



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

JANUARY 2010

Headteacher's Hello

Apologies for the late publication of this "January" Home-link.

Parents will be aware that the school has suffered a number of power cuts – eight in fact, since Wednesday 27th January. EDF have located the fault in a cable bringing power to the school from the substation. The power cut on Wednesday 27th January, and through the day on Thursday 28th, meant that the Sixth Form Opportunities Evening had to be curtailed and school was closed on Thursday. A rearranged Sixth Form Opportunities Evening has been planned for Tuesday 9th February for 4.45pm to 6.00pm. Year 11 students have been sent a separate Parentmail outlining the arrangements for this evening.

I very much regret the school closures caused by the power cuts or snow. We have lost an unprecedented 5 school days in less than a month. I appreciate that this has caused extra work for staff and students preparing for public exams. Over the coming months we will continue to monitor the situation to ensure students are not disadvantaged in their exams this summer. I would like to thank and praise the staff, students and invigilators who ensured that the January exams ran smoothly despite the school closures.

The Emergency School Closure procedures worked well during the "snow days", however unexpected closures such as the power cuts, have proved slightly more problematic. We are currently reviewing our procedures but in the meantime I urge parents and students to ensure they have the telephone numbers and that they do 'phone all their contacts in their son's or daughter's tutor groups "emergency closure line tree".

To reiterate an earlier Parentmail, the school **will not** announce a school closure on Facebook or any other instant messaging site.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to a number of important articles in this Home-link:-

- Parent/Governor elections
- Quick and easy guide for making an application for Free School Meals
- Support Services for parents
- Home Access Grants available for families
- The outcome of an investigation into a serious incident within school

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Exam Invigilators

We are **very** grateful for our loyal group of examination invigilators who support us throughout the year during the public examination session.

We are looking for more people who could help on an occasional volunteer basis as well as some daily paid positions for this forthcoming series beginning in May.

If you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact me via the school office or email scdexams164@stclementdan.es.org.uk

Mrs D Harvey

Exams Officer

Forthcoming Events

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 3 Feb | Year 10 Parents Evening (5pm) |
| 4 Feb | Intermediate Maths Challenge |
| 10 Feb | Mid Term Concert (7pm) |
| 15 - 19 Feb | Half Term |
| 24 Feb | Year 8 Parents Evening (5pm) |
| 25 - 27 | School Musical (7pm) |
| 23 March | Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio Immunisation booster for whole of Year 10 and Year 11 catch ups |

Important School Incident

Many parents and students will be aware that there was an incident last term which led to a student permanently leaving the school. This incident related to drugs being sold and supplied in and around the school premises.

A lengthy investigation conducted by senior members of staff uncovered extremely concerning behaviour particularly with regard to one Year 11 student. This student had been selling drugs to a number of St Clement Danes students since the Summer Term (2009). Purchases were arranged in school, money handed over on at least one occasion and the drugs supplied out of school.

The school followed its standard procedure for conducting investigations and obtained advice from Hertfordshire LA and the DCSF. The school also liaised with the police regarding information received as part of the investigation.

Apart from the one student who has left the school another student received a fixed term exclusion and a number of meetings took place with other students and their parents regarding drug and alcohol-use out of school.

As you are all aware the school has very clear sanctions with regards to drugs. Expectations and information regarding sanctions are communicated in detail to both students and parents annually at Information Evenings in September and in whole school and year assemblies.

The school was concerned to discover the high number of students buying and using drugs outside school and also the number of parents who were completely unaware of their child's involvement. Some parents have requested further information and guidance on drug and alcohol use and the school is in the process of organising sessions in school to cover this.

This event has caused great sadness, but any organisation with responsibility for so many young people will have to deal with such incidents. It is a mark of the exemplary behaviour of the vast majority of the young people at St Clement Danes that we have to do so rarely. We are at pains not only to communicate our position on drug-use and the sanctions that will be imposed if any are broken, but to educate our students to make informed judgements so that they are absolutely clear of the serious impact taking drugs has, both short-term and long-term.

It is key to us as a school that our expectations are clearly stated, our investigations are thorough and that the health, safety and well being of all students are of paramount importance.

I am sorry that I have to communicate an incident of this nature to you at this time, however I believe it is important to be open and share concerns over such a significant incident.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

CEIAG

Year 8

Work Shadowing – 20 July 2010. All students have been issued with a pack of information about this work-related activity. The deadline for returning the purple parental consent form is 29 January.

