



# home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2011

## Headteacher's Hello

For students taking public examinations Study Leave has begun. Last week Year 13s and Year 11s left school to start their Study Leave. Year 12 have also started Study Leave, but will be returning after their AS exams.

We wish everyone taking GCSEs, AS and A Levels all the very best in their exams and hope they work hard during their revision period. And for those students going on to University, college, a gap year or employment, we wish them every success in the future.

This term we welcomed back Miss Emily Dunn after her maternity leave. This week we say goodbye to Mrs Ann Batho, Food Technology Technician who has been at the school for seven years. Ann has been an excellent technician and we would like to say a big thank you to her for everything she has done; she will be missed.

It has been a busy half term at school with a number of events and activities taking place. Please note events taking place in June and July. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the Art Display, the Lower School Production and the Summer Concert.

*Josephine Valentine*

*Headteacher*

## Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 7 June	Year 7 Humanities Trips
Friday 17 June	Art & Photographic Show
Sunday 26 June	Year 9 History trip to Battlefields (ends 28 June)
Tuesday 28 June	Year 11 GCSE Exams end
Thursday 30 June	Year 13 A2 Exams end Summer Concert (7pm)
Monday 4 July	Lower School Production (ends 6 July)
Tuesday 5 July	Year 12 UCAS Convention
Wednesday 6 July	Sports Day
Thursday 7 July	New Year 7 Intake Evening (7pm)
Monday 11 July	Year 7 Trip to Bude (ends 15 July) Year 10 Work Experience (ends 15 July)
Saturday 16 July	Music Tour to Italy (ends 20 July)

Details about the last week of term will be finalised after half term.

*Josephine Valentine*

*Headteacher*

## Staff Governor (Teacher)

As a result of the recent nomination and ballot for a Staff Governor vacancy, Mr. Ian Birkett (Head of Faculty for P.E.) has been duly elected as Staff Governor (Teacher) for a period of four years with effect from 24 May 2011.

A list of current members of the Governing Body can be found on the school's website.

*Mrs J Gillard*

*Clerk to the Governors*

## Academy Status Update

As you are aware from the Parentmail that was sent out on 3rd March 2011 the school is considering becoming an Academy. In this Parentmail I explained details of the differences if the school were to become an Academy and also how to make your views, as parents, known. The consultation period ended on 30th March 2011.

A final decision will not be made until the Full Board meeting of Governors and Trustees on 21st June 2011, however I wanted to update you on the process so far.

At the moment, the school is carrying out the necessary consultation process with both Staff and Union Representatives from which any queries and concerns raised by staff and any other stakeholders will be raised with the Governing Body prior to a final decision being made.

On 17th May 2011 the Governors received the Academy Order from the DfE agreeing in principle to the school becoming an Academy. The purpose of an Academy Order is to enable the school to convert to an Academy once all of the necessary legal agreements have been prepared and approved by the Governors and the DfE.

As a Voluntary Aided School, we already benefit from many of the freedoms that apply to schools converting to Academies. The staff are currently employed by the Governors and would transfer to the new Academy to be employed by the Governors on the same terms and conditions as apply at the time of transfer. As already outlined in the 3rd March Parentmail, the decision to consider moving to Academy Status for this school is predominantly a financial one. The school is keen to gain access to additional funding that would otherwise be paid to the LA at a time when schools are experiencing cuts in per pupil funding.

I will communicate with you again once a final decision has been made after the Full Board meeting on 21st June 2011.

*Josephine Valentine*

*Headteacher*

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1862  2012

150 YEARS

The Olympics aren't the only thing worth celebrating in 2012!

We have a golden opportunity for an experienced fundraiser to work with our **150th Anniversary Events Team Committee** at St Clement Danes for our 2012 celebrations

If you are up for a challenge, please contact us by Friday 17th June at [enquiries@stclementdan.es.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stclementdan.es.org.uk)

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# SCIENCE UPDATE

## STEM CHALLENGE

STEM Challenge is national competition that schools are invited to participate in. It is centred on project set by a big organisation combining the skills of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Our team comprising of myself (Yasmin), Ellie, Joseph, Kim and Ross were given the task to design a wetsuit for a tri-athlete who was paralysed from the chest down and who would be competing for England in the Paralympics Games in 2012. We had to take into account main features that would have to be adapted from a normal wetsuit because of his disability, such as the buoyancy of the legs and how to get in and out of it at speed – transitions are key to a successful tri-athlete.

Firstly our design was judged by an external panel that came to St Clement Danes and we were lucky enough to be selected to go to the National Finals held at the Excel Centre in London.

