



home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

APRIL 2009

Headteacher's Hello

It has been another very busy and successful term. Students have worked very hard, particularly those in Key Stage 4 and 5 who are taking public examinations and who have been busy completing and submitting coursework assignments.

There have been many sporting successes which are reported later. A particular mention should be made of the trampolinists who performed superbly at the national finals in Birmingham a few weeks ago. Our teams all gained top places in the country and Oliver Smith is now ranked as the under 15s British National Trampoline Champion. We were able to see these students perform again at the excellent Gym and Dance Display which took place last week.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Harding, Matron, who has been with us for 8 years. She has supported many students in the school and has provided outstanding medical provision in addition to carrying out various other tasks and we would all like to thank her for her contribution and wish her well in her new job. Mrs Williams is leaving to focus on her other teaching and Mrs Ingleby is embarking on maternity leave.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

20 April	School reopens for Summer Term Year 10 School Exams Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
27 April	GCSE MFL Oral Exams
29 April	A2 History Exam
2 May	Year 11 Prom
4 May	Bank Holiday
8 May	Year 12 Study Leave Begins
12 May	Year 11 Study Leave Begins
15 May	Year 13 Study Leave Begins Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Lunch
22 May	Homelink
25 May	HALF TERM
15 June	Year 12 Return from Study Leave

Summer Exams 2009

All Year 10 and 11 timetables were posted out last week for the summer exams. Timetables for Years 12 and 13 have been distributed in school this week. Please ensure that students keep them safely and read and adhere to the regulations enclosed with them.

Our parent invigilators do a marvellous job for us during exams and their help is much appreciated by the school. If you could volunteer to help us out during the summer exams I would be delighted to hear from you. It would involve a short training session and CRB check and then you volunteer for as much or as little as you wish - usually a couple of hours or a morning or afternoon on one or more days to suit you. Please contact me in the Exams Office by telephone or on scdexams164@stclementdanesherts.sch.uk if you are interested or would like more information before volunteering. Training sessions for invigilators will be held on Monday 20th April at 7pm and Thursday 23rd April at 2pm. You only need to attend one session.

Mrs D Harvey

Exams Officer

Uniform

At the beginning of next term students may return to school in Summer uniform (polo shirt purchased from John Lewis).

With this edition of Homelink there is a John Lewis order form for these shirts. Please note that this form should be returned to John Lewis, not the school.

Please also note that there is currently a delay with the boys' polo shirts which are not yet in stock. John Lewis is not expecting the boys' shirts to arrive in their store until mid May. This is due to a problem with the supplier for which they have apologised. As a school we have expressed our concern about this delay to John Lewis. It has been decided therefore that boys will have the option of wearing a plain white polo shirt until the regulation shirts arrive in John Lewis.

There may be several students who need to return in Winter uniform at the beginning of next term. These students' parents will be contacted by letter.

Mrs J Pullen

Deputy Head

Stationery to Purchase in the LRC

A wide range of stationery, as detailed below, is available to purchase in the LRC at extremely competitive prices. We accept cash or cheques, which should be made payable to St Clement Danes School.

Scientific calculator (as required by Maths Department)	£4.89
Fineliner - blue, black or red	40p
Pencil	3p
Data stick (2Gb)	£3.30
Compass	21p
Set square	9p
30cm ruler	12p
15cm ruler	7p
Glue stick	33p
Project folder	20p
Colouring pencils (x24)	£1.26
Felt pens (x30)	95p
Highlighter - ass. colours	40p
Biro - blue or black	6p
Eraser	7p
Protractor	6p
Sharpener - small	15p
Sharpener - large	40p
Scissors	25p
Pencil Case	75p
Subject dividers	40p
Ring binder	75p

Mrs S Boniface & Mrs F Hirst

Librarians

Student Catering Cards

From the start of the new term we will be increasing the standard limit on Student catering cards from £3.50 to £4.00 per day, which is the first increase since cashless catering was introduced in school in 2004.

All parents can ask for a lower limit if you would like to restrict the amount of money your child can spend in any one day to less than £4 please let me know either by email hewardd179@stclementdanesherts.sch.uk or by leaving a telephone message for me at school.

Mr D Heward

Premises Manager

Art Department Requests

The art students are on the eve of their creative exams and specific materials are needed. If anyone can donate any of the following it would be greatly appreciated - two old caravans, envelopes from posted letters - franked with the stamps still on them and a metal garage door. To help with paper making we need a blender and a paper shredder. Could we also request all the foil from any easter eggs be brought in. Thank you.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art

CREATIVE ARTS UPDATE

Battle of the Bands 2009

For years the Battle of the Bands competition has proved to be a highlight for fans of blues, rock and heavy metal music within St Clement Danes school. I have taken part in the competition since I was in year 10 and I have observed the event go from strength to strength every year.

