



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2011

Headteacher's Hello

As we approach the end of term – we seem to be the last school in Hertfordshire still working – I would like to thank you for your support throughout the term.

The Carol Service last Thursday was both uplifting and a very Christmassy start to the festive season.

As I write this the Sixth Formers are busily organising and delivering “Charities Week”. There are many events such as Staff vs Students Dodgeball, Slave Auction, Gunge a Teacher and the Review to name just a few! By the time this Homelink reaches your home the school will have been subjected to a “Flashmob” by the staff. A superbly choreographed event that surprised all the students. The charities they have chosen are Stop The Traffik, DRUM and St Mungo’s.

This has been a momentous term and the Outstanding Ofsted has certainly highlighted the excellence of the education that our students receive. On your behalf I would like to thank all the teachers and support staff for their outstanding dedication to the education of all the students this term and also the Governors and Trustees who constantly strive to secure the financial security for the school’s current and future developments.

School reopens later than most other schools on Thursday 5th January at 8.40am. I wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful Christmas.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Past Student Successes

This term we have learnt of two outstanding achievements by our past students.

Rebecca Deal, last year’s Year 13 student, was given an award on 15th November 2011 in recognition of her outstanding performance in A Level Food Technology. The award was given by HRH the Princess Royal.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

150th Celebrations

This term it has been “Teddies” and “Talents” and the back page of this Homelink outlines some of the innovative schemes our students have initiated to raise money for the Talents.

The Talents will continue next term so keep thinking of ways to raise money. Next term we have more money-making schemes planned as well as the Armed Man Concert at St Clement Danes Church on 17th March 2012. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year.

We have set ourselves an ambitious goal to both create a memorable 150 celebration and raise money for our legacy project. Please support us.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Wed 21st December | Term ends, 1.15pm |
| Thu 5th January 2012 | School re-opens, 8.40am |
| Mon 9th January | A/AS exams start |
| Wed 11th January | Year 12 Parents’ Consultation Evening, 5 – 8pm |
| Tue 17th January | Year 11 Parents’ Consultation Evening, 5 – 8pm |
| Wed 18th January | Year 12 High Education Evening, 7.00pm |
| Thu 26th January | RESCHEDULED Year 9 Parents’ Consultation Evening, 5pm |

Parents’ Association BULLETIN

The final amount of money raised at the Christmas Craft Fair was **£5056.92**. All of this profit will go towards the Perform 150 fund.

Congratulations to the following parents who won the monthly subscription draw. Please contact the Parents Association if you would like to join.

Nov winner - Tim Blair **£122.01**

Dec winner - Nicola Bryden **£121.74**

Dec quarterly - Mrs V Chater **£261.66**

Xmas winner - Mr & Mrs Cronin **£446.60**

Certificates of Excellence

Well done to the following Year 7 students who have worked incredibly hard this term to achieve at least 20 merits and 4 Headteacher’s commendations for their work. Each student receives a Certificate of Excellence. They are:- **7B** - Eva Ross, Marcus Ling, Ravi Gohel. **7E** - Mia O’Connell, Katie Bryden, Issy Leaper, Maiya Radia, Jordan Bland, Finlay Pearce, Matthew Hodgart, Paul Ertl, Yusuf Ali, Chloe Patterson. **7D** - Nicholas Birth. **7L** - Joshua West.

iphone App Winner

Dr Valentine has asked me to write a short piece on the iphone app I launched in October. Over the past 18 months I have been working with developers in India to create an iphone app called ‘Parent text’. The app. provides a quick and easy way for parents to communicate safety and lifestyle messages to their children in different situations. The app. holds over 1000 messages for parents to send to their children divided into 50 different categories covering safety and lifestyle issues. For example, encouragement, inspirational, travelling safely, bullying, internet safety and many more. The idea originated from discussions with family and friends regarding the ever increasing use of mobile phones, texts and instant messaging sites. Teenagers communicate via these means regularly and easily so the app. is designed to provide an additional opportunity for communication between parents and children. The app. does not replace the verbal communication between parents and children but aims to provide a way for parents to communicate messages of safety and encouragement to their children when face to face is not an option. I really enjoyed developing this app. and look forward to the outcomes it brings. The app. is now available to download from the app store or see my website at www.parent-text.com.



Ella Walton 10D

Sports Update

Congratulations to the Year 10 rugby team who have reached round 7 which is the last 16 of the daily mail national vase. They have beaten Parmiter’s, Enfield Grammar, Orleans Park (Richmond) and Bennett Memorial Diocesan school, Kent on their way to the regional final. If we are successful, then they will represent the region in the next round.

Once again the first term has been a good one for the schools football teams. Both the Year 9 and First XI teams have gone undefeated winning their District Leagues. The Year 7 team have got stronger and stronger as the season has progressed, after finishing 3rd in their league they defeated previously undefeated district champions Queens 1-0 last week in the county cup. The year 9, 10, 11 and First XI teams have also progressed through to the next rounds of the county cup after Christmas.

