



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

NOVEMBER 2009

Headteacher's Hello

Although I am writing this before the Commemoration Service on Friday 27th November, I am sure both the London and school events will be as uplifting as always. The school singing has been tremendous and the choir and orchestra preparations have been first rate.

In this month's Home-link the two main articles (centre pages) relate to School Council and Anchor Fund. I do urge you to read them to find out how involved the students are in current school projects and planning for more in the future. In addition staff and students are so grateful to families who contribute to the school's Anchor Fund. The article outlines how the money generously donated is making a real difference to the education of your sons and daughters now.

If you would like to contribute then please contact Mrs Heaps the Finance Manager on 01923 283236 (direct line) or email heapsp050@stclementdanesherts.sch.uk. It is so simple to do.

Congratulations to the talented students in Art and English. The supplementary sheet with this Home-link outlines their successes. Yet again students from St Clement Danes won most of the prizes in the Taylor Woodrow Art Competition. This is a competition for students from all the secondary schools in South West Hertfordshire. In Years 7 and 8 St Clement Danes' students swept the board and gained 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in both year groups.

The 'Rotary Speaks' public speaking competition took place earlier this month at the Royal Masonic School. Yet again St Clement Danes students were outstanding, beating all other local secondary schools to win both the junior and senior competitions.

This week the school will be sending out Questionnaires to all parents. You may recall we did this three years ago and your responses provide us with valuable feedback on which to base our future planning.

We welcome a new member of staff to the MFL faculty, Mr Williams, who will start on Tuesday 1st December.

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 30th November. I wish all students an enjoyable extended weekend.

A reminder to Year 11 that Mocks begin next Tuesday!

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

30 November	Occasional Day Holiday
1 – 11 December	Year 11 GCSE Mocks
3 December	Year 13 Parents Evening – 5pm
4 December	Engineering Diploma Open Day (2 – 4pm and 5 – 8pm at the school)
6 December	Craft Fair – Barbirolli Hall, 11am to 4pm
8 December	Parents' Association Meeting – 8pm
10 December	Year 7 Pantomime trip
10 December	Year 9 Parents' Evening – 5pm
14 and 15 December	GCSE Art Mock Exam
11 – 19 December	Year 12 Spanish work experience
16 December	School Christmas Lunch
16 December	Carol Service – 7pm
16 – 18 December	School Charity Events
18 December	School finishes at 1.15pm
4 January 2010	School re-opens – 8.40am

Parental Questionnaire

All parents will have received questionnaires through their child by the end of this week. Could all completed questionnaires be returned to the school by Tuesday 8th December at the latest. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mrs J Pullen

Deputy Headteacher

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch this year will be on Wednesday 16th December 2009 and will consist of a main course, dessert, drink and a Christmas cracker as per the menu below. There will be no other lunch service on that day so children who do not wish to receive the traditional Christmas meal will need to bring in a packed lunch or make alternative arrangements.

The cost will be £4.00 and tickets go on sale in the Dining Room during morning and lunch break from Tuesday 8th December. Children who receive a free school meal will need to pay £2 towards the cost of Christmas lunch and should buy a ticket in the usual way.

David Heward

Premises Manager



Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 16th December 2009

Roast Turkey with Chipolata Sausage & Bacon, Stuffing,
Cranberry Sauce & Roast Gravy

or

Lentil Bake with a Spicy Tomato Sauce
Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips, Brussel Sprouts, Baton Carrots
Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Custard or Cream

or

Chocolate Ice-Cream Yule Log

or

Fresh Strawberry Mousse served with Festive Shortbread

Fruit Cup Drink of Fruit Juice

Year 8 Work Shadowing

Many thanks to the following students who took part in an excellent assembly about their Work Shadowing day.

Lotta Gustafsson 9B, George Ahern 9B, Debbie Wood 9T, James Price 9D and Abi Stone 9C

Mrs C Payne

CEIAG Co-ordinator

Exams in 2010

Individual Timetables for those students doing public exams in January 2010 will be issued within school by 4 December.

Please contact the exams office before 17 December if you have any queries about the timetables. Dates for your diaries:

The summer 2010 exams finish on 30 June (A2) and 28 June (GCSE)
A2 and AS results day -Thursday 19 August 2010
GCSE results day - Tuesday 24 August 2010

Mrs D Harvey

Exams Officer

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2009/2010

School Council

School Council is currently going from strength to strength. In the last year it has grown in numbers and there are now 41 elected members.

