

## Building on our Success!

Many great things have been happening at Chauncy over the last few weeks and I will try to list some of them, in no particular order. We are **oversubscribed, again**, in the new Year 7 for September and we will continue to offer places to local families who contact me. Lower 6th Form numbers are approaching 110 with a dozen students from outside our Year 11 wishing to join us. Perhaps it is the prospect of our planned 6th Form Coffee Bar that attracts them!

We have received planning permission for the **five extra teaching rooms** being built over the summer, including yet another computer room. This makes 8 rooms and around 400 computers in the school just as we have been awarded a 2nd specialism in Maths and Computing. This will bring in **£60,000 of extra funding** in each of the next two years. We were also recognised by the government as a centre for excellence in working with **Gifted and Talented** children. We have just received two more awards from the Specialist Schools Trust for our students' exam prowess and this makes for a probably unique national achievement of **10 awards in five years**.

Our Year 10 and 6th Form girls each won county titles in cricket in March, Milly Fuggles had England rugby trials last weekend and Matt Widdicombe won another county badminton title.

All three Chauncy bands won the prizes at the Battle of the Bands—all the prizes—proving that Chauncy Rocks harder than other schools. I am sure you know that 10th July is the key date next term with the **Community Day** massive exploits followed by **Chauncy Rocks**. Parents wanting to join in any of the events of 10th July should contact me.

Dennis O'Sullivan

## GCSE English Poetry Trip

On Thursday 5th February, 29 students in Year 11 attended 'Poetry Live' at Westminster Central Hall in London. The students had the opportunity to listen to live poets that they study at GCSE, read their poems and discuss their feelings and attitudes. Students also had the opportunity to ask the poets questions regarding the poems that appear in their GCSE English Literature and Language exams.

Not only did students get the chance to listen to poetry live, but also received top tips from them regarding tackling the exam questions. The Chief Examiner also read through a student's response from a past paper and gave feedback on what the examiners are looking for. Overall the trip gave students the opportunity to experience poetry being read by the poets who actually wrote them and in turn have a greater understanding of how to tackle the poems in the exam. The highlight of the conference was definitely John Agard, who the students thought was excellent. He was extremely vibrant and highly entertaining.

# The Royal Veterinary College

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As part of National Science and Engineering week, 30 students from Year 9 were invited to The Royal Veterinary College's Bolton's Park Farm, to take part in "Inside Chicken Run".

Students learned about the communication skills and anatomy of chickens as well as welfare concerns regarding them.

In the afternoon, students went to the university campus where they were treated to a talk from the Chief Anatomist at the college, regarding his involvement in the design of mythological creatures for the Harry Potter films. They also spent the final session discussing the portrayal of chickens in the media.

## Music News

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The spring term has proved a fruitful and busy one for the Music Department with several musicians 'blossoming' under the talent spotlight. On 13 March, several of our enthusiastic Chauncy Rocks bands competed at the Hertfordshire 'Battle of the Bands' held at Wodson Park. *The Fuses* (Alicia Hookway, Liam Bright, Zak Allum, Billy Risley and Andrew Milne) took first prize for their polished performances and will go on to perform at Rock at the Priory on 26 July. *The Smooth Operators* (aka the Sixth Form band!) did no less to impress the judges and audiences, winning 'Best original song title', and they will be appearing as guests on 1 April at Presdales Band Night.

More recently, and after a great deal of hard work, sixth form music student Victoria Frank has flown through the first round of the Rotary Young Musician competition and will be performing at the finals on 31 March in Chelmsford. We wish her the best of luck!

## French Exchange

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Last Thursday saw many students in tears at the end of the exchange. Friendships had been made, French students had become part of the family and it was hard to see them go. The French students went out on excursions with their teachers to London and Cambridge but also enjoyed coming into school to see how learning takes place in England. This year they came into several language lessons and helped our students. They even had a trampoline lesson thanks to Miss Green!

I could tell you more myself but this time I am leaving the last words to my French colleague Isabelle Maurin - written on the last night after the party. In the true spirit of communication I leave you to enjoy her use of English!

*"This French-English exchange has come to an end, and once again, it's been a great success in many ways. The pupils have come to get to know one another quite well, and they have shared a part of one another's life. They've all really enjoyed it and were, as usual, very sad to part. They have also had the major opportunity to speak the language they've been learning for some years now, and that's the best that can happen when you want to know a language. They've had the chance to realize that this language doesn't only exist in books, but it's actually real, useful, sometimes fun to use and so rewarding when they can understand and be understood. They've also shared real moments of friendship with their partners and their families and they're always very thankful for that. For us, teachers, it's always lots of work but also real passion to be actually able to put all this to life. We try very hard, all year long, to make it happen the best we can. We're very committed into enabling our pupils to share this language experience because we believe in it deeply, and that's why we're language teachers. I want to wholeheartedly thank you for having us in your school, in some of your classes and in a way, for helping us making it happen."* Congratulations to all 25 students from years 7, 8 and 9 who took part in the exchange- you all made the 5<sup>th</sup> exchange a great success. Belinda Martin and Mandy Ambridge.



## Dance News

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March our Gifted and Talented Dance students participated in the Hertfordshire Schools County Dance Festival. They were a huge success; the piece that they performed was based on the theme of Media & Technology. They had an eventful day arriving at The Alban Arena in St Albans for a morning technical rehearsal followed by a matinee and evening performance.



The students had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thrill of performing in a professional establishment. Well done guys! They are currently working on a new dance for their next performance at **Castle Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**.

