

Politically speaking.....

You may have been following the MACE/Mouchel issue in The Mercury. We had 3 Science labs refurbished by MACE 3 years ago at a cost of around £300,000. Using the same specification we have just had 3 science labs refurbished for less than £100,000, not using MACE. I have been talking with councillors and officers for a year before the matter went to the press. Somehow the school previously paid about £70,000 more than necessary and local taxpayers are a further £140,000 out of pocket. I have asked for a refund. The council has spent £156 million on capital projects this year and MACE/Mouchel manage all council work.

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We take no pleasure in the imprisonment for 10 months of our well publicised burglar but we do hope he has time to change his ways whilst in prison. It is wrong for people to steal from schools and our students need to know that there are consequences to lawbreaking.

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Chauncy School Governing Body has decided to oppose the proposals for an incinerator less than half a mile from the school. From what we have seen so far, the incinerator would bring at the very least, heavy traffic, increased pollution and no jobs to Ware.

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School-wise - A cold but centrally heated end to the term has been greeted with the usual fuss about schools staying open if a snowflake falls. Some staff and many students have joined in secret snow-dance activities and we have the occasional, "My son/daughter says the school is closed," phonecall. Our bad weather procedures use parentmail, the school website and local radio stations if the school is closed unexpectedly. Hopefully I have not pre-empted a massive drop in temperature by writing this.

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There are lots of victories to proclaim in this newsletter and I do like it when we win. Our boys won the Lea Valley Badminton trophy without dropping a single game. All local rivals were beaten 3-0 with our 2nd team losing to our 1st team in the semi finals. We have the Hertfordshire Schools Battle of the Bands trophy on display in reception, the week after a wonderful Christmas-lite school concert where Year 7 boys won the Best Original Christmas Song Prize. Our Lego Animation team are Regional Champions (Herts/Beds & Bucks) despite losing a point because their teacher made too much noise. Another county trophy was brought home from the Hertfordshire Business Enterprise Challenge Day where our 6th Form economics students conquered all other 6th forms.

Our newest building - managed by the school of course - opens officially on January 4th. This gives extra rooms to Science, including a 9th computer room, and rehuses Geography and Business Studies. In January we start work on the 6th Form Coffee Bar and will then be able to move Ceramics into a room of its own. With 970 students on roll and 1st preferences filling Year 7 next September we end 2009 in a healthy financial position. I hope you enjoy a happy two weeks with your children/parents.

Dennis O'Sullivan

Christmas Came Early

Christmas came early at Chauncy, as the school celebrated the festive season with a number of community events. On Thursday 3rd December, Chauncy hosted the annual St. Elizabeth's Christmas Party, an event for the Sawbridgeworth School for young adults with Special Educational Needs that has been running for over 25 years. Over 70 students and staff from St. Elizabeth's were welcomed by 60 Chauncy volunteers who provided a Christmas Disco, a festive buffet, yuletide party games and Karaoke during the evening. There was even time for a flying visit from Santa, who delivered presents to our guests.



Santa gives early Christmas presents to the students from St. Elizabeth's School.

On Friday 4th December, Chauncy hosted the Age Concern Ware Over 60s Club Christmas Tea Party. Our Year 10 students prepared food, a festive feast of sandwiches, mince pies, cakes and biscuits, whilst our School Choir and Band performed Carols and Christmas Songs. The afternoon also included a Christmas Karaoke singsong, a very competitive game of bingo and a prize raffle. In the evening, music pupils entertained parents and members of the public at the Leaside Church, helping to raise funds.

On Wednesday 9th December, Chauncy welcomed guests to the 2009 Christmas Concert. Over 250 people enjoyed a three hour performance which included Carols, Christmas songs, contemporary rock music and original compositions, written and performed by the growing number of bands at Chauncy. A prize of £50.00 Playsomething vouchers was presented to Alex on Guitar, George on Bass, Josh on Drums, Aaron on Vocals and Louis on Guitar, the band made up from Year 7 students, who won the best original composition on the evening. Guests enjoyed Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, served by the Association of Chauncy Friends.

On Monday 14th December 150 Year 7 Students visited St. Mary's Church to participate in a Community Carol Service. The Carol Service, organised with Reverend Derrick Peel, included readings from House Representatives and Carols and Christmas Songs from the Chauncy School Choir.



The KidsLitQuiz 2009

Four well read students from Years 7 & 8 battled courageously against 34 teams in the London regional heat of the International competition "The KidsLitQuiz" which took place at Broxbourne School on Wednesday 18th November 2009.

The team, Aidan Day, Kirsten Price, India Shambrooke and Charlotte Quickenden were asked questions on literature past and present on themes such as Harry Potter, metal, folklore, poetry and Roald Dahl. Their expertise was demonstrated in the Illness

round by coming joint first place.

Our excellent readers were supported by reserves Sarah Slatford and Sophie Felstead who all had the opportunity to meet the famous authors Pauline Francis, Echo Freer, M G Harris and Mark Robson.

Mrs Paris is now looking out for keen and knowledgeable readers to represent us in the 2010 Kidslitquiz with the chance to represent our school in the final in Auckland, New Zealand.

The Clothes Show Live

On the 8th December a group of students went to the Clothes Show Live at the NEC Centre in Birmingham. The students had a great time.