The greatest achievement so far has been the outstanding performances of the Year 11 and First XI teams in the National Cup. The Year 11 team got through to the last 32 in the country, after five victories the team were narrowly defeated by Mossbourne Academy 5-4 on penalties after the match finished 1-1. However the First XI team have equalled the schools best ever run in the competition. The team are through to the last 16 in the country. Having progressed through the first 4 rounds the boys then had two brilliant victories away from home. Firstly beating Sharnbrook Upper School (Rushden) 3-0, and then last week beating Nene Park Academy (Peterborough) 2-1. Good luck to the team in the next round, the draw is to be made on January 9th.

Well done to all players that have represented the school this term and we look forward to more success next term.

Mr M Chapman

PE Faculty

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

V & A Museum

In the Summer Term the then Year 12 Textile students visited the V&A Museum to see the work of the innovative Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto. Yohji Yamamoto became internationally renowned as a fashion designer in the early eighties for designing garments that were oversized and unfinished. Central to Yohji Yamamoto's work are the textiles. 'Fabric' he said once 'is everything'.

The students were inspired by his designs and have used their ideas and sketches from the visit as part of their A2 coursework.



Yohji Yamamoto
12 March - 10 July 2011

Developing Awareness

From plastic bottles to hats. Year 8 students make hats made from polyester fleece fabric. As well as developing their practical skills they have been learning about how plastic bottles can be recycled to make fleece fabric. In class they watched an interesting video showing this process. They were then given the task of writing a letter to a fictitious neighbour who never recycles anything. Below are a selection of quotes from their letters:

"Each household produces an average of 1 tonne of rubbish a year and a quarter of that is packaging.recycling does not cost anything and is very little effort." (Ellen Jennings, 8D)

"You should recycle these bottles and cans, help the community" (Ezhan Khan, 8D)

"I have seen you so many times chuck bottles in the bin. I was hoping to encourage you to recycle" (Lewis Powell, 8D)

"Bottles can be made into other things such as fleece fabric" (Will Patterson, 8D)

"We have only one planet and it is important for future generations that they have somewhere safe and healthy to live." (Jamie Costello, 8D)

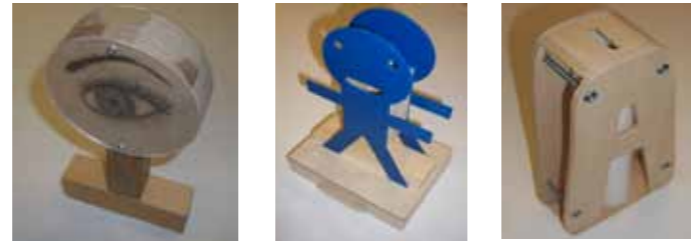
"This is all a scheme to make our world a better place" (Cameron Winchcombe, 8C)

8 Dams in their fleece fabric hats: Jamie Costello, Josh Walton, Suzanna Ling, Meg Giles



Developing Creating Skills

Year 8 pupils have been developing their designing skills by creating ideas for a novelty money collectors. By using pictures of architecture, as inspiration, they were able to design and model their ideas and then realise their designs in materials of their choice. Allowing pupils to be creative and innovative as well as being able to solve problems, during design and technology activities, is a major part of their learning and thinking skills development.



Desk Tidy Skills for Year 10

During the Autumn Term students were set a practical task of designing and making a desk tidy with a drawing, modelling and product had to be made of man-made boards and include a permanent wood joint. Through the project the students were introduced to sustainability; the working properties of different woods and boards; temporary and permanent joining methods and wood finishes. Recycled thermoplastics (acrylic) were used to enhance the appearance of the designs and to learn about combining different materials together. The students were successful in improving their workshop skills; including sawing, finishing and measuring out accurately.

the Year 10 Product Design task of designing and view to improve their workshop skills. The natural woods and



Y9 Food technology Sustainability

Sustainability is a hot topic in the Food Industry right now as we look ahead to a future of an ever increasing population but limited resources to feed them. Ways of promoting sustainability in cooking are to use organic, Fairtrade and seasonal foods but by far the most effective way of ensuring we make the most of our resources is to buy local and promote British Food. The year 9 Food Tech course challenges the students to work in teams to pitch ideas for a new British themed restaurant. They have to cook starters, main courses and puddings and then present their ideas and menus to the group at the end of the project.