This year I was given the privilege of organising the event with the help of one of the music prefects Elsie Woollard. After numerous conversations regarding sound equipment, guitars, amplifiers, keyboards, microphones etc (and the occasional meeting with the bands who would be playing on the night) the 6th of March was very suddenly upon us.

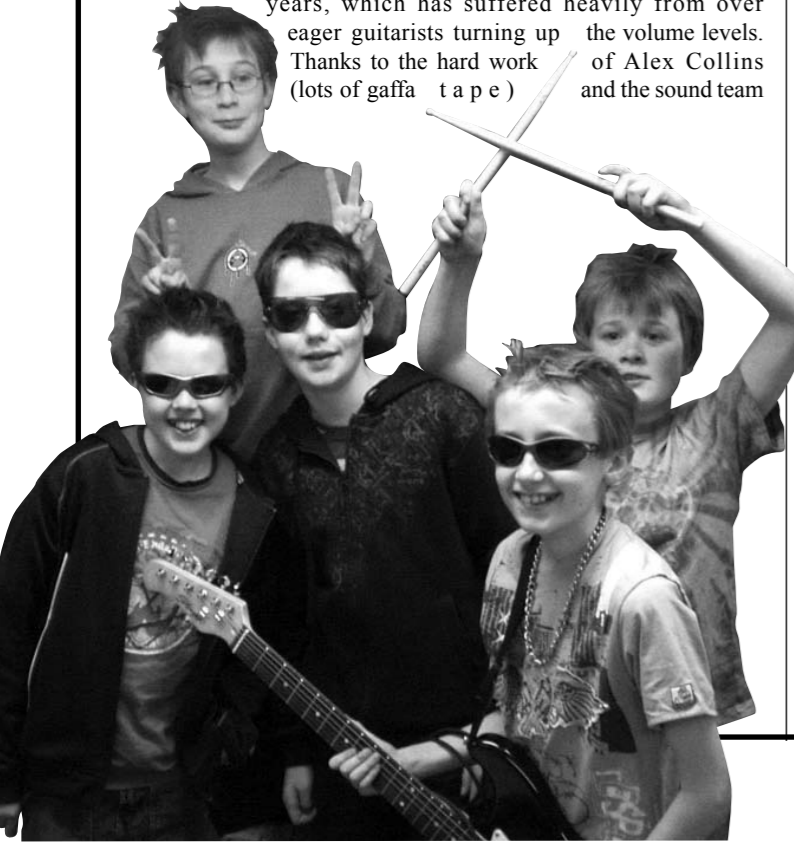
The doors were opened and the crowd was allowed into the hall, our selection of junior bands this year was particularly exciting because of several reasons, the first being that we had a band that featured a Violin! The Outsiders (year 8) delivered a very enthusiastic rendition of 'Everybody Dance Now', which went down extremely well with their fans in the crowd.

Other highlights of the junior half included the winning band 'Tayza', enthusiastically taking to the stage with the Queen hit 'Now I'm Here'.

Within what seemed like a matter of seconds we launched into the senior half of the evening. As usual we had a wide variety of genres in the competition, the most reserved of these being the very elegantly named 'Cool Cats' who launched into their set by playing a mixture of their own material and an excellent rendition of Jimi Hendrix's 'Purple Haze'. We then moved onto the previous junior category winners 'The Vybes' who played a mixture of pop and rock music with songs by Muse and the Kings of Leon. Another band that I feel deserves a mention is a group called 'The Nines' who played a wonderfully unique set of songs written by themselves and The Jam's 'Going Underground', a clear indicator that British Punk most definitely lives on in St Clement Danes. The last band of the evening was one that I was taking part in, named 'Michelle and the Fitness Consigliari's'. We played three songs including Aerosmith's 'Walk This Way' and Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Somehow we also managed integrate a section of the Dr Who theme tune into our first song which was dedicated to Laura Whibley in Year 12.

A very important point that must be made about the competition this year is the superiority of the sound quality compared to previous years, which has suffered heavily from over

eager guitarists turning up the volume levels. Thanks to the hard work of Alex Collins (lots of gaffa tape) and the sound team



the event was carried out with the highest degree of professionalism and the final result was extremely satisfying.

Congratulations go to the winners: Tayza, The Cools Cats and The Vybes who each won 3 hours of recording time in a professional local studio, many thanks to Three Rivers District Council in association with Hertsmere Leisure for donating these outstanding prizes.