We had an early start going up to London on the train, and having arrived we started the most amazing day at the fantastic Excel Centre. We firstly were introduced to the panel that would be judging the competition and were warmly welcomed. They drew the presentation order from a hat and luckily we were drawn out to present our design 7th out of the 8 teams that had made it to the finals.

This meant that we had the morning off, and as the Big Bang Fair was on at the Excel Centre, we had the opportunity to go and see all the different exhibits that were being displayed. It was very inspiring as it really showed you the different aspects of science in everyday life (including how chocolate in structures is in fact stronger than some other more typical building materials!). After an exciting morning of seeing these different events, we went back upstairs for lunch and to practise our speech.

When we were called nerves shook and we were all incredibly anxious about what was going to come. However, the judges were all very welcoming and kind, so when we went to do our presentation it was slightly less stressful than expected. There were four judges assessing us including Jimmy Goddard himself. They seemed to like our idea and were pleased with our progress and features. After our presentation, we went back through to wait for the results. Our team were very happy with what we had achieved, and we waited anxiously. After waiting, the judges finally came back through, having decided upon the designs they liked the best. Our team were then called out second! We couldn't believe it and were congratulated by the judges and had photos with them. We then all left the building and happily went home.

We won £500 of money for science equipment for our school and a lot of pride. It was a great opportunity that I would encourage others to take part in STEM challenges too. However, we couldn't have done it without our teachers backing us up and guiding us throughout. We thank Miss Quinton, Miss Bhimani, and Mr Perkins for all the help they gave us, and Miss Buss for coming up with us on the day for support. They were a big asset to the team, so thank you!

*By Yasmin Bier-Allen*



## WHAT IS ADDITIONAL APPLIED SCIENCE?

In September four sets of students in year 11 will be selected to study Additional Applied Science. We have run this course for the past 6 years with great success with students frequently achieving grade higher than their target grades.

The course comprises of 60% coursework and 40% examination which we find suits many of our students. This teaches scientific concepts through current and relevant topics such as forensic science, sports science and food science. Here are some comment from our current year 11 students who are about to embark on their examination:

"I have really enjoyed the course especially the forensic science."

"I enjoyed the course as I found it interesting and relevant to my life. The experiments added to the enjoyment."

"I have really enjoyed the course as I prefer coursework to exams."

"What I most liked about the course were the trips we did to Didcot and Whipsnade zoo and the atmosphere in the class is very good."

"I have found the theory part very interesting and helpful."

"Applied science was helpful to me as I am not good at exams. Coursework is hard as it is very time consuming however it gives you a better chance to get a high mark. I would recommend it to students who are capable of putting time into work."

The course is interesting fun and relevant and counts towards entry to the 6th form with students able to take higher or foundation papers depending on their ability. However it does not provided the necessary building blocks for students to study pure science A-Levels.

We look forward to welcoming a new class to the Additional Applied Science course in September.



# SCIENCE UPDATE

## NEW SCIENCE GCSE COURSE FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

The GCSE science curriculum has recently been updated, and we are starting a new course in September 2011. This exciting new course has been changed to include the latest in scientific discoveries and ideas. This applies to all students going into Year 10 in September.

We are following the AQA specification, and in Year 10 we will offer Triple Science to set 1, Science A to set 2 and Science B to sets 3-4.

Aside from the updated content, the way in which the exams are structured is different, there will no longer be any multiple choice modules, all the exams will be written papers. In addition to this there will not be the opportunities for retakes that we have had previously, this is due to new exam regulations.

If you wish to buy materials to support your child at home, there is a whole range of textbooks and revision guides available from the publisher Nelson Thornes.

### Textbooks:

AQA Science: GCSE Science A	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0822-0
AQA Science: GCSE Science B	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0835-0
AQA Science: Biology (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0826-8
AQA Science: Chemistry (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0829-9
AQA Science: Physics (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0832-9

### Revision guides:

AQA Science: GCSE Science A	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0823-7
AQA Science: GCSE Science B	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0837-4
AQA Science: Biology (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0837-4
AQA Science: Chemistry (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0831-2
AQA Science: Physics (for triple)	ISBN: 978-1-4085-0834-3

If you have older children who have been at the school previously their text books are not suitable for the new course. However, if you do have any old books you would like to donate to the school, we would be very grateful to have them, as the students going into to Year 11 in September will still be following the old style course.

