



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2009

Headteacher's Hello

Thank you for all your cards and good wishes.

On your behalf I would like to thank the teachers and support staff for their outstanding dedication to the education and care of all the students.

This term, myself and a number of colleagues have been deployed to support other secondary schools in Hertfordshire. This is part of the National Leader and National Support School Scheme run by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

I have always known how fortunate our students are to be taught and cared for by the professionals within outstanding facilities and my work in other schools only underlines this. So not only do I thank once again the staff for all the hard work but also the Governors and Trustees who constantly strive to secure the financial security for this school's current and future developments.

School re-opens on Monday 4th January at 8.40am. In the meantime I wish you all a very happy, restful and most of all peaceful Christmas.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Congratulations

Well done to the following Year 7 students who have achieved Headteacher's Commendations for sustained and outstanding work throughout this term.

Anar Sachdev	7 Clement	Maddie Riches	7 Clement
Nicole Parpotta	7 Clement	James Slobhom	7 Lincoln
Rebecca Simkin	7 Clement	Alissa Bamford	7 Essex
Joshua Gharial	7 Clement	Matthew Clement	7 Essex
Katie Sadler	7 Clement	Daniel Webber	7 Essex

Forthcoming Events

4 January	Term Begins (8.40am)
11 January	Year 12/13 Exams Begin
12 January	Year 10 Art Trip to Tate Britain
	Year 11 Drama Trip
	HPV 2nd Vaccination Catch Up
13 January	Year 11 Art Trip to The Tate
20 January	Year 11 Parents Evening (5pm)
21 January	Year 12 Higher Education Evening
27 January	Sixth Form Opportunities Evening

Year 10 Work Experience

12th - 16th July 2010

All Year 10 students have been given a pack of information concerning arrangements for Work Experience next year. The deadline for the return of the yellow parental consent form was 1st December. Please note that the deadline for the blue own placement form is 22nd February. Any blue forms that have already been completed by the employer can be returned to Mrs Ritchie or Mrs Payne.

Mrs C Payne

CEIAG Co-ordinator

Exams in January

A Level exams start on 11 January. All morning exams will commence at 9am and afternoon exams at 1.30pm and will take place in the Barbirolli Hall unless students are advised otherwise.

Mrs D Harvey

Exams Officer

Profit from the Christmas Fair

The Parents' Association is delighted to announce that the recent Christmas Craft & Gift Fair made a profit of over £6,000.

We would like to thank parents, staff, students and friends for their help and support. The funds raised at this event will be used to enhance and complement the education of every child at St Clement Danes School, under the guidance and recommendations of the school's senior leadership team.

Parents' Association Committee

Senior Maths Challenge 2009

23 out of the 55 entries achieved certificates. The results are as follows:

Year 13:

Silver: Jeffrey Unger, Joanne Hobbs, Shane Van der Watt

Bronze: Gemma Martin, Daniel Woodbridge, Emma Trimbee

Year 12:

Silver: William Brown (*Best in school*), Oliver Melly, Rebecca Mander, Alexander Tanser, Victoria Hull

Bronze: Matthew Jones, Richard Stephenson, Matthew Chapman, Sebastian Leaper

Year 11:

Silver: Laura Powell

Bronze: Richard Higgs, Zak Lawrence, Thomas Unger, Oscar Charles, Jacqueline Pitts, Josephine Ryall, Philip Corden

This year's results are a marked improvement on last year's 5 certificates. Our congratulations therefore go to all the participating candidates, and especially to William Brown, Year 12, who achieved the 'best in school' award.

Many thanks to all the members of staff who helped set out and invigilate the challenge.

Mr E Addo

Maths Faculty

Art Student Notices

Please can all Art students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and Photography Students in Year 12 ensure that all the trip letter slips with parental consent and payment are brought in Monday 4th January 2010 at the very latest.