Finally I'd like to just say that Battle of the Bands has proved to be a highlight for me every year since I was in year 10. I have greatly enjoyed being a part of this amazing event and I hope that other people will continue to enjoy it as much as I have for many years to come.

Thomas Isherwood

Year 13

ABRSM Music Exams

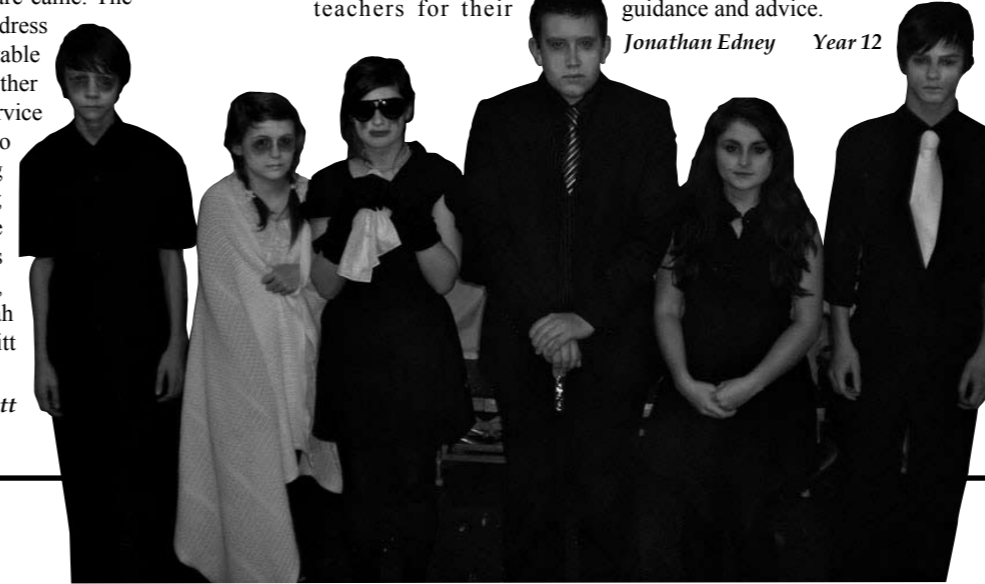
On the 9th & 10th February over thirty students were entered for Associated Board music exams on a wide variety of instruments from Grade 1 to 8. The exams were a huge success with all students passing, eight gaining Merits and three achieving a Distinction. While a list of all students achieving music exams is always printed in the September Speech Day ceremony there are a few who deserve a special mention:

- Lotta Gustafsson** (8 Burleigh) Double Bass- Grade 5 Distinction
- Alasdair Armstrong** (9 Burleigh) Guitar- Grade 3 Distinction
- Sebastian Leaper** (11 Temple) Singing- Grade 5 Distinction
- Rebecca Hawkins** (Year 13) Flute- Grade 8 Merit

Creative Ensemble Performances

On Friday 27th March, the Creative Ensemble performed at a County wide concert at the Maltings Arts Theatre alongside other ensembles in Hertfordshire. The two pieces that we played were composed by the pupils and were performed from memory. Our first piece ('G-Swing') was upbeat with some stunning solos from every member of the group. The starting point for the groups' inspiration was a pentatonic (5 note) scale, which the ensemble built upon until it formed a whole piece. Our second piece was born after a strange conversation about our nightmares. It was from this chat about 50ft killer chickens and scary clowns that the idea of creating a piece based that represented a nightmare came. The pupils all performed fantastically in their chosen concert dress - black and neon! The whole concert was hugely enjoyable and it was wonderful to be able to perform alongside other schools to members of the Hertfordshire County Music Service and parents in a professional arts theatre. Many thanks to Liz Drabble - our workshop leader - for her efforts in tying together all the groups ideas. The Creative Ensemble is; Naomi Chadder (flute), Henry Sugden (clarinet), Catherine Simons (bass clarinet), James Nicholas (violin), Lewis Bingley (electric guitar), Leo Rickayzen (electric guitar), Oliver Simons (electric guitar), Dylan Prout (piano), Hannah Chambers (piano), Faye Dysch (drums) and Miss Corbitt (clarinet & flute).

Miss E Corbitt



CREATIVE ARTS UPDATE

Six Characters in Search of an Author

Our initial reaction to the announcement of this year's whole school production was one of surprise, primarily because it was a play and not a musical. After seeing the recent London production, we were curious as to how we would stage this strange play by Luigi Pirandello.