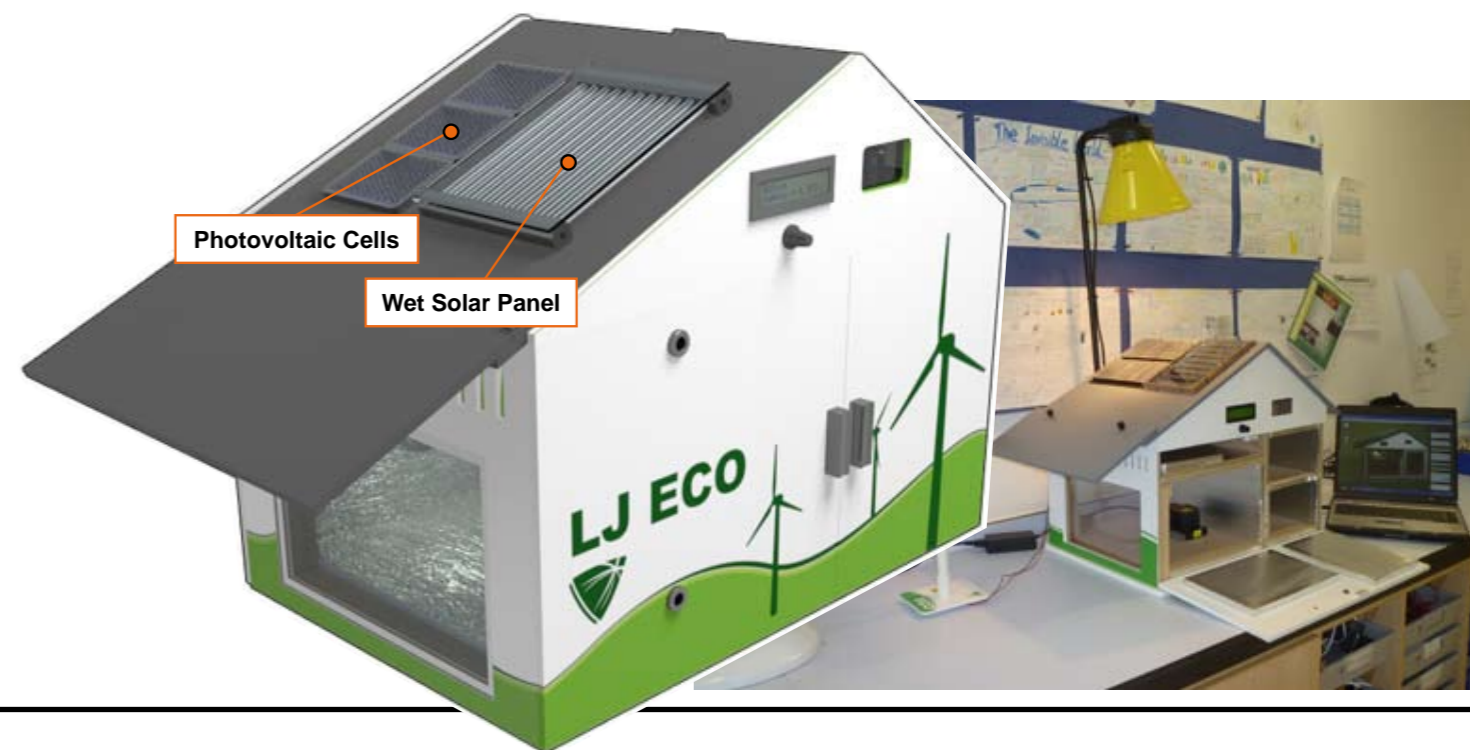


## THE ECO HOUSE

LJ Create have very kindly donated an Eco house to St Clement Danes School through the STEM club activities. The Year 9 Students have started to use it in preparation for the new GCSE in science. It has solar cells, solar panels, lighting, heating, air conditioning, double glazing, loft insulation and a wind turbine. The year 9 students have been taught

about how to save energy in the home and have become more aware of our energy crisis.

We would like to thank LJ Create for their generosity and will continue to forge links between them and our STEM club.





**ST CLEMENT DANES  
SCHOOL PRESENTS  
A LOWER SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION**

**4TH - 6TH JULY  
AT 7PM  
IN THE DRAMA HALL  
TICKETS AVAILABLE**

### Year 8 Work Shadowing

**Thursday 21st July** - The final deadline for returning the pink placement agreement form is Monday 6th June. These must be handed in to form tutors.

*Mrs C Payne*

*CEIAG Coordinator*

### Sports Update

**SWIMMING** - Congratulations to Jack Spence in 11L who won 5 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze and also 1 gold and 1 bronze open championship medals in the recent Hertfordshire County Championships.

**BOYS' ATHLETICS** - The boys in all 4 years have contributed to a very successful season so far. The year 8 Boys are currently sitting 3rd in the County League. Athletes of the season so far have been George Polley and Connor Elliott, whilst year 7 also have contributed well, particularly Tom Conway in the 1500m. The year 10 boys have qualified for the regional final of the English Schools Track & Field Cup, with Ben Jury starring. The team have made a fantastic start to the season leading the County League standings and recently beating Haberdashers Boys which is always impressive. Our captain, Michael Goddard has broken the County league record for the 800m in a time of 2m 02.1 secs. Athlete of the season so far has been Ben Jury for his performances in Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump and the Relay.

