



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY 2011

Headteacher's Hello

As we approach the end of a very busy and unusually long half term, it is time to look back and reflect upon how much has been achieved:-

Excellent sports results; excellent GCSE mock results; outstanding offers of university places to Year 13; the distribution of over £7000 raised by the students to their nominated charities; Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Parents' Evenings; Sixth Form Opportunities Evening; work experience to Lyon; Year 8 charity events - and so much more.

It is looking like half term holiday is going to be just as busy with the ski trip to Austria; Spanish exchange and work experience to Bilbao; History trip to Berlin; Art and Drama visit to New York and the Classical Civilisation students going to Greece.

Thank you to the Parents' Association, who have kindly donated funds to the school for the purchase of outdoor seating. School Council were instrumental in choosing the outdoor furniture. We hope to install this over the Easter break so it will be in use for the summer term.

I would ask you all to consider supporting the Parents' Association at the forthcoming quiz on Saturday 19th March. There is a booking form with this Homelink.

I hope you all have a happy and restful holiday.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

11th and 12th March	Macbeth, 7pm, Barbirolli Hall
19th March	PA Quiz Evening, 7.30pm, Barbirolli Hall
23rd March	Year 9 Options Evening, 7 - 9pm
30th and 31st March	Gym and Dance Display, 7pm, Barbirolli Hall
6th April	Easter Concert, 7pm, Barbirolli Hall
7th April	End of Term, 3.40pm
Tuesday 26th April	Summer term begins, 8.40am.

ST CLEMENT DANES SCHOOL PRESENTS...



MACBETH



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MRS ROXON IN MUSIC

ADULTS: **£8.00** CONCESSIONS **£6.00**

FRIDAY 11TH & SATURDAY 12TH MARCH AT 7PM

Uniform

Could parents please note that John Lewis will be launching an online uniform service on 4 April 2011. Unfortunately two weeks prior to this date no uniform will be available to purchase from their shop in Watford.

You will still be able to purchase uniform from Beat School Uniform via their website www.beatschooluniforms.co.uk and Chorleywood Sports.

Further details regarding John Lewis's new online service will be given in the next Homelink.

Government Review of the National Curriculum

The Coalition Government are committed to a reform of the National Curriculum covering Key Stages 1 / 4. As such they are holding a review of the National Curriculum which started in January and concludes on April 14th 2011.

They are seeking the views of all stakeholders as to the merit of the present system and asking for suggestions for a reformed National Curriculum. This includes consideration of what subjects should be in the National Curriculum, appropriate subject content, suitability of subjects for each Key Stage, how student progress will be assessed, etc.

The school will make a formal response but the review seeks input from all stakeholders. If as a parent or Governor you wish to contribute please contact the link below. Please note the document is 51 pages long and does go into significant detail.

www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationid=1730&external=no&menu=1

Mr G Butler

Deputy Headteacher

Hold The Front Page!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the imminent arrival of the latest part in the St. Clement Danes media machine. As Rupert Murdoch tussles with Brussels over News International's perceived dominance of the UK broadcasting networks, staff and students at St. Clement Danes are preparing to widen the school's own sphere of media influence as they prepare for the summer publication of The Modern Dane (TMD).

TMD is to be the latest reincarnation in a long line of official school magazines that stretches back to the pre-war years and beyond. The 1930s and 40s were the heyday of The Dane whilst staff and students in more recent decades were pilloried in the pages of The New Dane. This year's phoenix was named by an appointed editorial committee of dedicated sixth-formers and trumped suggestions that evoked a variety of terrifying and titivating images from giant dogs to marauding Scandinavians. The Modern Dane it is then.

In the run-up to the school's 150th anniversary during the Olympic year of 2012, the magazine has a bright future and a big part to play. We are keen that TMD should unite the entire St. Clement Danes community and provide a showcase for all that is good about the school. With this in mind, we hope that TMD will sit comfortably alongside the regular and informative pages of Homelink and the more pupil focused, issue based Student Newsletter. The Modern Dane is for all members of the school community both past and present and we sincerely hope that it will inspire a cross-section of creative and information contributions.