Year 9

All Year 9 students have been given a copy of "Which Way Now" It is also available online at www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow

Year 10

Work Experience – 12-16 July 2010 - Please note that the deadline for the return of the blue own placement form is 22 February.

Mrs C Payne

CEIAG co-ordinator

Parent Governor Election

ST CLEMENT DANES SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNORS

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. ROSEMARY HADFIELD



January 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

VACANCY FOR A PARENT GOVERNOR

During February the Clerk/Returning Officer will issue, via Parentmail, the official notification and procedure for the election of a new Parent Governor.

I would like to add my personal request for you to consider joining the Governing Body, especially if you are able to offer and be proactive in the areas of training, marketing or fundraising. The Governing Body has agreed that each Governor focus on a certain area. However if you have a different area of expertise please do not let this deter you from applying.

As a Parent Governor you will be required to attend a Full Board meeting at least once a term and a specific Committee meeting once a term, both meetings commencing in the early afternoon (usually Tuesdays). There will be documents to read and consider before the meetings.

Additionally, you will be expected to undertake induction training and training on other issues as the need arises. You may be required to join a specific working group or small Committee or be a member of an Appeal Committee.

The Governing Body comprises 18 members (Foundation, Parent, Staff and LEA Governors) and an Associate Member, all volunteers, who operate as a corporate body and provide valuable support to the school. You should be willing to be involved in expanding your knowledge of the school.

We are a friendly group from a variety of professions and you will be warmly welcomed should you decide to be nominated and are subsequently elected.

The Clerk will look forward to receiving your nominations following issue of the forms and procedure.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Rosemary Hadfield
Chair of Governors

CHENIES ROAD, CHORLEYWOOD, HERTS WD3 6EW TEL: 01923 284169 (VOICEMAIL 408) FAX: 01923 284828
EMAIL: GOVERNORS@STCLEMENDANES.HERTS.SCH.UK CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS: MRS. J. GILLARD

Governor Members

Dear Parent/Carer

As a result of recent elections and appointments to the Governing Body, I list below the current members, from which you will note there is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please see the letter above from Mrs. Rosemary Hadfield, Chair of Governors, about what is involved in being a member of the Governing Body and giving further details of the vacancy.

I shall be writing to parents in February concerning the election of the new Parent Governor, please look out for this initial information which will be issued via ParentMail.

Mrs. J Gillard

Clerk to the Governors

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Mr. M. J. Austen
Mr. M. A. Brasier
Mr. M. G. Bruce (Parent)
Mr. W. R. C. Carey MBE
Mrs. G. R. Collison
Mr. P. H. W. Corbett
Mr. S. J. Godbold (Parent)
Mrs. R. E. Hadfield
Mr. M. G. Jordan
Mrs. K. M. Unger (Parent)

STAFF GOVERNORS

Mr. A. J. Bilton (Teaching Staff)
Mrs. D. L. Firth (All Staff)
Mr. D. L. Heward (Support Staff)
Dr. J. A. Valentine (Headteacher)

LEA GOVERNOR

Mrs. R. Hatfield (Parent)

ASSOCIATE GOVERNOR

Mr. R. J. Masters

PARENT GOVERNORS

Mrs. T. L. Dowsing
Mr. R. S. Milburn
Vacancy (pending election Spring Term 2010)

Support For Parents

The School has a Parent Support Worker, Tania Dean, who visits the school once a month on a Wednesday morning, from 9.00 – 11.00. No appointment is necessary just go to Student Reception. Tania can also be contacted by telephone: 07531 787732 or by e-mail: Tdean@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk

Extended Telephone Support

Hertfordshire is offering a new free telephone support service for parents and carers available through Parentline Plus in addition to their free 24hr helpline (0808 800 222). This is a DCSF funded project.

This service offers parents and carers the opportunity to have up to six 45 minute sessions, to talk to a trained support worker over the phone to discuss ways to overcome any parental concerns. These could include a child having sleep problems, violent behaviour or involvement in alcohol or drugs. The support is free and the calls are confidential.

81% of parents said their situation has improved as a result of using this extended telephone service and 95% of parents would recommend the service to other parents. Parents and carers can refer themselves to the service, by contacting the 24hr helpline. For more information please see www.hertsdirect.org/parents under Extended Telephone Support.

