

# Advice to students: Don't eat the furniture

We are already planning for September and the arrival of our 1,000<sup>th</sup> student. We are oversubscribed in every year group and have a waiting list for families in Year 6. However, we will still offer a place to everyone in our local area who actively wants a place at secondary transfer and this means new buildings, more computers, extra teaching groups and yet more computers.

We opened a new building a few weeks ago and have been busily upgrading our 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision. Increased numbers of students staying on and coming from other local schools brings in almost a quarter of our total income. So we have two computer rooms just for them and now a really successful coffee room where they can relax and work. The common room is being refurbished over Easter and we are providing inedible furniture rather than the sofas that 6<sup>th</sup> formers the world over seem to include as part of their diet.

A great sporting week: David Wilson won the District Cross Country for a 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, our Senior Boys won the District Football for the first time in at least 12 years, our trampoliners won the District title in both Year 9 and 10 and two titles (Years 9 and 11) came back from our annual Torquay netball weekend.

Dennis O'Sullivan



Students from Years 8—13 participated in a match day experience with Fulham FC. This included a 3 hour training session at the Fulham FC Academy, a tour of the facilities and an opportunity to visit Craven Cottage to watch Fulham lose 2—1 against Manchester City.

## Forthcoming Events

Acoustic'n That—Hertford Corn Exchange This Friday at 8.00 p.m. (Over 21's only)  
([www.acousticnthat.co.uk](http://www.acousticnthat.co.uk))

Chauncy School Presentation Evening

Thursday, 22nd April. 7.30 p.m.

Anti Incinerator Concert—  
Chauncy School. Friday 23rd April.  
([www.burningissuegroupware.co.uk](http://www.burningissuegroupware.co.uk))

## APP—Creative Writing and Drama Workshop

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On 11th February, 27 primary school students came to Chauncy for a creative writing workshop with the author Tim Bowler. The children were supported brilliantly by Year 8 Gifted and Talented students: Jack Spence, Heather Macdonald, Charlotte Booth, Aidan Clark and Hayley Price, as well as Sophie Smurthwaite and Stephen Mizen from Year 13.

The children developed their own story under Tim's guidance and he read from and signed a copy of his book 'Storm Catchers'. This day was then followed up on the 5th March when the same students returned to work on transforming their central character in their story, into a character for a theatre performance with Trestle Theatre Company. A wonderful day which developed the ability of all involved.

### Berlin Trip

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In February 45 students went on a two day field trip to Berlin as part of their GCSE History course. While there students saw key sites linked to the Nazi regime. We visited the Brandenburg Gate which became a symbol of Nazi power. Students had a guided tour of the Reichstag, the German parliamentary building. When it was burnt down in 1933 Hitler used it in his favour to get to power. We also went to the square where the Nazis famously burnt 1000s of prohibited books in 1933. There is now a memorial to the event – empty bookcases.



Students had the opportunity to go to the site of the Gestapo HQ. The building was demolished after the war but on the site there is now an exhibition to the terror element of the Nazis. Students heard some shocking stories.

In 2005 a memorial to the Holocaust was constructed close to the Brandenburg Gate. The memorial consists of over 2000 granite slabs. Students walked round the slabs and also visited the excellent museum.

As well as seeing sites linked to the Nazi regime we also saw sites linked to the Cold War period. We went into a nuclear bunker where the idea was that 3000 people could live in relative safety for 14 days. If it had been used it is highly likely that the bunker would not have been a

success.

It is hard to go to Berlin and not see evidence of the Wall that was constructed around the city. Parts of the wall still exist; the longest stretch has now become a symbol of art.

One of the memorable parts of the trip was the visit to a former Stasi prison. The Stasi were the State Security Service of East Germany. The prison conditions were horrific and the students were fortunate to have two guides who had experienced life in the prison. The Guides spoke honestly about their time.

### Bringing Shakespeare to Life!

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Theatre Company, 'The Globe Players' came to Chauncy to perform 'The Tempest' to Year 9. They also put on an interactive workshop based around the play 'Much Ado about Nothing'. The actors gave an impressive and entertaining performance giving students a better understanding of the plays they are writing about for their coursework in English.

## Paper Recycling

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We have been a member of the Recycle for Learning (formerly Paper Magic) for nearly all of its 5 years. In that time we have collected around 17 tons of paper—white and coloured copier paper, old exercise books and old exam papers. This is boxed up and then collected by the Paper Mill about 7 times a year.

Any envelopes, catalogues or shiny paper are taken down to the local council recycling bin by Fanshawe Pool. In 2009 we collected 3770 kgs (3.7 tons) and for this we have received an award as the best secondary school in the scheme. Congratulations to Pat Clegg and Teresa Pearson for all their wonderful work. This award was presented at the recent 10th anniversary celebrations for the Paper Trail based at Frogmore Mill, Hemel Hempstead.

For the last 4 years on the School's Community Day we have taken a group of about 30 students to see around the Mill and take part in various paper type activities.