School Council provides a 'voice' for students and it is now involved in key decision making and forward planning.

Examples of previous initiatives:

- Changes made to the canteen
- Healthy Eating Competition
- 'Do The Right Thing' campaign
- Review of school policies, e.g. Anti-Bullying
- Eco-schools project
- Induction leaflet for new Year 7s

With increased numbers and a passion to get things done, School Council now comprises of a number of focus groups which meet regularly covering a range of projects. For 2009-2010 the groups are:

FOCUS GROUP	AREAS COVERED	LEADERS
Antibullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness • Providing support 	Joe Bubb/ Carys Wheeler
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling/respect for surroundings • Eco Schools 	Jon Tucker/ Seb Leaper
Marketing/ Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Newsletter • Posters/Raising Awareness 	Laura Whibley
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with SCD Primary School • Links with local and wider community 	Tom Hewitt
Teaching & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in curriculum matters • Feedback on initiatives 	Lucy Rillstone/ Suzie Rennie
Year 7 Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 issues/induction • Production of leaflet for new yr 7s 	Misha Battle
'Hot Topics'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'One-off' or urgent discussions • Equality issues/School Policies 	Lucy Rillstone/ Suzie Rennie

Members of School Council 2009-2010



David Grant and Misha Battle
Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl
Joint Chairs of School Council 2009-2010

Year Representatives:

YEAR 13



Joe Bubb 13FIT - June 2010
Tom Hewitt 13MAC - June 2010
Suzie Rennie 13BUR - June 2010
Lucy Rillstone 13FIR - June 2010



John Tucker 13MAC - June 2010
Carys Wheeler 13PLU - June 2010
Laura Whibley 13FIT - June 2010

YEAR 12



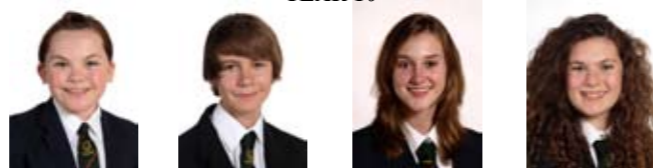
Jack Freeman 12TUR - June 2011
Seb Leaper 12MAR - June 2011
Kirsty West 12MAR - June 2011

YEAR 11



Rhys Evans Temple - June 2010
Rhys Paulon Essex - June 2010
Alice Hounsom Essex - June 2011
Lauren Post Clement - June 2011

YEAR 10



Emily Sissons Clare - June 2010
Charlie Benson Essex - June 2011
Emily Clode Clement - June 2011
Rachel Day Exeter - June 2011



Rebecca Wood Burleigh - June 2011

Student Newsletter

The first edition of a brand new Student Newsletter will be published in early December. It will be a 'Homelink' for students, led, designed and organised by students!



YEAR 9



Emily Dainton Clement - June 2010
Abigail Stone Clement - June 2010
Lawrence Michalowski Clare - June 2010
Luke Rogers Clare - June 2011

YEAR 8



Katherine Baxter Clement - June 2010
Rachel Mann Exeter - June 2010
Alistair Ryall Clare - June 2010
Kai Wiggins Essex - June 2010



Tom Aisthorpe Temple - June 2011
Thomas Gawne Exeter - June 2011
Anna Manfredi Clare - June 2011

New Year 7 Members

Congratulations to the nine Year 7 students who have recently been appointed to School Council following interviews held two 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 will meet them all in the December 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.

ANCHOR FUND

The Anchor Fund gives all parents an opportunity to contribute directly and effectively to the education of their children. Some of you may express surprise that an apparently well off school should be making such an appeal. You see our wonderful facilities, and these are all hallmarks of a successful and forward-looking school, which we are. However, this development has only been possible through the generosity of the Holborn Estate Charity, the founding fathers of St Clement Danes School. Their donations over the years have been magnificent and the Barbirolli Hall, the Astroturf, Multimedia facilities, the Language Block and Learning Resource Centre have all benefited from their patronage.

Through the generosity of parents and friends of the school, the Anchor Fund has been able to fund curriculum departments to provide much needed resources in the form of books and equipment, which has directly benefited all the students in the school.