Please be reminded of the exam trip dates. **Art;** Year 11 - Jan 12th, Year 10 - Jan 13th, Year 12 and 13 - 25th Feb and Year 12 **Photography** - 23rd Jan. Thank you.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art

CEIAG Award

CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance)

We were delighted to find that we have been awarded a Connexions Information Standard for the accuracy and quality of information on work, careers, learning, money, health, relationships, housing, rights, free time and travel in our Connexions Information Centre in the Learning Resources Centre.

This is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am – 3.40pm.

Mrs Payne

CEIAG Coordinator

Mrs F Hirst & Mrs S Boniface

Librarians

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Year 8 Jewellery Club



Shivani Sood, Horatia Williams, Eva Garner & Eleanor Martin

This term Year 8 students have been developing their creative skills by designing and making a range of silver-plated wire and beaded jewellery inspired by natural textures. The designs have all been made using recycled beads and jewellery.

Next term, the students are planning to make and sell some of their designs for charity. We would be grateful for any old or unwanted jewellery, wire or beads. Thank you.

Mrs Collins

Request for Textile Items

The Textile department would be grateful for donations of any of the following: Fabrics, Zips, Threads, Lace, trimmings or other haberdashery. Many thanks.

Mrs Firth and Mrs McKenzie



Year 9 Making Money for Charity



Mr Butler is spoilt for choice at the bag sale

Students in Year 9 worked on a very exciting and worthwhile project in Textiles Technology last year. They were given the task of researching a charity close to their hearts. They chose charities ranging from Cancer Research to Dogs Trust, to NSPCC, Love 146 and many more. They then worked in teams and set up production lines making bags suitable for 11-18 year olds. All materials used were recycled so costs were kept to an absolute minimum, ensuring all money raised could go directly to the charities.

The students gained valuable construction skills and appreciated the importance of making products to a high standard suitable for sale to paying customers. For the smooth running of their production line they had to ensure that every member of their team was working efficiently. A presentation was given in a school assembly and the students' wares were on sale the following break and lunchtime. So successful was their marketing campaign that they sold out within minutes.

A staggering £271.90 was raised for 15 different charities. We have received many letters of thanks from the charities and intend repeating the project next year.

Mrs C McKenzie



Oliver Smith on the 'Bliss' production line

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

East of England Schools Food Challenge

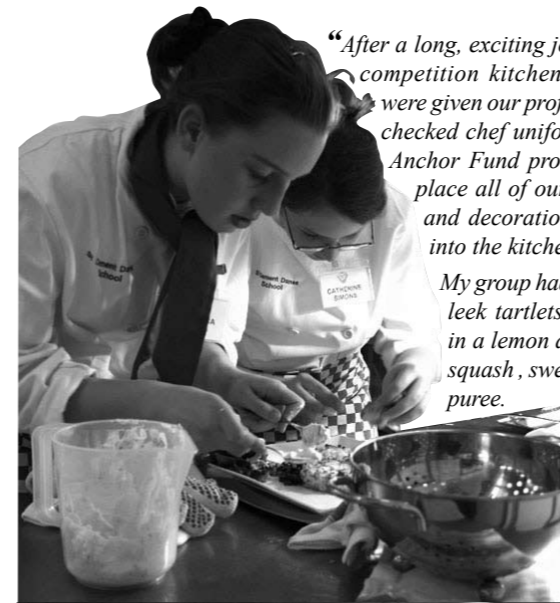
On April 28th 2009 14 students had the opportunity to participate in the annual East Of England Schools Food Challenge. Students were given the challenge of creating and preparing a two course traditional British family meal. After weeks of planning and practice, the teams arrived at the Peterborough Showground where they were met by the organisers. They were shown round the professional kitchens by the resident chefs and allowed a few minutes to familiarise themselves with the new equipment.



The teams went in the kitchens one at a time with 45 minutes to prepare and cook their two course meals. They were under great pressure and were very nervous but coped remarkably well and all produced very high quality dishes that received many positive comments from the professional judges.

We will be looking for new teams for this year's challenge - to prepare traditional regional dishes.

Mrs J Carrington



"After a long, exciting journey we arrived at the competition kitchens in Peterborough. We were given our professional green and white checked chef uniforms to put on which the Anchor Fund provided for us. We had to place all of our ingredients, equipment and decoration items on trays to take into the kitchen.