We would like to thank Dr Valentine for her early enthusiasm and support for the project, the sixth-form editors for their time and commitment and Mrs Moore the reprographics guru for her wisdom and guidance. We would also be thrilled to hear from members of the school community who would like to contribute to the magazine or advertise within its pages. Publication is set for the summer term so please use the email address below to contact the teachers in charge with any ideas or requests, as soon as possible. Otherwise, forget about Mr Murdoch and watch this space!

Please email ideas or advertising queries to magazine@stclementdanes.herts.sch.uk We would also like to thank all those students who entered our Christmas competitions. We were really impressed by the number and standard of entries and are pleased to announce the following winners.

Short story: Shayaan Khan 8B, Design and logo: Marino Sakuda 8E

Mr T Tattle and Mr D Williams

Co-ordinating Editors

ENGLISH UPDATE

Our Year 10 students have been studying the new GCSE syllabuses since the end of year 9. They have risen to the significant challenges of a paced course with demanding content, and even taken the new Controlled Assessments in their stride. We have been very pleased with both their attitude and their work.

Currently those students studying English Literature have been exploring poetry from an anthology called 'Moon on the Tides'. This collection contains poems from the English, Welsh and Irish Literary Heritage alongside contemporary poems which are drawn from across cultures. As part of the preparation for this element of the course, some students have written their own poetry. We include a selection here for you to share.

Lost

by Carla Linfield 10T

I'm on the street, under the stars,
watching them drift by,
knowing I'm lost forever
in a sea of nameless faces
immising through the night.

I cry out but my words
freeze in the winter air.
I pray that she will come
and rescue me from
the crowd of ice cold statues

I ask a monumental man
"hey mister, do you know where she is?"
but there is no reply
as the metal box pulls up
to load its precious cargo

I fall onto the ground
shards of ice running down my cheek,
smashing on the floor,
never stopping, never going,
knowing I'm lost forever.

Terrified

by Josh Barr 10S

Be terrified.
As brothers, fathers, sons uncles
die in the line of duty.

Be terrified.
As the world destroys itself through
greed for the next best thing.

Be terrified.
As we destroy beautiful creatures
just to live in luxury.

Be terrified.
As we live in a cruel world
with no moral values.

Be terrified



Flight of Fantasy

by Fiona Taylor 10E

I wish I had feathers, a fine sweeping gown
A coat for all weathers, all shimmering down
I'd waltz across rivers and dance along streams
But that's only real far away in my dreams

I wish i could fly with magical wing
Gliding so high is a wondrous thing
I'd swoop across lake and rise above hill
I wish it was so, but I'm daydreaming still

I wish I had sight, so vivid and bright
To sweep across field in the dead of night
Scanning around with a full circle view
You're caught in my claws if you're daydreaming too



Rotary Speaks

The English Faculty would like to thank 15 students who participated in last year's Rotary Public Speaking competition. I was incredibly impressed by the level of interest that was shown and we were fortunate to be able to enter 5 from a possible 6 teams; a real testament to the commitment of our students. Competition was fierce and although we were well represented the teams came up against experienced sixth-form representatives in the senior competition and some very polished performers in the Intermediate category.

Although the other competitors were strong, our teams were incredibly unfortunate not to place higher as all 5 spoke with confidence, flair and originality – delivering speeches that reflected their enormous effort and enthusiasm. Although they were not recognised as official victors on the day, the judges commended all of our teams and their chosen topics. The future of public speaking at St. Clement Danes remains bright and huge thanks must go to all the students who took part for their commitment. I really hope that those who took part will remain involved and be joined by even more students next year. I would also like to thank Mrs Pickard, Mr Land, Mrs Lewis and Miss Cort for their support.