All donations, large and small, are always appreciated by the school. The Anchor Fund has provided equipment that has benefited students throughout the school. Here are some examples:

Learning Resources	52 chairs
History	AS books
Geography	World Map /Textbooks
Duke of Edinburgh	Tents, stoves, rucksacks
Food technology	Gardening- Fencing raised beds/Equipment
Music	12 keyboards
PE	Digital video camera/Basketball kit
English	7 PCs
Learning Support	2 PCs
BITEV	12 Laptops and storage
Technology	Sewing machine
Science	Digital Microscope
School	Play Area Project
Barbirolli Hall	Sound and Light
Dining Room	TV
Art	Computers
English	A level texts

We do invest a considerable sum in providing your child with the best of a variety of materials. It may surprise you to know that text books alone for GCSE Science cost £40 for each student and that in the course of KS3 English your child will have individual access to books which cost in the region of £200. It is for this reason that we have established The Anchor Fund. This fund has charitable status. The Anchor Fund is specifically used by the teaching staff to assist us in providing, in an everyday sense, the best possible education and resources for your children. Its focus is to provide additional teaching resources, classroom equipment, information technology software and books.

The Anchor Fund gives all parents an opportunity to contribute directly and effectively to the education of their children. We ask each family from the school to support us. By this means we hope to ensure that our high standards are maintained and that each child develops to their potential,



benefiting fully from their time at school. The Anchor Fund does make a difference to each individual student as they progress through their time at St Clement Danes School. In response to individual departmental requests, The Anchor Fund has made termly donations within the school every term since the end of the Autumn Term 2000. Owing to the generosity of so many families we have substantially enhanced the curriculum. Last year, for instance we were able to distribute £35,000 for interactive whiteboards throughout the school faculties. This had a significant impact on the teaching of every child.

In order to obtain the maximum benefit from The Anchor Fund we must receive the support of as many parents as possible. This Fund can only function in the long term if there is considerable and ongoing parental contribution. As a new parent to the school, or indeed if you are an existing parent with a new child starting at the school, you have an important role to play.

The school would like you to donate as much as you feel able to afford. Ideally this should be at least £15 per month. A number of parents are able to donate a larger amount than this each month. Please just give what you can as any contribution is of value to the fund, whether it is £5 or £50 per month.

Finally, here in school we make no apology for having to ask for financial help from parents. This is a fantastic school which has been enhanced substantially through donations of those associated with St Clement Danes, past and present. You have invested time and effort in choosing St Clement Danes carefully. You have considered its educational standards, its nurturing environment, its strong belief in the development of young people, its academic, musical and sporting achievements. You have chosen to trust us with the privilege of educating your child to the best of our ability. We want to honour your trust and deliver the best we possibly can.

Please ring the Finance Manager on 01923 283236 if you would like to contribute to the fund, and further enhance the facilities that we continually endeavour to improve for our students.



TAYLOR WOODROW (VINCI CONSTRUCTION) ART COMPETITION

The Taylor Woodrow (Vinci Construction) Art competition was held last week at Queen's School. Out of all the schools that entered, St Clement Danes School performed extremely well and won the following awards:

Year 7 category = Bethan Jones 1st, Ian Bessant 2nd, Ben Layzell 3rd.

Year 8 category = Rosie Dowsing 1st, Katie Waller 2nd, Annie Mitchell 3rd, Naomi Hutchinson and Sian Tillott were Highly Commended.

Year 9 category = Lotta Gustafsson 1st.

Year 10-12 category combined = Eleanor Dolan 2nd and Tom Love Highly Commended. All the remaining 30 students won £10.00 for entering.

A huge congratulations to the Art teaching staff and to the students who entered. Well done to you all.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art



Year 7 Bethan Jones - 1st Prize



Year 10 Eleanor Dolan - 2nd Prize



Year 8 Rosie Dowsing - 1st Prize



Year 9 Lotta Gustafsson - 1st Prize

ENGLISH WINNERS



Friday the 20th November was a busy day for the St. Clement Danes trophy cabinet as two new members were added to the already swelling ranks. On the 18th and 19th November, junior and senior teams were crowned District Public Speaking Champions having achieved victory in the Rotary Public Speaking Competition held in the Mark Hall at the Masonic School for Girls.

In the junior category our Year 9 team comprising Sol Gelsomino, James Nicholas and Jess Stone excelled, securing victory with their very humorous take on discrimination, entitled 'Breaking the Mould'. Oliver Simons, Paul Dix and Phoebe Tonge were also highly commended for their presentation on the merits of eternal life, entitled 'From Here to Eternity'.