My group had decided to make cheesy leek tartlets with mange tout beans in a lemon dressing with a butternut squash, sweet potato and feta cheese puree.

We had 45 minutes to create our dish and dessert and set the table for the judges. Although we had practised the process many times before at



school, we still struggled to get everything done in the time provided, I think mainly because of the excitement and idea of being in such a large and different kitchen!

I really enjoyed designing the dish and finding out ways to make it healthier, organic and using traditional English foods. I also enjoyed going out and buying the ingredients. I looked for good value and different products, why different kinds vary in price and what the differences between them are".

Jasmine Walton 10C

Textiles Related Degree Courses

Textiles degree courses are no longer purely about designing and making. Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of courses available at Universities which combine textiles and fashion with retail buying, merchandising, marketing and promotion. Many of the courses offer the opportunity to spend time in industry which is an advantage for students in today's economic climate. We now have several 'old girls' who are studying at this level and have given the faculty positive feedback. If you are interested in pursuing a career in any of these fields see Mrs Firth and the following links may also be of interest.

<http://www.fashion.arts.ac.uk/>

<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/>

<http://www.mmu.ac.uk/>

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/art>

Product Design Careers

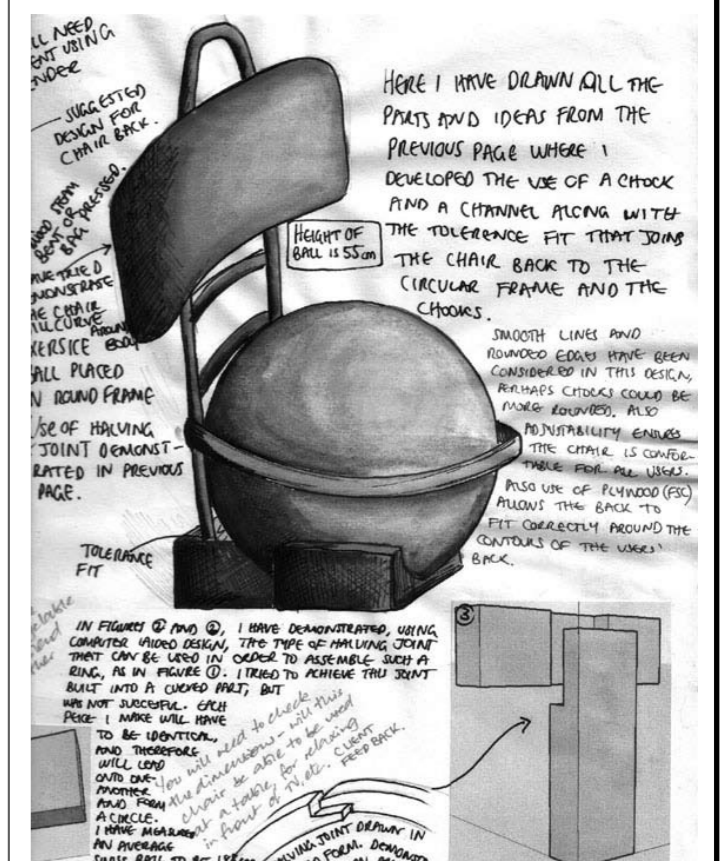
Product Design A Level has been offered by the Design & Technology Faculty for a number of years and increasingly students are choosing to take this A-Level as a career pathway into disciplines such as Engineering, Product Design, Industrial Design, Architecture and Construction Management.

Product Design at A Level combines practical work with innovation, analysis, global sustainability issues as well as business and marketing.

"To survive in challenging economic conditions and stay ahead of overseas competition, UK businesses must add value – designing innovative products and services instead of cutting prices."

www.designcouncil.org.uk

A great place to look for examples of designers work is www.coroflot.com



This is a sample of the work of a present A2 Product Designer – Anusha Sugunasabesan – who is designing and making a chair based that incorporates an exercise ball.