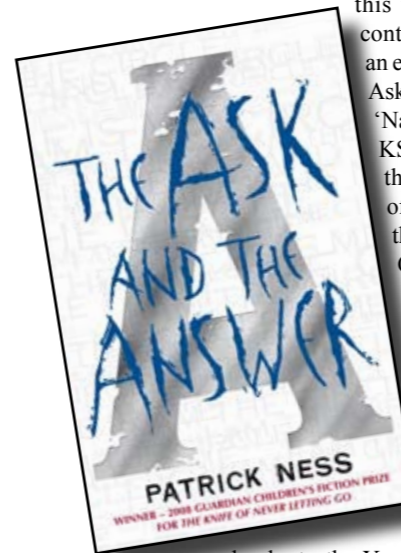
The students who took part were: Naomi Chadder, Katie Waller, Charlotte Lewis, Adam Radcliffe, Jacob Gardiner-Smith, Jake Bailey, Katherine Baxter, April Turner, Andrew Mason, Anna Manfredi, Emily Collins and Ema Nightingale. Year 10 students Conrad Bier-Allen, Rosie Dowsing and Amy Hutchins deserve special mention for placing second in the senior category. They were only beaten by a strong Year 13 team from Parmiter's who have gone on to enjoy regional success.

Mr T Tattle

ENGLISH UPDATE

Carnegie Award

Students from St Clement Danes took part in the national Carnegie Reading Project. The CILIP Carnegie Medal is awarded annually by librarians to a recently published book for young people. The theme this year uniting the eight shortlisted contenders was 'Outsiders', leading to an eclectic mixture of titles, such as 'The Ask and the Answer' by Patrick Ness and 'Nation' by Terry Pratchett. The twelve KS3 students belonging to the group thoroughly enjoyed reading a range of these texts, discussing them within the group and posting reviews on the Carnegie website.



In partnership with the Carnegie competition is the Kate Greenaway project, a shortlist of eight titles primarily aimed at children. Students belonging to the SCD Carnegie reading group travel to London to visit the SCD primary school in Covent Garden. This year they read the Kate Greenaway books to the Year 3 class and awarded prizes to the most attentive students, leaving enough time to enjoy a spot of lunch and a little sightseeing.

As always, our students were exemplary. Mr Fleck, the Year 3 teacher, wrote to congratulate them, 'It was great to have some older children reading to the younger ones, providing great role models. Your pupils were exceptionally polite and well behaved.'

And you need not just take his word for it: 'It was a really fun day and it was interesting looking around the primary school. We also enjoyed eating our lunch in Covent Garden.'

Emily Collins, 9D

Miss Cort, a new member of our English Faculty, will lead the new Carnegie group in the summer term. And all Key Stage three students are welcome. Look out for posters in the English faculty!

The final short list for the award will be published in April and then we begin reading in earnest. If you would like to view the nominations and perhaps encourage a bit of reading you can find the list at the following site: http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/pressdesk/press.php?release=pres_nom_car_2011.html

We look forward to the continued success of this project which encourages a love of independent and shared reading.

Chorleywood Lit fest

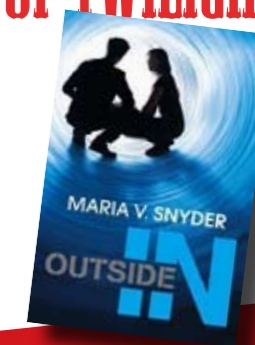
This year we were delighted that many of our students again entered the writing competition run by the annual Chorleywood LitFest. The competition's theme this year was the family with the specific topic for our age range being a short story which featured the opening sentence "The family had gathered together as usual."

The students enjoyed playing with this idea, creating a wide range of stories, some jolly, some warm and some plainly scary.

There were around 450 entries for the competition, some from as far afield as Shetland, so we were thrilled that two St Clement Danes students were successful in winning first and second prizes. The talented students were Ted Gordge 7A and Enia Phocas 7S. The competition was judged by Toby Litt, a well known author and lecturer in Creative Writing at Birkbeck College. The two winners received their prizes from Peter Snow at one of the LitFest events.



ARE YOU BORED OF TWILIGHT?



www.goodreads.com

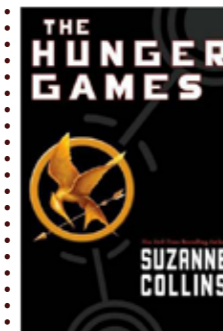
The blurb: 'Goodreads is the largest social network for readers in the world.'