**BOYS' CRICKET** - All teams have had at least 2 games so far and performed very well so far. Year 7 have lost 2 close games with Ryan Murugupillai starring as the best batsman and bowler so far. Year 8 have won 2 out of 2 including a very close win in the County Cup v Rickmansworth. Players of the year so far being Evan King. Year 9 have won 3 out of 3, and have beaten St Colomba's in the County Cup, with one of the highest ever scores by a St Clement Danes team- 191 - 0. Rob King starred with a score of 113 not out! Their player of the year has been Callum Neal for his all round contribution. Year 10 have beaten Parmiters and Westfield with Tom Wilson player of the season so far.

**BOYS' TENNIS** - The boys have had busy first term. Year 8, 9, and 10 District teams have all played 3 games. Tom Wilson and Josh Carvey have been particularly impressive for the year 10 team. Overall 30 boys have already played Tennis for the school this year. The most promising performance so far has been by the year 8 County League team who have beaten the previously undefeated Parmiters.

A fantastic start to the year and I expect to see an increased level of participation at practices to ensure that we can maintain this level of success.

**GIRLS' ATHLETICS** - Well done to all girls who have participated so far in the athletics squads this summer term for the county league. Some outstanding individual performances combined with overall team effort and commitment has resulted in some outstanding results. Predicted standings in the county league are as follows (pending results): U14 Girls: 2nd and U16 Girls: 3rd. Finishing in the top 4 will see both teams make the county league final at the end of next month.

**GIRLS' TENNIS & ROUNDERS** - Well done to all girls who have attended lunchtime training and participated within the many matches organised so far this summer term for both tennis and rounders. Attendance and participation has been outstanding.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Libby Jennings, Ellen Jennings Urooj Rizvi and April Miller, who reached the Badminton National Finals this year. After travelling to Centre Parcs for the Finals, the girls finished 7th in the country. With 1,500 schools and 22,000 students entering the competition, this was an outstanding achievement.

*Mrs I Birkett*

*Head of Physical Education*

### Year 10 Work Experience

**11th to 15th July** - It is essential that all Year 10 students contact their Work Experience employer to arrange for a preliminary visit during May half term. Those going to schools and nurseries should arrange a visit at another time convenient for the employer.

*Mrs C Payne*

*CEIAG Coordinator*

### Art & Photography Annual Exhibition



The Art and Photography department invites you to a display of GCSE, AS and A2 level artwork. Public view will be on Friday 17th June 2011 from 5 - 9pm in the school sports hall, (accompanied with live music, and refreshments served).

*Mrs D Reid*

*Head of Art/Photography*

### Art Department Donations

Please could you donate any newspapers, shirts, sheets of wood, fabrics and textural materials such as beads, buttons, glitter, foils, string, wool, cotton threads, fabrics, old keys, old coins, nuts and bolts as these materials can all be recycled and used in our art projects. Thank you.

*Mrs D Reid*

*Head of Art/Photography*

### Magazines Donations Please

The LRC would still like to receive any donations of good quality magazines ranging in suitability from Year 7 upwards. These can include subjects ranging from music to science, sports or gossip! We would particularly appreciate BBC titles for adults and look forward to receiving any donations. Thank you.

### Revision Guides in the LRC

With the examination period in full swing and at the request of the Student Council the LRC has set up a specific revision section for the use of pupils in Years 10 and above. Both text books and revision guides are available in the majority of subjects and we hope this will be of use to all pupils in the exam period.

### Tesco Vouchers!

You have so far collected over an amazing 12000 Tesco vouchers and we are well on our way to reaching our target for an additional computer. Although the scheme has now ended we are still collecting vouchers so please search through your pockets and papers and send in any you find to help us reach our goal. Thank you again.

### Oliver Joins Frog!

Oliver is the library management system in use in the LRC and it has now been linked to the school learning platform FROG.

This means, via the FROG homepage, it is now possible for students and staff to search the enormous collection of both fiction and non-fiction titles available in the LRC. A simple search will also access an extensive range of resources including specialist websites and magazine and journal articles.

In addition, it is possible for students and staff to log into their own St Clement Danes School library account and view resources they currently have on loan, renew overdue books remotely (once!) and reserve titles for later collection from the LRC.

To access your account follow the instructions below:

- Click the Oliver icon on FROG homepage – Classroom section
- Click GO
- Click the OPAC icon on the left hand drop down menu

And now you're there!

Please contact the librarians if you require any further information.

*Mrs F Hirst & Mrs J Gustafsson*

*Librarians*