District X-Country Results

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	Team Position
7 Boys				3rd
7 Girls		H. Jury		3rd
8 Boys	C. Neal		J. Gardiner-Smith	1st
8 Girls		Y. Bier-Allen		1st
9 Boys	M. Goddard	B. Whitney	J. Davies	1st
9 Girls				
10 Boys				3rd
10 Girls	E. Dolan			1st
11 Boys				4th
S. Boys	N. Lingley			2nd
S. Girls	P. Lowe			1st

Football Update

Year 7: Have played 5 and won all 5 in the district league. They face St Joan of Arc in the district final this week.

Year 8: Have lost only one of their league matches and require a point in their last match against St Michael's to make the final.

Year 9: Finished 3rd in their league.

Year 10: Are sitting in 3rd position with some schools still to complete fixtures.

Year 11: Will reach the district final if they win their remaining league match.

First XI: Finished the season with a 100% record, defeating Parmiters 1-0 in the final.

The year 7, 8, 10, 11 and First XI teams are all in the last 16 of their respective county cups. Well done on an excellent first term.

Mr M Chapman

PE Faculty

SUCCESS AT TRAMPOLINING



Oliver Smith, Jack Taffel, James Holloway, and Charlie Hammond



Pia O'Neill, Amy Goddard, Gemma Burgess, Megan Day

St Clement Danes took five teams to the Eastern Regional Trampolining Competition and came back with great results. The teams consisted of two teams of **Under 15 Boys**, one team of **Under 15 Girls**, and two teams of **Under 13 Girls**. One of the Under 15 Boy teams came 1st and one of the Under 13 Girls teams came 2nd. These two teams now go on to the Zonal round in January.

In the Individual Rounds, Jack Taffel came 3rd, James Holloway came

2nd and Oliver Smith came 1st in the Under 15 Boys. Oliver will be keen to retain his National title that he won last year. These individuals will also now go on to the next Zonal round in January.

All other results will be pinned up on notice boards in the new year. Congratulations to all those who took part and helped toward these great school results and helped me to organise the event.

Miss H Seabourne

PE Faculty

NEW YEAR 7 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Congratulations to the nine Year 7 students who have recently been appointed to School Council following interviews held three weeks ago. The competition was tough with 30 students who applied. All students showed an amazing passion to help and develop life at the school and we welcome them on board! We would like to introduce them to you in this copy of Homelink - Lizzie Turner 7E, Manan Mehta 7B, Annabel Stratton-Carr 7C, Rhianna Merralls 7C, Jessica Bradley 7E, James Slobom 7L, Abbie Lambert 7C, Charlie Blake 7L, Charlotte Edwards 7A.



Charlotte Edwards
7A - June 2011



Manan Mehta
7B - June 2011



Annabel Stratton-Carr
7C - June 2011



Lizzie Turner
7E - June 2011



Jessica Bradley
7E - June 2011



Charlie Blake
7L - June 2011



Abbie Lambert
7C - June 2011



Rhianna Merralls
7C - June 2011



James Slobom
7L - June 2011

SCHOOL CAR PARK

The Governors wish all parents be made aware of the school's position regarding parental access to the school car park and the work the Governing Body has done, and continues to do to improve facilities for parents and students.

The school's concerns and actions taken, with regard to car park and traffic issues in and around the school, have been communicated to parents via Home-link on nine separate occasions since February 2009.

The Governors wish all parents to understand that they categorically refute the allegation made by some that the school has done nothing to resolve the parking and congestion problems. The Governors decided to close the school gates to parents at the start and end of the day when they felt they had no other option following serious incidents involving parental vehicles on site.

Parents may recall from previous communications in Home-link that following incidents involving injuries to students there was difficulty in ambulances gaining access to the car park on two separate occasions. This was due to traffic congestion caused by parents waiting to pick up children. Unfortunately on both occasions parents were reluctant to move their vehicles when requested to by school staff. Governors, mindful of their duties for student safety on site, decided to consult parents on an afternoon car park closure.