## Scout Jamboree

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Jack Morley (Year 10) has been selected to go to the World Scout Jamboree in 2011. A World Scout Jamboree is a gathering of Scouts from almost every country in the world, and it really will be the "experience of a lifetime" for Jack who earned his place as one of five Scouts from the District.



The Jamboree is bigger than the Olympics, both in terms of the number of participants, and also the number of countries represented. Jack will live and take part in activities alongside Scouts from all over the world, making new friends for life, and experiencing different cultures you never even knew existed. In 2011 it will be held on the fields of Rinkaby, not far from the town of Kristianstad, in the province of Skåne, in the south of Sweden.

To earn his place Jack and the other applicants had to complete a selection day in the freezing cold and snow back in January to demonstrate his skills relevant to the jamboree's theme 'Simply Scouting'. He was selected by a team including the ex-county commissioner for Hertfordshire and the current District Commissioner to represent the area.

We wish Jack all the best in his endeavours to raise the funds necessary for him to travel to Sweden next summer!

## Association of Chauncy Friends

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**CAN YOU HELP!** We need volunteers to take on the A.C.F. and support the school with fund raising at events like Ware Carnival and Dickensian Night and Chauncy Rocks etc.

If you would like to become more involved with the school and have some of that precious commodity called time available, please contact my wife Linda O'Neill (Catering Manager) at the school on 01920 411200, who will be happy to answer any questions.

Our next meeting is 27th April which will be our A.G.M., starting at 7.30pm in the school dining room.

Jim Smith  
Chairman A.C.F.

## Dates for your Diary

### April

1st End of Term 1.35 pm  
19th Summer Term Begins  
26th Year 9 End of Year Exams  
26th Work Experience Week  
28th Careers Day/Army Day  
29th Junior Maths Challenge

### May

3rd May Bank Holiday  
14th Staff Conference  
15th Staff Conference  
21st Year 9 Reviews Home  
25th Summer Concert  
26th Black Country Museum Trip  
27th Year 9 Achievement Assembly  
28th Year 7 PGL  
31st Half Term Break

### June

End of Year Exams Begin  
10th Graduate Show  
18th Sports Day  
25th District Athletics  
28th Sixth Form Induction Week  
29th Year 7 Reviews given out at  
Achievement Assembly

### July

1st History Trip/ Somme  
2nd Art Exhibition  
6th Year 8 Reviews given out at  
Achievement Assembly  
6th Year 11 Prom.  
8th Year 6 Induction Day and Parents  
Evening  
9th Year 10 Reviews Home  
16th Community Day and Chauncy  
Rocks!  
20th Sports Awards Evening  
23rd End of Term 1.35 pm

## *"Leading" the way in French and Spanish!*

This year for the first time Year 10 students in French and Spanish are working towards the Language Leaders Award. The main aim of this Award is to develop leadership skills through languages. Our GCSE students have been working as role models for younger students in our feeder schools and at Key Stage 3 here at Chauncy. Each event has been a great success thanks to the leaders' advanced preparation and the feedback from the primary schools has been excellent. Everyone, leaders, teachers and young language learners alike all have one thing to say - more please!



French: cooking Christmas biscuits with year 6 from Little Munden.



French: cooking St Valentine's biscuits with top performers



Spanish: working with year 3 at St Mary's.



Finally, the French leaders helped co-ordinate an afternoon visit from Daguerre, our link school in France through town twinning. The afternoon included tours round the school and conversation and games with 8P and 8C in the Hall ending with afternoon tea provided by the canteen.

Félicitations!

Mrs.Martin

¡Enhorabuena!

## Music News

**Battle of the Bands – 27 February**—5 Chauncy Rock bands were welcomed to Sele School for the 2010 Battle of the Bands, presenting a high standard of music performance and song-writing to the judging panel. Congratulations to "Saving Joe" (Emma Custis; Marcus Caisey; Joe Bartlett; Matt Pinfold and Henry Jackson) for winning the Junior Band prize; Paul Kitt (best bass player); Emma Custis (best vocalist); Phil Short (best original song).

**Music workshop – 17 March**—Fifty music pupils were in for a treat when slide guitar legend Phillip Henry visited the school to present a music workshop, accompanied by Hannah Martin on Violin. The hour long workshop was a stunning success, with Phillip rounding off his performance with a 'three harmonica' solo!

**Junior schools music concert** - It was with great enthusiasm that the Chauncy music department welcomed seven junior schools to participate in a Lunchtime Concert on Friday 26 March. It was encouraging to hear so many young talented musicians perform, with an impressive variety of items on show string groups; Brass Ensemble; Ukulele Group; Choir and a number of talented soloists. Thanks go to all those participating schools who made it possible!

**Grade Exams** - Congratulations go to the following pupils for passing their Practical music exams: Zak Allum; Liam Bright; Alicia Hookway; Maya Cullen; Marcus Caisey; Daniel O'Neill as well as Vikki Frank for passing her Grade 6 Theory Exam.

