

CHAUNCY NEWS

December 2010

WATCH OUT FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

I usually have to be dragged into Christmas celebrations but this year I have been a more willing observer of festive activities. I have spent some time delivering our Year 10 panto performers to the 8 Junior Schools where they have performed their own creation to hundreds of excited 3-11 year olds. Yesterday, our dancers completed their 5 Junior School performances and workshops and the musicians have completed their 4 events. The parcels our students prepared for some of our older residents have been well received. Last year our drama students performed a play for various gatherings of the elderly and the message obviously hit home. The performance was about being careful when strangers knock on your door claiming to represent the gas board or the police but not carrying identification. So well done, Mrs Tomkins for refusing access to Mr Walton carrying the children's Christmas gift but not having any ID.

The government has many plans for schools in 2011 and will be changing the curriculum to fit in with the secretary of State's memories of studying Ancient Greek in his private boarding school. We also expect cuts of around £250,000 so it will be an interesting year in education as well as the rest of the public sector. The staff at Chauncy will be rested and determined to meet all challenges with unending optimism and pride in the new year.

Dennis O'Sullivan

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE
The Inset Day has been
moved to
11 FEBRUARY.
This was
previously 13th May.



The Clothes Show

On the 7th December a group of students went to the Clothes Show Live at the NEC Centre in Birmingham. The students had a great time. "I loved the show, I loved the shopping and I loved the catwalk as well. It was very entertaining". "It was my first time at the Clothes Show and I enjoyed the experience. I enjoyed watching the fashion show and I took lots of pictures to show my

family. I bought a T-shirt and got lots of free things. I hope I can go again". "My experience at the Clothes Show was amazing! All the stalls were really good and there were little catwalks around the place. My favourite thing was the fashion show and the dancers were really good". "My favourite part of the show was the shopping and the catwalk. I liked

the shop Benefit, as they did a free makeover to the people there. The catwalk was really interesting as they did dances before each type of clothing. The Catwalk had a movie theme and had very interesting clothes. The shops there had lots of designs cheaper than the high street. I really enjoyed it".

Kids Literacy Quiz

Four students represented Chauncy at the 2010 Kids Literacy Quiz Southern regional heat, held at Broxbourne School. They were up against some fierce competition, but performed very well.

The students were India Shambrook, Kyra Ind, Anna Parsons and Charley Maloy with Daniel Hester as our reserve. A big thank you from Mrs Paris in the Study Centre.



An early Christmas

Christmas came early at Chauncy, as the school celebrated the festive season with a number of community events. On Thursday 2nd 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 50 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. There was even time for a flying visit from Santa, who delivered presents to our guests. On Friday 10th December Chauncy visited the Age Concern Ware Over 60s Club Christmas Tea Party, where our School Choir and Band performed Carols and Christmas Songs. The afternoon also included a Christmas Karaoke singsong, a very competitive game of bingo, a prize raffle and a visit by Santa to give presents to the good boys and girls. On Wednesday 8th December Chauncy welcomed guests to the 2010

Christmas Concert. Over 100 people enjoyed a two hour performance which included carols, Christmas songs, contemporary rock music and original compositions, written and performed by the growing number of bands at Chauncy. Guests enjoyed Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, served by the Association of Chauncy Friends. On Monday 13th 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.

French Exchange 2010

This year the exchange was a month early but we still found ourselves hit by strike action! Undeterred Madame Maurin and I juggled the schedule so in the end we in fact had 2 extra visits kindly put on by Cormeilles people to help us out - the highlight being a guide tour of a local bakery with a free baguette for everyone at the end! We walked miles across Paris; saw the Mona Lisa and climbed the Montparnasse Tower. We went on Concorde and met up with Mickey and friends at Disney but actually



what we will remember most is the warmth of the welcome we had from the families. As always it's the friendships that make our Exchange with Daguerre School so special. Most of the French families now have broadband so the ice had been bro-

ken before we arrived. Initial nerves were overcome as students were made part of the family for the week. Tears flowed at the party on the last night and we even had French stowaways on our coach on the last morning!

Mrs Ambridge and I would like to congratulate everyone who made this exchange such a success as more than one parent said afterwards "this has been a life changing experience for them". Now we are all looking forward to the return visit here in March. **Mrs Martin**

French Exchange Work Experience

Whilst the exchange group went out on their daily excursions in France, I completed work experience at one of the bakeries in Cormeilles. Despite being extremely nervous at first, I soon realised I needn't have been as everybody at the bakery couldn't have been friendlier and more accommodative, as were the family I was staying with. Working in a French environ-

ment and interacting with the French public by working on the till was both enjoyable and educational, and I got the chance to see how all the different types of bread and patisseries are made. Not only was the week a chance to experience life in France, but to also meet members of the twinning committee with Cormeilles, which made me realise how strong our links are with our

twin town and how much work goes into ensuring we stay connected. Overall, I would say that the experience helped me an enormous amount not only in terms of my French, but also confidence, maturity and independence. It was the best experience and I would definitely recommend it for anyone in the future! **Alison Deane.**

Dance

Since September, a selection of Year 9 girls have been working on an integrated dance project with Amwell View School. This project will lead to a performance at the Alban Arena in St. Albans in March. The students have had the fantastic opportunity of visiting Amwell and taking part in numerous workshops run by the professional dance company 'ActOne'. The students are thoroughly

enjoying the experience and cannot wait to showcase their work.