Mrs J Pullen

Deputy Head

Home Access Grant

The Home Access Grant is a £300m government programme to enable more families nationally to use computers and the internet at home for learning. From 13 January 2010 grants will become available specifically targeted at families on low incomes. The grant will enable parents/carers to choose a computer and internet package designed to support learning at home. Parents and carers will become aware of the scheme through a national advertising campaign organised by Capita. The precise eligibility criteria can be found on the schools briefing sheet provided on the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning. For more information about the grant visit: www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/elearning/divide/index.shtml

If you have any further enquiries please email james.dent@hertscc.gov.uk

Scalextric Racing - Saturday 6 March

In the Legion Hall, Rickmansworth in aid of the Poppy Appeal. Pit Stop Promotions are going to offer an exciting Scalextric type racing experience for the above event. Everybody, any age from 6 to 106 enjoy their events, this is NOT just for the boys!

They custom build all their circuits, building 2, 4, 6 or 8-lane circuits up to 200ft long. There will be 6, one-hour racing sessions. 8 Teams of 2 (or 3) will pay £30 for an hour's use of the circuit which will begin with a track safety instruction, warm-up laps then straight into the endurance race – which will be a timed finish. Awards to the winners, second and third team places (and the fastest individual lap time). Race start times will be 11.00, 12.15, 13.45, 15.00, 16.15, 17.30 hrs.

All proceeds from the paying teams' fees go to The Poppy Appeal. Please contact Paul Harding on 07877 805111 (email: paul-harding@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve a place or to find out more.

Maths Challenge

Congratulations to three Year 11 students, David Hirst, Thomas Unger and Philip Corden who entered the National Cipher Challenge 2009, run annually by the University of Southampton School of Mathematics. They achieved a commendable 76th place out of the 1,500 teams taking part.

Mrs S Savin

Head of Mathematics

Product Design Feedback

On 25 January the Year 5 class from the Russell School came to the Design & Technology department to test and evaluate the chairs that the Year 12 Product Design students had made in the autumn term.

Their teacher Mrs Melhuish said "Thank you very much for our visit this morning. The class really enjoyed it - there was a real buzz in the classroom this afternoon. Please thank your Year 12 group who were great!" The year 12 students gained valuable feedback from the primary school students about their designs.

Mr E Charlwood

Technology Faculty

Is your Child Entitled to Free School Meals?

Free School Meals

Are you missing out?

If you receive benefits, your child could be tucking into a tasty free school meal. The way families apply for free school meals in Hertfordshire has changed, making it faster and easier to apply than ever before.

Our aim...

There are 173,000 pupils in Hertfordshire schools and 12,000 of these could get free school meals; however only 10,000 children do.

Why apply?

- School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal
- Research shows that a school dinner can help concentration levels
- Menus are changed often and can be viewed online at: www.hertsdirect.org/catering
- Local produce is used if possible

Did you know that , in most cases, you now don't need to give a paper proof of benefit* when applying for free school meals?

Hertfordshire County Council can check if your child can get free school meals by checking your:

- name
- date of birth
- national insurance number or national asylum seekers service number

The above details must be for the person receiving the qualifying benefit.

Don't miss out, apply now!

For more information

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/interactive or call us on 0300 123 4048

* in a small number of cases we may need to ask you to provide paper proof of benefit

**From 1 May 2009, if you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment stops, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your child would also be eligible for free school meals for this four-week period only.

The new system means that:

- You don't have to show a paper proof of benefit
- You don't have to re-apply for free school meals every year
- Your child will get their free school meals sooner because the process is faster
- Your information is confidential

Can my child get free school meals?

You must receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that, as of 6 April 2009, does not exceed £16,040.**
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit

You must also:

- Have a child between the ages of 3 and 19 in full time education at a state school
- Be resident in and pay your council tax to a Hertfordshire borough

St Clement Danes School presents

Les Misérables

School Edition

Performed entirely by students

February 25th - 27th 2010

7.00pm (5.00pm on 27th) Tickets £10

Barbirolli Hall, Chorleywood

Email: enquiries@stclementdanes.herts.sch.uk for further information and ticket sales

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG Based on the novel by VICTOR HUGO
Music by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER
Original French text by ALAIN BOUBLIL and JEAN-MARC NATEL
Additional Material by JAMES FENTON Orchestrations by JOHN CAMERON

Original London production directed and adapted by TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD
Original London production by CAMERON MACKINTOSH and THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
School Edition specially adapted and licensed by JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED on behalf of
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL and CAMERON MACKINTOSH (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

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, with the proceeds going to St Clement Danes School via its Parents Association.

- Date:** Saturday 20th March 2010
- 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.