Amber— *There were hundreds of stalls with various items such as clothes, make-up and jewellery. There was so much.*

Chloe— *The show was excellent. It was amazing, I bought a lot of things and it showed what was in fashion, especially sparkly sequin dresses. The fashion show was excellent, it was more of a show with Christmas music. Also the models were fantastic dancers! There was ballet, rock and roll, contemporary and hip hop, but still showing off the clothes which are in fashion.*

Ciara— *The show was amazing. It had different ranges of designers to vintage clothing and jewellery. There was also a large range of make-up to buy. The fashion show was really good and I loved the different Christmas themes they had to do with the clothing, but also the dances which were performed at the beginning of a new theme.*

Charlotte— *We went around all the stalls, there were jewellery stands, designer clothes, charms, scarves, make-up and lots more.*

Go Chauncy!!!

'Team Chauncy' have qualified for the First Lego League national final after coming first at the Regional final at Cranfield University on 4th December. We won two trophies one for the science prize and one for the overall regional final and each member was presented with a medal and will be receiving a certificate.

The team of 14 boys and girls from year 8 to 10 have independently prepared for the tournament after school, giving up 100's of hours of their own time. There are four parts to the challenge: science project, robotic control, technical design and team work.

The theme of the science project this year was on identifying 'Smarter ways of transport'.



The students had to research a problem, come up with an innovative solution, share their ideas within the community and then present their idea to the judges. Their idea was based on using biodiesel to fuel the school minibuses.

The team also learned how to program Lego Mindstorm robots. They had to design a robot to overcome the obstacles and then control it to complete the various missions.

The team will be competing against 24 other teams and are working to perfect their project, technical design and programming in order to maximise their score. Their aim is to win a place at the International finals in Atlanta.

Go Chauncy!!! O Suleyman and J Wraight

Dates for your Diary

December

18th End of Term 1.35 pm

January

4th SPRING TERM BEGINS

7th Presentation Evening

18th Year 11 Reviews Home

20th Year 11 Parents' Evening

25th INSET DAY

27th Year 7 Reviews Home

28th Year 7 Parents' Evening

29th ACF Race Night—7.40 pm

February

4th Intermediate Maths Challenge

9th Year 8 Reviews Home

10th Year 8 Parents' Evening

11th Berlin Trip Year 10

15th—19th Half Term

26th Year 11 Mock Interview Day

March

1st Year 10 County Netball Tournament

3rd Year 9 Reviews Home

4th Year 9 Options Evening

10th Year 9 Parents' Evening

15th Year 10 Reviews Home

15th HPV Vacc. Y11, 12, 13 Girls

16th Year 10 Parents' Evening

16th HPV Vacc. Y11, 12, 13 Girls

18th Y8 & 10 girls Cricket Tournament

19th Netball Tour—Torquay

24th Vacc. Y8 & 10 Girls

25th Vacc. Y8 & 10 Girls

31st 6th Form Reviews Home

NB: see website for further dates

Sports News

Chauncy Success at Lea Valley Schools Badminton Competition. On 26th November, Chauncy under 14's Boys badminton took part in the Lea Valley Schools Competition. Chauncy entered two strong teams in the competition, comprising of 7 Year 9 students and one Year 8 student.



Having been drawn in what on paper seemed to be the easier group, Chauncy 'A' ended up playing a best of 3 match against Richard Hale 'C' team in which not one player out of the team dropped a game. This meant that they were through to the semi finals although still unclear as to who their opponents would be.

Chauncy 'B' team ended up with a much tougher group, after coming away losing 2-1 to Turnford in their first game, they knew they had to beat Goffs to stand any chance of progressing through to the knock out stages of the competition, which they did by coming through with an impressive 2-1 win of their own.

The way the groups had developed unfortunately meant that Chauncy 'A' and 'B' teams would have to face off in the Semi Finals, although this did guarantee that Chauncy would make the final.

In three closely contested games, Chauncy 'B' put up an extremely good fight but unfortunately came away with a 3-0 defeat meaning that Chauncy 'A' would play Richard Hale 'A' in the final.

After a very close number one seed match, Chauncy had a 1-0 lead which was further built upon as Chauncy ended up winning the competition 3-0 and will now go on to represent Hertford and Ware in the County finals on 12th February.

Well done to Matt Widdicombe, Ryan Clarke, Ryan Collin and Robert Dupplaw who will represent Chauncy in the competition.

Rugby

The Year 8 Rugby team have shown a marked improvement from their performances last year. With the addition of a few new players and a bigger squad to pick from, they have fared much better in their three fixtures so far this year. Having comfortably beaten Simon Balle in a friendly at home we travelled to Goffs with a couple of key players missing and unfortunately lost but did put in a much improved performance.

More recently we played and beat Sheredes 29-21 away, a team who had beaten us by a fair margin last season. Hopefully this development will continue with more games to be played and hopefully won in the New Year!!



Christmas Play

The year 10 drama class has been busy rehearsing and performing their devised children's play 'The Christmas Disaster'. The story has been created in collaboration with Miss Ferris and was the product of various improvisations explored in lessons. The plot follows a group of narrators (Harry Casillas, Emma Tennyson and Shaunagh Buckley) as they attempt to find out why Santa (Josh Parrott) and his elves (James Rowley and Ryan Brown) have not delivered presents to some good children this year (Cody Tristram, Bethany Wilkinson and Anthony Gibson). On their journey we meet the mischievous South Pole elves (Charlie Crook, Kelan Petts and

Eamon McClory), the evil South Pole king (Jones Dhlovu), bewitched princesses (Bethany Baker, Corinne Byrd, Zandaleigh Partt), a fairy (Gemma Randle), a miserable wizard (Luke Compton), a grouchy and rude old man (Luke Boulton), and the brave heroes (Ryan Clayden, Anna Lowry and Brandon Greenhill). In the final two weeks of term the play has been performed to over a 100 children and the cast has received great feedback. An exciting project for all involved!

Miss Borsden