Year 10 Btec students had a fantastic last week on their first Primary Dance Christmas Tour. This involved performing a range of dance numbers with a Christmas theme to a variety of Primary Schools within Hertford and Ware. They gave a great show dancing Jive to 'Rockin Robin' and Jazz to 'Let it Snow'.

These were followed by dance workshops, led by our students.

We had a variety of Theatre trips this term from Chicago in the West End to Matthew Bourne's Cinderella and 67 students were taken to Pineapple Studio for a dance workshop followed by the hit musical 'Grease'. Look out for our trip next term to Dirty Dancing!

Music Department—A Lunch Soiree

On the 16th November Chauncy Pupils were warmly received at St Mary's Church for a lunch 'soiree' organised by the Ware and Hertford Stroke Club. Members of the club were entertained to the delights of some of our most talented soloists, including a memorable performance of 'Angel' by Anna Lowry and delightful guitar solo by the young Jordan Ward.

Festive Frivolity - Festive music making got off to a merry start with 25 pupils taking part in the opening event for Leaside Church at Dickensian evening. The Chauncy Christmas

tree (along with many talented soloists) sparkled, and the choir was on good form.

Following this 'ice breaker' the Christmas Concert on the 8th December proved an evening to remember, with over 40 pupils taking part and presenting an evening of high quality music. There was a pinch of Pop (thank you Tamsin, Zoe, Rye, George and Charles!) a bit of Bop (thank you Henry for a memorable debut double bass performance!), and some memorable Rock (well done to Lucidity for closing the evening in style). A big

thank you for all those who took part and braved the stage nerves!

Practical Perfection! - This term the music department once again celebrated a number of pupils passing their practical exams. Well done goes to Zak Allum (Gr6); Ashley Morris (Gr5 Distinction); Maya Cullen (Gr5 Distinction); Emily Duff (Gr5); Oliver Copeland (Gr5); Tom McPheat (Gr4); Charlotte Quickenden (Gr4); Henry Jackson (Gr3); Rye Grover (Gr3); Jo Peplow (Gr2); Georgia Loweth (Gr1); Brodie Caress (Gr1)

Robotics and Science FLL Championship Tournament

On Saturday 4th December, 12 members from the Gifted and Talented club of Chauncy School took part in the annual regional FLL Robotics and Science Championship. This involved our students planning, undertaking and then presenting on a scientific project (in this case Bio-Mechanics) in addition to designing and building a fully programmable robot that could carry

out complex tasks!

The field of competition was incredibly strong, including some of the most exclusive fee paying schools in the south east of England. However due to grit and dedication, team spirit and a truly astonishing hard work ethic, Team Chauncy came through to win the tournament outright, win an additional trophy for robot design and rack up

one of the highest total point scores ever recorded in a regional heat! Team Chauncy are now through to the nationals being held at Loughborough University on January 22nd. If triumphant at Loughborough the club can look forward to a trip to the European finals in Holland! A big well done to all involved!

Art Gallery Trips

The Art Department has run a number of trips this term for students across the school. Students from Year 8 enjoyed a 'Pop Art' themed visit to the Tate Modern in November, organised by Miss Cooper. Students spent the day gathering information and creating drawings to support their studies in school. Students from Year 11 have also been out and about in October with Mrs Hammond as they created drawings at Kew Gardens which they will be using as a starting point for their final mixed media project. Most recently the A-Level and BTEC Sixth Form students have been given the opportunity to visit the National

Portrait Gallery with Mrs Hammond and Miss Hinde, students sought inspiration for their own artwork by creating pastiches to add to their studies back at school. Some great days out! **Workshops and Extra Curricular Enrichment** There have also been a number of workshops offered to students including a day with Photorealist Painter Sarah Graham for the BTEC Art students, where students learnt about life as a practising artist as well as starting works of their own. A-Level students have spent the day learning about and working on the creation of art journals in a workshop with Miss Hinde. As well as this students lower

down the school now have the opportunity to join the photography club with Mrs Jones where students are encouraged to develop their creative skills using alternative media. Art club continues to run on a Monday with Miss Cooper. Members of the art club recently created decorations for the 'Pop Art' Christmas tree that featured in Ware's Dickensian Evening at Leaside Church. Miss Cooper has also been working with local primary schools to enrich the curriculum through using art. Year 2 students from Tower School recently took part in a morning creating art work for their Fire of London project.

Parenting Club Dates

Parenting Club will be held at 7.00 pm on the following dates: 11th January, 1st February, 1st March, 22nd March, 24th May, 14th June, 5th July. If you would like to get more information about the Parenting Club, contact Rosemary Hutchinson at the School.