These impressive performances had set the bar high for our senior competitors on Thursday and it was with some trepidation that we once again processed to the Mark Hall. However, any concern amongst staff supporters soon gave way to sheer interest as we were treated to yet another outstanding evening of public speaking. Following an unprecedented period of head scratching and some dubious 'x-factor' style attempts at a dramatic pause, it was announced that our Year 13 team of Laura Whibley, David Grant and Ryan Kirwan had achieved first place with their critique of contemporary gender roles entitled



'Rules Men Wish Women Knew'.

Furthermore, our Year 11 team of Claire Mallet, Maddy Taylor and Sarah Mallett also performed incredibly well and were commended for their presentation on 'Life in the Fast Lane'. It was an outstanding week for both all the students who took part and for the school. I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those who competed and to Mrs Powell and Mrs Pickard for their continued assistance and support.

Mr T Tattle

English Faculty

Success at Chorleywood Literary Festival

Students from St Clement Danes were again highly successful in the Chorleywood Literary Festival Writing Competition. This year entrants were required to write a mini saga of 200 words. The discipline of this genre requires that the students must craft their piece carefully whilst also engaging the reader with a lively and exciting story. First prize was won by Lotta Gustafsson 9B, while Charlotte Deal 9D won second. The two girls were presented with their prizes by Max Arthur, a well known and celebrated historian. Further runners up who were commended for their pieces were Francesca Nash 9A, Hannah Whippey 7A, Harry Tamplin 8D and Rachel Mann 8E.

Mrs A Pickard

Head of English

Engineering Diploma Open Evening

Year 11 Engineering Diploma Open Evening 5-8pm, December 4th 2009. Undecided on what to do next? Why not enrol for the Diploma in Engineering at St. Clement Danes in collaboration with West Herts. College.

This is a one year, Post 16, full time course. You will develop your Personal, Learning and Thinking skills which will give you a head start if you are looking to progress onto college, university or work. You will be able to give presentations with confidence, understand how engineering plays a significant part in our every day lives and be fully engaged during 10 days of work experience. On completion of the higher diploma, you could be given the opportunity to continue onto level 3 or begin AS courses here at school. You will need, three GCSE A*-C including a grade C in Maths and/or English.

Come to our open evening on December 4th and see for yourself what we have to offer.

Mr M Clarke

Engineering Faculty

Oliver - Library Management System

A generous donation by the Parents' Association has enabled the Learning Resource Centre to purchase Oliver, a web-based library management system. The system went live at the end of October. The librarians are currently using Oliver to manage resource loans and returns, automatically catalogue new titles, monitor overdue books, manage reservations and help students locate, for example, subject-specific resources, titles by particular authors, or specific genres of material such as poetry or biographies.

We will shortly be embarking on the second phase of the implementation, which will allow students to access their own St Clement Danes School library account via the school's website from any internet-enabled computer, anywhere. Students will be able to view resources they currently have on loan, renew overdue books remotely (once!) and reserve titles for later collection from the LRC. The system will also automatically advise students when, for example, a book needs to be returned, or to let them know that previously reserved resources are available for collection. Students will also be able to email the librarians via Oliver, access specialist reading lists and websites provided by the each of the school's faculties, search a huge range of websites and resources both within the LRC and on the wider internet, and reserve resources directly.

As soon as this service is available, students will be given a presentation of Oliver to ensure that they have a sound understanding of the system's operations and facilities. Parents will also be notified that Oliver is at that point available to students.

Mrs S Boniface & Mrs F Hirst

Librarians

Italian Exchange Trip to Rome

Last month a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students studying Italian took part in the third Exchange Trip between St Clement Danes and Liceo Democrito School in Rome. Students had the opportunity to visit the main attractions of Rome and practise their Italian whilst living with an Italian family. They had first hand experience of learning in an Italian school by shadowing their partners for the day, and in the evenings they stayed with their families to gain an insight into Italian customs and cuisine. During the week, Miss Jacobs and I took the students to visit the Spanish Steps, The Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, The Coliseum, where the film 'Gladiator' was set, and The Ancient Forum, from where all the Caesars and Emperors ruled Rome.

At the end of the week we visited the Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel. Before admiring Michelangelo's famous 'Creation' on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, we saw the Piazza San Pietro and admired St Peter's Basilica. From the 9th -16th November, the Italian partners came over to St Clement Danes to complete the second half of the exchange. After a welcome party in the LRC, the students shadowed their partners in school for a day. This included taking part in a Volleyball match, then spent the rest of their time visiting the London sights including The Tower of London and Buckingham Palace.