A place for casual readers and bona-fide bookworms alike... members recommend books, compare what they are reading, keep track of what they've read and would like to read, form book clubs and much more.'

www.cool-reads.co.uk

The blurb: 'Books for 10 to 15-year-olds by 10 to 15-year-old reviewers...hundreds of cool reads.'

As always, we consider reading to be a fundamental factor in the academic and intellectual development of our students. We encourage students to read a wide range of texts – this can include non-fiction, sports writing, newspapers and comment columns. The LRC are currently promoting a range of new books many of which might appeal to boys in particular. Look out for the notices in English and the LRC. We are also encouraging students to read by drawing attention to websites which offer reviews of teenage fiction. We thought you might be interested in these sites too:



www.teenreads.com

The blurb: 'Teenreads.com is THE place online for teens to talk about their fave books --- and find the hippest new titles!'

There are also a number of high-quality book blogs written by teenagers and young adults.

I Was A Teenager Book Geek

(<http://iwasateenagebookgeek.blogspot.com/>) contains a number of links to other book review blogs written by teenagers and young adults.

THANK YOU from the Charities Prefects



On Monday 14th February in School Assembly, we were proud to hand over cheques to each of our six chosen charities.

Charities Week lasts for little more than 2 days and this year we raised over **£7,000** – a fantastic sum. After taking into account expenses incurred, each charity received a cheque to the value of **£1,100**.

Charities week was an awful lot of work but great fun; we were amazed at the enthusiasm from the whole school, pupils and teachers alike. We know that this event would not have been the success that it was without parents, who are undoubtedly the main source of funding. You may like to know that your money was spent on such activities as “Kidnap a Teacher”, “Gunge a Teacher”, “Slave Auction”, and the ever popular tuck shop. So - a heartfelt thanks from all of us to all of you parents who gave so generously.

We were mightily relieved that the snow held off just long enough so that we could round off the week and the autumn term with our Sixth Form Revue – surely the highlight of the St Clement Danes School year!

The charities who have benefited this year are Bowel Cancer UK, Action Aid, Cardiac Risk in the Young, Alzheimer’s Society, The Stroke Association, and last, but closest to our hearts - The Children and Young Peoples Cancer Services who have provided magnificent support for one of our own sixth formers, Ben.

Thank you once again,

The Charities Prefects: Beth, Jennie, Olivia, Veronica, James, Will and Annabelle

GCSE English Revision Studies

The English Faculty will soon begin revision sessions for the summer exams. Notices will be placed in the faculty. Please encourage your son or daughter to attend.

Year 8 Immunisations

The third dose vaccination for Year 8 girls Cervical Cancer immunisations will be on 6th April 2011.

New Books in the LRC!

We have recently added a number of new titles to both our fiction and non-fiction sections of the library. For younger readers these include the latest in the popular series of ‘The Gallagher Girls’ and ‘The Young James Bond’ along with ‘Bad Tuesdays’ - ‘an excellent page turner that positively hurtles along, brimming with menace and plot twists’ - Daily Telegraph. New books from old favourites Robert Muchamore and Gillian Cross have also been included.

For older readers titles range from the classic ‘Fahrenheit 451’ to sci-fi from Paul McAuley and the latest bestselling novels ‘Room’, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and ‘Trespass’, by Rose Tremain the bestselling author of The Road Home, winner of the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction.’

With the addition of a range of non-fiction titles from ‘How to Avoid a Wombat’s Bum’ to ‘In Search Of Schrodinger’s Cat’ there is plenty to choose from.

A full list of the new titles with reviews and suitable age ranges is available in the LRC and the English Department.

Mrs F Hirst & Mrs J Gustafsson

Librarians

Illness / Injuries

Students who feel unwell or are injured at school, should go to the Medical Room first where an assessment will take place. Should it be necessary for a student to be sent home or if further treatment is required Mrs Whiteman, Medical Administrator will call the emergency contact(s) parents have supplied to the school, in order of priority. This person will be asked to collect the child from the medical room.