Diary

December

- 10th Year 9 Reviews Home
- 17th End of Term 1.35 pm

January

- 4th Spring Term begins
- 6th Presentation Evening 7 for 7.30
- 17th Year 11 Reviews Home
- 19th Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 26th Year 7 Reviews Home
- 27th Year 7 Parents' Evening

February

- 8th Year 8 Reviews Home
- 8th Year 11 Photographs
- 9th Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 11th Inset Day STAFF CONFERENCE
- 12th STAFF CONFERENCE
- 15th Year 9 Options Evening
- 16th School Production
- 17th School Production
- 18th Ski Trip
- 19th—27th Half Term

March

- 7th Year 9 Reviews Home
- 7th Science Year 7 Trip to Duxford
- 9th Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 11th Year 11 Mock Interview Day
- 14th Year 10 Reviews Home
- 15th Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 16th French Exchange arrive
- 30th Years 12/13 Reviews Home

April

- 8th End of Term 1.30
- 26th New Term Begins

May

- 2nd May Bank Holiday
- 16th Exams Begin until 27th June
- 26th Year 9 Reviews Home
- 30th—5th Half Term

June

- 6th End of Year exams begin
- 17th Sports Day

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

To see all updated information —
please check the website.
www.thechauncyschool.co.uk

PE

The last 6 weeks have been very busy. The Senior boys began their County League campaign with an 11-1 win away to Francis Combe Academy and are looking to secure promotion despite suffering a 4-1 defeat away to Ashlyns, last week. Year 9 are the last surviving team in the County Cup. They are through to the third round after a late comeback against Haileybury to secure a 2-1 win. Congratulations to Ben Bowie, Owen Thompson, Liam Hurley, Laurence Vaughan, Billy Groves and Joe Aitken who all successfully represented Lea Valley school district football teams this season. County and District league basketball have also both begun for Year 8 and 9 teams. Year 8 have had a good start picking up some excellent wins so far. Ellis Castle clinching a sudden death free throw against Richard Hale being the highlight of their season so far. We have also entered teams into District Badminton, Volleyball and Table Tennis competitions for the first time this year. Results have been mixed but it has been good to see our students competing in a particularly wide variety of sports this year. Much of the Rugby has fallen foul of the weather so far but Years 7, 8 and 9 have all begun their emerging schools competition with the Year 7 team showing particularly encouraging signs. Netball - Year 7 have made a pleasing start to the season with 30 committed squad members. The girls played several matches winning against Sele, St. Mary's and Sheredes. Well done. The Year 8 girls played various matches against local schools experiencing some success. A huge thank you to Devon Ricketts, Josie Pinfold, Cathy Ruddock, Bethany Kendall and Charlotte Campbell for helping out with coaching. Year 9 girls have excelled with a strong captaincy from Lexi Eaves. The girls played very well in Torquay with some players playing up age groups. Bethany Wright, Morgan Ward, Nicole Kelly, Emily King, Lexi Eaves and Lucy Palmen have started their Young Umpire Award and are hoping to umpire junior matches in the future. Year 10 girls continue to experience success after winning the under 15 tournament in Torquay. Devon Ricketts not only won for her age group but also

played up two age groups and experienced success with the senior team. Year 11 and Senior girls have had a fantastic year not only winning the Torquay tournament for the 4th year in a row but also beating many of the local schools in the district including Presdales and John Warner. The girls also reached the semi finals at the national schools qualifying competition at Stanborough. Basketball - A new sport for the girls. They faced tough competition from schools across the county but have shown a great deal of improvement. They gave 100% effort every game and we are very proud of them. Volleyball - A sports partnership competition with a team made up of Georgie Holtby, Bryony Boyles, Sophie Riddle and Mollie Neal have so far beaten Presdales and Simon Balle. Table Tennis - Becky Turner, Alice King, Josie Pinfold and Cathy Ruddock came runners up in the District Tournament. Trampolining - We took a strong girls team made up of Charlotte Nicholson, Sophie Riddle, Georgia Lunniss and Danielle McGee to the District competition. The girls performed fantastically with an outstanding individual performance from Charlotte Nicholson who won the age group competition overall. This high score and the scores from the other three girls lead Chauncy to be crowned age group team Champions. Swimming - The squad is getting stronger by competing in galas on a regular basis, with excellent individual swims from Craig Ross, Ben Ruddock, Jack Button, Charles Sinclair, Brodie Caress, Scott King, Laura Button, Holly Manser and Jade Short. Cross Country - There have been some excellent individual performances over 3 races. Alison Deane got silver, Megan Bishop received a Bronze medal, Charles Sinclair gained Silver and David Wilson gained Gold in the Senior Boys (the 7th year he has won the league). We had success in the Year 7 Mob Race with the boys team gaining Bronze for their effort. Well done, Freddie Reed, Jordan McCord, Jay Dixie and Beck Grover.

WELL DONE EVERYBODY.