It was an incredible and positive experience shared by all and most of the students who took part will stay in touch by email and hope to visit each other again this summer.

Ms L Fontanella & Miss S Jacobs

MFL Faculty

PA Christmas Craft & Gift Fair

Sunday 6th December 11am – 4pm

This year's Christmas Craft & Gift Fair is fast approaching, and promises to be the best yet. More than seventy independent sellers will be offering a huge selection of gifts and crafts, sure to appeal everyone.

Look out, too, for stalls run by the Parents Association, including our famous Grand Draw, with a first prize of 4 top tickets to Grease the musical at the Piccadilly Theatre, London.

Prize Draw - Your book of Prize Draw tickets will be coming home via your child soon. The Grand Draw is a key element in ensuring a successful fair, so do please remind your child to bring their book of tickets home! Then sell the tickets to family or friends and, of course, buy some yourself. Additional books of tickets are available on request.

Help needed - As you'll appreciate, putting on a successful Fair requires a small army of volunteers. If you would like to help in any way, or have any questions about helping out, please contact Shona Rackham at shonarackham@hotmail.com

Donations - We would welcome donations of all kinds for either our adult or children's tombolas, including bottles of all kinds from bubble bath to brandy, and for our second hand uniform stall. Donations may be left at Student reception.

We would also be very grateful for donations of home made cakes of all kinds for our Cake Stall. Please bring these along on the day.

If you would like any further information about any of the above, please contact Suzie Boniface on 07881 952161 or at suzie.boniface@btopenworld.com or bonifaces096@stclementdanesherts.sch.uk

Thank you very much for your support.

Youth Connexions

Youth Connexions Hertfordshire have produced a range of leaflets offering useful information and advice to students in Year 11. They are:

- Making Decisions about the Future
- Continue in Learning – Further Education
- Employment in Hertfordshire
- e2e: Entry to Employment
- Higher Education

The leaflets are available in the LRC, or in PDF format at www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org (Go to Resources, then Printed Publications).

Mrs S Boniface

Librarian

Donations for Art

The Art department will soon be running a paper making course and would like donations of the following please: egg boxes, kitchen towel, magazines, sugar paper, newsprint, corrugated card, blenders. We are also looking for donations of picture frames for the A level photography students to frame their photographs in. If you have any neutral styled frames that are perspex or glass with wooden, metal or clip frame edges we would very appreciate them. We are intending to display artwork on mannequins and are looking for any donations of these please, preferably with heads. Thank you for your support to the Art department.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art

Subscription Draw Update

November 2009 (for October's draw). The winner of October's monthly draw is one Mr Keith Smithson! He wins the princely sum of £109.50.

The balance as reported at the last meeting was £6,965.61. Taking Keith's winnings into account, however, leaves a balance of £6,856.11.

Learning Support

Congratulations to Mrs Dale who has become a Higher Level Teaching Assistant this month. Julie is the second member of the Learning Support Department to achieve this status.

Mrs I Howe

Head of SENCO

Do you have a child with special educational needs or a disability?

A project is underway to develop our special educational provision. The focus is on creating high quality, cost effective services in special and mainstream schools that enable children to have their needs met as locally as possible.

We are carrying out a pre-consultation, to give parents the opportunity to be involved in this project now. If your child has special educational needs or a disability of any level, we would like you to give us your views and tell us what you think should be included in the formal consultation next year.

What would make a difference to you?

You can give us your views by completing an **online questionnaire** at www.hertsdirect.org/specialneeds or registering for one of the **workshops**. These have been arranged at a range of venues and times to offer flexibility and choice over which one is most convenient to attend.

Date	Venue	Time
Tuesday 24 November	Colne Room, Watersmeet Theatre High Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1EH	6.30 - 9pm
Monday 30 November	Jim McDonald Centre McDonald Ct, High View, Hatfield, AL10 8HR	6.30 -9pm
Tuesday 1 December	Beaufort Suite, Broxbourne Civic Offices Bishops' College, Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ	6.30 - 9pm
Wednesday 2 December	Plinston Hall Broadway, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3NX	9.30am - 12.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	Pearse House Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5BQ	9.30am - 12.30pm

Please reserve your place by calling our Customer Service Centre on **01438 737350**

Developing Special Provision Locally

More information is available on the website.

www.hertsdirect.org/specialneeds