### Amwell View Integrated project

On 26<sup>th</sup> February the Year 10's GCSE Dance students went to Amwell View and participated in an integrated workshop. The workshop was organised by Dance Digital. The students had a fantastic time and really gained a positive experience. It gave them the opportunity to develop their communication skills and to have an understanding of different types of disabilities. They are due to return after Easter for more sessions as part of their Dance Leaders Award.

### DanceBase

DanceBase are our resident dance company, who hold several classes on a Tuesday in the Chauncy Dance Studio. They have been coming in on a regular basis over the past term to work with a small group of selected students in order to make them feel more confident about themselves and develop their social skills. These workshops are leading towards a performance in a local theatre, more details to follow soon.

## Lego League Robotics Competition

30 pupils prepared since July 2008 for an international robotics tournament that took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire. Two teams, made up of gifted and talented key stage 3 pupils, were required to work as a team to design and program the robots through a series of manoeuvres to complete a series of tasks based around this year's hot topic which was 'Climate Change'.



The teams were challenged to focus on the earth's past, present, and future climate. Students researched a climate problem occurring in their area, explored a variety of different solutions and then shared it with their school.

Teams were judged under four different categories, our school won prizes in two different categories. Overall, the team 'Little Lego Peeps' reached third place and our second team 'Alliance of Independent Bricks' came a respectable fifth out of sixteen different teams, in the regional competition. Both teams represented the school in true Chauncy spirit impressing the judges with all the hard work they had put into the competition before the event and won a trophy for Best Teamwork.

Students came into school during INSET day and stayed behind school, two nights each week, sometimes as late as 6pm, in preparation for the event.

Although both teams could only have succeeded by working as a team, we feel it is important to give a special mention to Lydia Poole and Mathew Howe who kept their teams together during the build up to the tournament and became natural leaders of their teams.



We will now look to the New Year to develop new adventures for our budding scientists and robotics programmers. We hope to develop a series of school competitions based on the popular TV show 'Robot Wars' with an Olympics theme to keep us busy until next year's competition!

# Senior UK Maths Challenge

The Senior UK Maths Challenge took place at the end of last year. Taking part were years 12 and 13.

Certificate winners were:

Conor Devine, Year 13, awarded Silver and best in school.  
Steven Clarke, Year 13, awarded Silver, Sam Westlake, Year 12, awarded Silver and David Sell, Year 13, awarded Bronze.

# Blood Brothers Musical Trip

On Thursday 5th February, Mrs Cox and Mrs James, took our English class to see Blood Brothers the Musical. We went to see it as it will help with our coursework. The Phoenix Theatre was really posh. The audience was a mix of schools and public.

The play is by Willy Russell. It is about twins split at birth, who are brought up within different classes. They meet up but their differences make them argue. The sad thing is that both brothers die at the end of the play. The gun sound made Chloe Foreman and me jump and scream really loudly, even though we knew it was coming!

The coach driver was really good and managed to get us home early. They play was really good and all of the class were really well behaved. I enjoyed the play, I think it will help with my coursework and if I could see it again, I would.

Emma Dudley

# Health Day



During Health day all of our 6<sup>th</sup> Formers had the opportunity to make and taste a range of quick and economical dishes.

The day was planned to give the students an opportunity to think about how they will feed themselves when working on a budget, living independently.

The dishes made were all pasta based and at the end of each session the students tested 4 different sauces and discussed the experience.

For many this was a return visit to the food room after 2-3 years, but Mrs Jones was pleased to note many remembered things they had been taught and they still remembered to clean up.



# The Tempest Production

Mrs Hutchins took a group of Year 9 students to see The Tempest at the Harlow Playhouse on 18th March. The students enjoyed their trip. Matthew: "I enjoyed all of it". Ryan: "I really liked the scene with Ariel calling Caliban a liar". Beth: "It has helped me understand how the play should be performed". Danny and Ryan: "Watching the performance has pulled it all together for me before I write my essay".

## Dates for your Diary

### April

2<sup>nd</sup> Year 11 French Orals  
3<sup>rd</sup> END of TERM 1.35 pm  
20<sup>th</sup> TERM BEGINS  
24<sup>th</sup> GCSE German Orals  
27<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Work Experience Week  
29<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Spanish Orals  
30<sup>th</sup> UK Maths Challenge, Junior

### May

4<sup>th</sup> BANK HOLIDAY  
5<sup>th</sup> SATs Week  
13<sup>th</sup> Year 8 Vaccinations  
15<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY (School closed)  
22-24<sup>th</sup> Year 7 PGL Trip  
25<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM

### June

1<sup>st</sup> End of Year Exams begin  
11<sup>th</sup> Graduate Show  
19<sup>th</sup> Sports Day  
19<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Prom  
24<sup>th</sup> Year 10 BBC Trip  
25<sup>th</sup> Careers Day—whole school  
26<sup>th</sup> District Sports  
29<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> form Induction Week  
30<sup>th</sup> Year 7 Achievement Assembly

### July

3<sup>rd</sup> Art Exhibition  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year 9 Somme Trip  
7<sup>th</sup> Year 8 Achievement Assembly  
8<sup>th</sup> Sports Award Evening  
9<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Induction Day and  
Parents Evening  
10<sup>th</sup> Community Day  
CHAUNCY ROCKS!  
14<sup>th</sup> Year 9 Achievement Assembly  
17<sup>th</sup> END OF TERM 1.35 pm

**NB: see website for further dates**