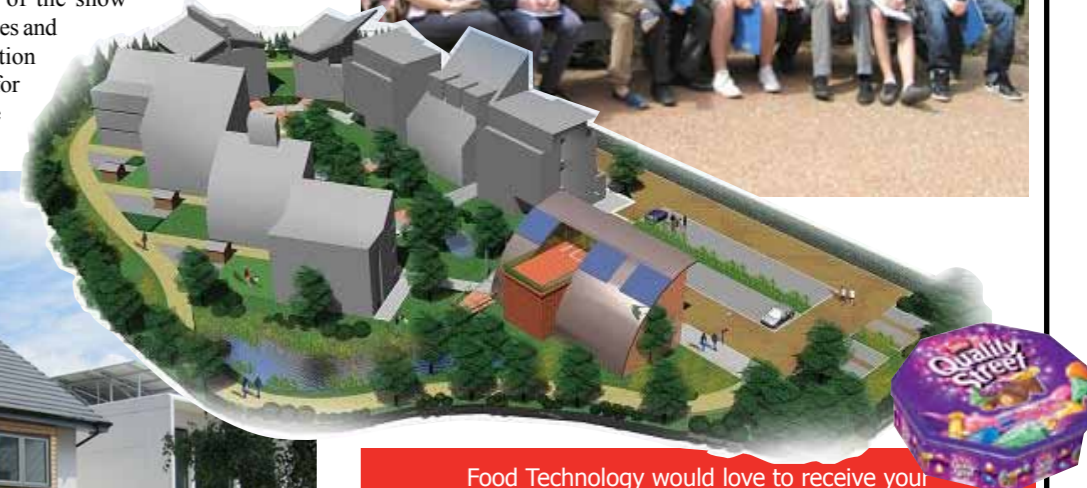


TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

BRE Innovation Park 2011

Sustainable Design in Garston!

In July, the Year 12 Product Design students visited the BRE Innovation Park in Garston. The Park features a range of sustainable homes and buildings that demonstrate innovative approaches to low impact design and construction. The students spent the day at the park and had the opportunity to look at many of the show buildings and explore current technologies and innovations. The designs and information gathered helped the students to prepare for their A2 projects based on sustainable design.



Food Technology would love to receive your post Christmas Chocolate tins, Tupperware and ice cream tubs or anything you think would be useful for students to take food home in when they forget a container.

Request for Textile Items

The Textile department would be grateful for donations any of the following:

Fabrics, Zips, Threads, Lace, trimmings or other haberdashery.



Awards from the British Nutrition Foundation

Congratulations to Rebecca Deal, one of last year's Yr. 13 students, who has been awarded the British Nutrition Foundation A level Prize for the Edexcel examining group. This award is given to the student in the UK who has achieved the highest marks in A Level Food Technology.

Rebecca and her teacher, Mrs Hawkins both received awards from HRH the Princess Royal, patron of the British Nutrition Foundation, on Tuesday 15 November, 2011. This presentation took place during the BNF Annual Day held at the Royal College of Physicians in London. The award consists of a £100 prize for Rebecca and £200 prize for the school.

Representatives from six other examining boards throughout the UK were also present to receive similar awards for GCSE achievements as well as

A level. The day was attended by many from the Food and Nutrition world: education and industry. The presentation was preceded by a lecture given by Professor Jeya Henry, Professor of Human Nutrition, Oxford Brookes University on 'How much food does man require? New insights'. The awards were followed by a formal luncheon, followed by speeches and toasts.

Rebecca, who is now studying for a Nutrition and Public Health degree at Reading University, was greatly encouraged by many of the representatives who assured her of the high level of demand for good Food graduates in the Food Industry.



The house who has raised the most money so far is Clare
£473



The most money raised by a student so far is by Amy Drage, 9E
£210

PERFORM 150

December 12th was the first date that students could bring in the profit they had made from their £10 Talents loan. So far, we've had money in from around 50 students and the net profit is

£2,491!

Well done & Thank you all. In the New Year we'll be arranging fundraising days in school for different year groups.

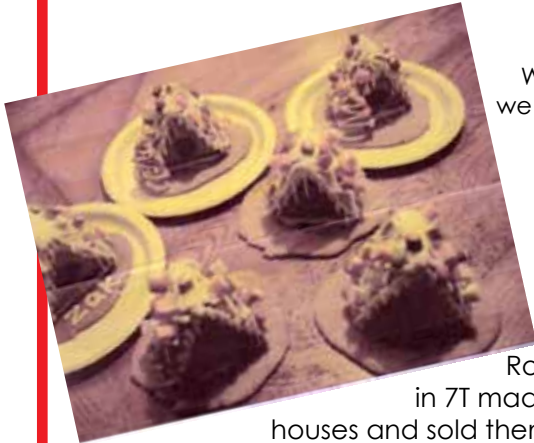
Next deadline return dates in 2012 are

Monday February 6th

Monday March 12th

Final return of money raised

Monday April 23rd



Rowan Thomas in 7T made gingerbread houses and sold them to friends and neighbours. By selling 28 small and 4 larger ones, Rowan raised £112.



Isabella Younger in 8T has set up her business called 'Bella Cushions'. Isabella and her friends are making cushions to order using recycled materials which were all donated. Her £10 was spent on the stuffing for the cushions. The photo with all her lovely cushions shows that Isabella has found her Talent!



Zoe Ramsay in 7T has sent in a photo of her with some of the smaller tennis players at the Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club that helped her raise money for The Talents.



Well done to Ben Constable in 7D who has set up his own car washing business to raise funds for Perform 150. He used his £10 to buy a bucket, sponges and car shampoo.

Don't forget The St Clement Danes teddy is on sale throughout 2012.

They make great presents!



ONLY £15

A big Thank you to Sathi Restaurant in Chorleywood who donated
£100