked on confused as after every run he would rejoin his group making all sorts of noise; whooping and exclaiming how utterly brilliant skiing was, and how awe-inspiring the scenery was. His levels of enthusiasm were not normal.

Katie Brown and Charlotte Pearson have vowed to fail their A2's in order

to stay on, re-sit exams, continue to be enrolled as Chauncy students beyond Year 13, and therefore be eligible for the next ski trip.

Every single student, regardless of previous experience, progressed, with some students' improvement being exponential; Jack Morley (winner of the "Most Improved Award"), having never skied before, was skiing backwards, off-piste, and jumping before the end.

With a lot of fears conquered and accomplishments realised, only two hospital trips, one sprained wrist, and no broken bones; a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by both students and staff. Well done Miss Green! Let's all start work on convincing her to run it again in two years time!

Ian Rooke



Swindon—Netball Weekend

After making the decision to change from the beautiful Torquay PGL to a centre closer to home in Swindon, we were slightly worried that we may not experience the success that we have become accustomed to from previous years. With the sun shining for the whole weekend and all of the girls playing out of their skins, we had another amazing weekend.

In total there were 40 teams from 15 different schools and girls each played around 6 matches in their group. The Year 8 team reached the semi finals led by Laura Button and were knocked out by the even-

tual winners. The Year 9 made the semi finals led by Lexi Eaves. The Year 10 team, being led by Devon Ricketts played exceptionally well to



make it through to the semi finals in a very strong Year 10 and 11 mixed tournament only to be knocked out by the Year 11 Chauncy team, 7-6. The Year 11 team, led by Cathy Ruddock having knocked the Year 10 team out, then beat Hinchingsbrooke School from Huntingdon 8-3, to win the final. A huge well done to Cathy Ruddock, Alice King, Josie Pinfold, Chloe Wright, Franchesca Johnson, Vicki Blake and Ciara Sullivan. Player of the tournament was awarded to Vicki Blake for her amazing defence in every game.

Miss Green, Miss Easter

Diary

April

8th End of Term 1.30

26th New Term Begins

29th Bank Holiday (Royal Wedding)

May

2nd May Bank Holiday

16th Exams Begin until 27th June

20th PGL Trip Year 7

26th Year 9 Achievement Assembly

30th—5th Half Term

June

6th End of Year exams begin

17th Sports Day

21st Year 8 Trip Walton on the Naze

30th Year 9 Trip Ypres/Somme

July

5th Year 7 Achievement Assembly

12th Year 8 Achievement Assembly

14th Year 6 Induction Day and
Parents' Evening

15th Community Day/Chauncy Rocks

20th Year 10 Reviews Home

22nd End of Term—1.30pm

September

2th Inset Day

5th Years 7 and 12 return

6th All Years return

To see all updated information —
please check the website.

Chauncy Question Time

On 18th March, students watched a Question Time style debate in the Drama Studio. Many students submitted questions for the debate and the 6 politicians were grilled by both students and Mr Symons (who chaired the event). Questions included, "Why do politicians always lie in their manifesto pledges?" and "How can the recent rise in tuition fees be justified?" Other themes also debated included Nuclear power, Prisoners voting rights and Immigration. Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to debate the Libya crisis, possibly due to the fact that politicians always seem to have a lot to say about particular issues. The debaters were, English Democrats: Charles Vickers, English Democrats Policy Committee Chairman and National Council member. Green Party (E&W): Marc Scheimann, Former Member of Green Party National Council representing Eastern England. Labour: Tony Dodds, Local Activist. Liberal Democrats: Paul Zukowskyj, Chairman of Liberal Democrats Hertfordshire. UKIP: David Campbell-Bannerman MEP, Former Chairman and Deputy Leader of UKIP and UKIP Health Spokesman. The Conservative candidate was unable to attend.

Year 7 Science Trip to Duxford

Traditionally the Year 7 Science trip is to the Science Museum in London, and earlier in the school year. Although it is a decent day out, it was felt that this year it was time for a change. Several venues were discussed and researched, and perhaps surprisingly the one that came out on top was the Imperial War Museum,



Duxford.

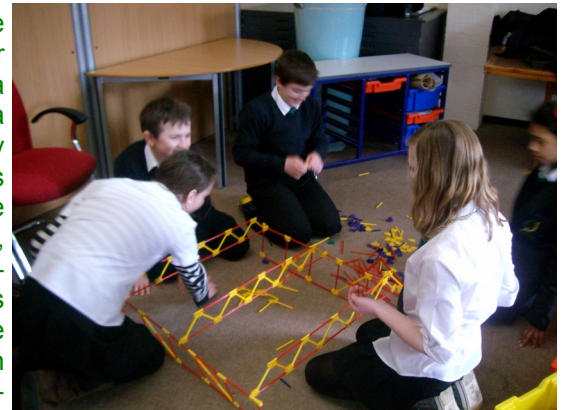
It turns out that we were in for a real treat. Even though Duxford is more associated with History than Science, they had so much to offer to our budding young Scientists.

Almost upon arrival, we were introduced to Peter, our tour guide for the day. Peter was a greying, bearded man with a friendly demeanour and a dry sense of humour. He walked us up and down the mile-long site with gusto and enthusiasm, waxing lyrical about the importance of the usage of triangles in structural engineering. He pointed out to us how modern buildings are designed, and likened their beams and bracing to our bodies' skeletons. Peter's mantra was that all buildings should follow what he called the "ST" rules...all buildings should be "STrong," "STable," and, erm..."Rigid". He also showed us how the exact same principles are applied in the structures of aircraft, pointing out the similar shapes and techniques inside various WW1 planes.

Peter's speed of movement throughout our morning session had tired us

all out, so we were pleased when we had a chance to break for lunch! Our afternoon session was the highlight of the day. The pupils had the chance to put all the theory they had learnt about structures into practice. Peter gave the students a challenge — they had to build a hangar big enough to house a large model wooden aircraft, using the triangle theory Peter had taught them. The pupils were put into teams, given bucket loads of K'nex, and they set about their task diligently. Mr Rudd, Mr Hopwood, Miss Masood and Miss Branston also formed a team, and were frankly put to shame by the efforts of their pupils. Year 7 managed to build several strong, stable, rigid structures that did not fall apart even when Peter picked them up off the ground. The Teachers did not even manage to finish building their walls.

With smiles on their faces, the students then had the opportunity to explore the museum at their own pace. There were interactive exhibits, and



the chance to board Concorde and see it from the inside.

As we left, the staff at the museum complimented the students on their behaviour and conduct throughout the day. On the way home, the students were definitely overheard talking about their new found love of triangles. A fine day out, and the students had certainly learned a lot.

Mr Rudd

QUESTION TIME CONTINUED

We would like to thank Mr O'Sullivan, Mr Walton and Mrs Browning for working extremely hard with us to ensure that the day went smoothly, Mr Symons for doing a brilliant job at chairing the debate, all students for attending and last but not least, all the debaters for their thought provoking contributions.

Alexander Curtis and Barney Rowlinson, Year 9 students and organisers of the event.