Please note: Students SHOULD NOT contact their parents direct to collect them if they feel unwell. If your child contacts you directly, please contact Mrs Whiteman – Medical Administrator EXT 211.

Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers

We are once again collecting Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers in order to enhance the resources that we can provide for PE lessons and after school sport. Last year we collected 10,000 and in exchange we received new equipment in football, hockey, basketball, rugby, netball, cricket, tennis, badminton, fitness, dance and gymnastics. Please bring in the vouchers and post them in either of the boxes which are situated outside student reception and in the Learning Resources Centre. Thank You.

Mr I Birkett

Head of Physical Education

PE Congratulations

Football

Congratulations to the First XI Football team who have already reached the last 32 of the National Cup, and now have made it into the Quarter Finals of the County Cup. They played Sir John Lawes on Wednesday 16th February and won 2-0. They now have a place in the Semi-Finals of the County Cup.

Badminton

Congratulations to the U14 Girls badminton team who won the County Finals on Friday. They beat JFK and Herts and Essex School 5 – 0 in the group stage, Presdales 5 – 0 in the Semi-final and won a closer final 3 – 2 against Highfield School.

The team of Libby Jennings, Ellen Jennings, Urooj Rizvi and April Miller now will represent Hertfordshire in the Regional Finals on 4th March.

Basketball

Diana Powell in 9L has been selected to represent Hertfordshire’s Basketball team. With over 60 girls attending the County trials, it was a great achievement for Diana to make the team.

Swimming

We would like to offer our best wishes to Eleanor Dolan (11 Essex) who will be competing in the British Swimming Championships at the Manchester Aquatic Centre, starting the weekend of 5th March. She will be competing alongside British Olympic swimmers and will have a chance of being selected for the GB European Swimming Team.

Congratulations to all involved in the achievements above.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh

One of our Year 13 students, Alice Simons, has completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. She undertook this independently, under the auspices of Buckinghamshire County Council. As well as the obligatory expedition, the activities she participated in to earn this award were as varied as playing the saxophone, dancing and attending a residential engineering course. It is to Alice’s credit that she achieved this at the same time as studying for three very demanding A levels, hopefully leading to a degree course in Engineering this September. Alice will collect her award in March, at a ceremony held at St James Palace.

Work Experience. 11-15th July 2011

A reminder that the last day for the blue own placement forms to be returned is Monday 28th February.

All students choosing their placements via Webview should make their choices by Friday 18th February. Students should choose 6 placements and put them in order of preference before they submit them.

Mrs C Payne

CEIAG Coordinator

SCD QUIZ NIGHT

IN SUPPORT OF ST. CLEMENT DANES PARENTS ASSOCIATION (CHARITY NO. 272125)

Book your tables now for St. Clement Danes Quiz Night! Everyone is welcome including guests. Your Quizmaster for the evening will be Guy Allen, and you'll enjoy a light-hearted evening which will be fun for everyone! Supper will be provided, and wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale at the bar (corkage charge if supplying own drinks). All proceeds will go to St Clement Danes School via its Parents Association.

- Date:** Saturday 19th March 2011
- Time:** Bar opens at 7.30pm, quiz starts promptly at 8pm
- Venue:** The Barbirolli Hall, St. Clement Danes School
- Price:** £10 per person - limit of 8 per table
(includes supper but not drinks)

Please return the slip below together with a cheque (payable to "St. Clement Danes Parents Association") to the School Reception in an envelope marked "SCD Quiz Night". If you have any queries, please contact Scott on scott_picphotos@yahoo.com

I WISH TO BOOK TICKETS FOR THE SCD QUIZ NIGHT

NAME..... TEL. NO.....

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

PUPIL'S NAME..... FORM.....

Please write in the box how many tickets you need

Any special dietary requirements?.....

Please let us know by email if you have names of guests you wish to be seated with.
No tickets will be sent out but a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you.
By this you will know that your son or daughter actually dropped the envelope into reception,
and it's not still in their pocket!
There are a limited number of tickets, please ensure your place by booking early.