The decision to close the school gates in the morning, when pedestrian movement in the car park is at its highest, was taken following an accident in the car park in June 2009 when a student was knocked down and injured by a car driven by a parent. This highlighted for the school the potential for accidents when students are walking between moving vehicles.

There have been two consultation periods. The first was October to December 2008 prior to the closure of the car park at the end of the school day in January 2009; similarly consultation occurred in June through to October 2009 before the introduction of the closure at the beginning of the day in November 2009. On both occasions at the Board meetings, the Governors considered and discussed all parental comments submitted.

The school has done its utmost to influence local politicians, county and local councillors with regard to safety outside the school gates and within the site. Governors and school staff met with representatives from Hertfordshire Highways and also the County Council on a number of occasions. On each occasion the school has argued the case for improved dropping off and pick up facilities. In turn the County Council have carried out surveys and examined the options proposed by the school.

The County Highways Authority did agree to move the speed delimiting signs on the A404 to beyond the school perimeter but they declined to reduce the speed limit to below 40 mph. Hertfordshire Highways introduced additional signage and traffic "wigwag" lights outside the school. In a separate scheme Three Rivers District Council widened the pedestrian/cycle route that leads from the back of the school to Green Street. County Highways would not acquiesce to a pedestrian crossing on the A404 for reasons of traffic flow.

The school has continued to lobby in order to improve parking on site and for a safe drop-off pick-up area outside school and our solution has been put forward to County Council officers and elected members. This solution was outlined in Home-link, October 2009 and is reiterated below.

The school's proposals are:-

- Funds to be provided to the school to create extra car parking for Sixth Form cars on site. The school car park has 136 spaces with 178 staff, so currently the accommodation of any extra cars is impossible. The school recognises bringing Sixth Form cars on site will alleviate the need for students to cross the A404 to North Hill. This will provide a safer route to school for those sixth formers who drive. The estimated cost of the extra parking is £200,000 and we wait to hear whether or not we have been successful in securing these funds.
- The school has suggested to the County Council that they extend the lay-by at Green Street so the footpath from the back of the school is used as the main school exit for those wishing to walk into Chorleywood and be dropped off or picked up by parents
- The school has also requested that the speed limit is reduced in Green Street to 30 mph and traffic "wigwags" are established either side of the proposed new lay-by to warn vehicles of children in the area.

The school has always maintained and consistently communicated to parents that Green Street is a far safer pick-up and drop-off area than the A404.

Whilst the Governors recognises individuals' right to protest and express their view, they feel strongly that the organisation and execution of the protest on 5th December was potentially very dangerous. Neither the police nor the school were informed beforehand by the organisers of the protest. It was only at the very last minute that the protest was brought to our attention, and then unwittingly so. Fortunately the school was able to react to ensure the safety of the students leaving at the end of the day.

Governors and staff do recognise and have sympathy for the strength of feeling raised by the protest, but are firmly of the view that such protest should not be directed at the school. The notion that the school has done nothing and "does not care" is inaccurate and offensive.

Governors will continue to do all within their powers to press for more parking on site together with an improved pick-up/drop-off zone in Green Street. In the meantime we exhort all parents to encourage their children to use public transport or walk to school wherever possible. If this is not possible then once again I would ask that you drop your children in a safe area and allow them to walk into school.

To reiterate from previous Home-link notices, if your child requires bulky items to be brought into school or has a mobility difficulty, then you should contact the school and we will arrange for you to come into the car park under controlled conditions. A reminder to all parents that the school car park is open to parental cars at all times other than the beginning and end of school.

The Governors wish to convey their thanks to the many parents who have understood and supported the school's rationale for closing the car park. We understand the new arrangements have, at times, been inconvenient for parents and students, but we appreciate the support you have shown the school. On our part we will continue to lobby for better car parking facilities.

The school at present has nothing further to add to this statement so we will not be entering into communication with individual parents on the matter. Should the school receive news of further car parking or traffic developments from Hertfordshire County Council we will communicate them to you immediately.

Rosemary Hadfield
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body

Josephine Valentine
Headteacher