The play begins in a theatre, where a director is rehearsing a production of Pirandello's "Rules Of The Game". However, the rehearsal is interrupted by the entrance of six strange people, who are looking for an author to tell their story. They recite their history to the company and eventually, the director agrees to create a play from their story. However, the Characters find the actors' portrayal of themselves far removed from the "genuine article" and wish to perform it as they are. By the end of the play, the director and his actors are left questioning reality and their own existence by the events that have taken place...



The script is heavily dialogue orientated, which meant that the learning of lines was more challenging than usual, and the fact that the whole cast is on stage for the whole performance also proved challenging throughout the rehearsal period. However, the cast were outstanding at remaining committed during the long rehearsals and the final performance benefited from the contributions of the background actors.

The main parts (especially the Six Characters) had to make their "characters" stand out from the ensemble and all nine students who played the Characters over the two performances used their acting skill to bring their parts to life. This was the second school production to use understudies for the main parts, and this proved to be fortuitous, as one of the leads was ill for both performances!

The performances were further enhanced by the addition of sound effects and lighting, organised professionally and efficiently by students from the school. The Drama Hall was packed on both nights and the audience were overwhelmed by the bizarre nature of the play and the professional attitude of the students towards an extremely challenging play. Thank you to Miss Kane for being our Director and all the Drama teachers for their guidance and advice.

Jonathan Edney Year 12



Drama Trip to New York

When Drama students were offered the chance to visit New York, we all seized the fantastic opportunity. With world-famous Broadway shows dominating the Manhattan buzz, the trip certainly didn't disappoint. We started with our flight from Heathrow to JFK with the iconic red air hostesses from Virgin Atlantic, who didn't create as much hysteria as shown in the adverts. No sooner were we on land than we were greeted by the New York skyline, as we travelled across the Queensboro bridge to our accommodation.

We started with a trip to Times Square, absorbing the Manhattan nightlife, and going to the Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant, which in my opinion was the best of all we visited. The annoyingly wacky waitresses seemed to add to the excitement of being in the city that never sleeps, as we had a prime view of Times Square from our table. The next day we had a 3 1/2 hour walking trip spanning from Grand Central Station, to Central park and then Macys, where shopping dominated the afternoon. We then walked back to the hostel, passing the huge white marquees of the New York fashion week parties. We were then soon whisked up the top of the Empire State Building, with a stunning view of glowing Manhattan at night.

The next morning we had an early start as we got used to the local surroundings and headed to the Snapple Studios for our theatre workshop. We learnt audition techniques from a Broadway actress, learning how her career developed and tips on how to impress critics, casting directors and producers. We had a chance to explore Times Square and witness a some snow before returning to our hostel and heading for Planet Hollywood. The evening finished with a hit Broadway performance of Shrek the musical, ending our last night.

On our last day we took to the Manhattan subway from Grand Central Station to go and see the Statue of Liberty. We managed to see the statue as well as some street performers, before taking to 5th avenue for a final afternoon of souvenir buying. Overall it was a great trip, packed with the buzz of Manhattan. Thank you to Miss Kane for organising the trip, Mr Marks and Miss Dixon for accompanying us.

Jack Rooke

Year 11



PA Summer & Christmas Fairs

The Parents Association Summer Fair is due to take place on Sunday 28th June. Among the many attractions and activities on offer will be around 30 craft and gift stalls. The Christmas Fair, which this year will be held on Sunday 6th December, will feature over seventy five stalls selling a huge array of goods. We are currently taking bookings for stalls at the Summer Fair, and will shortly begin booking for the Christmas Fair. If you are interested in reserving a craft or gift stall at either of these events, please contact Suzie Boniface at suzie.boniface@bopenworld.com or telephone 07881 952161.

We will also be selling second-hand uniform at both Fairs. Should you wish to donate used items of school uniform (in reasonable condition!) please contact Julie Dickins at JDickins@mayerbrown.com

Higher Education, Careers & Gap Year Fair

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2009 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Berkhamsted School

Castle Campus, Castle Street, Berkhamsted HP4 2BB

Berkhamsted School extends a warm invitation to students, parents and indeed anyone making important decisions about the future to its Higher Education, Careers and Gap Year Fair. There will be around 100 exhibitors from universities, colleges, professions and gap year organizations offering information and advice.

If you would like further information, please telephone Berkhamsted School Sixth Form Office on 01442 358252.

Mrs C Payne

Head of Lifelong Learning

Rugby News Update

On Friday 13th March 2009 St Clement Danes entered 2 teams in the HSBC Hertfordshire County Rugby Finals at Old Albanians.

Year 8 played in a very tough group and came fourth. Player of the tournament was Jack Clements.

Year 7 won all matches and are now County Champions and go through to the regional finals on March 26th. Player of the tournament was Harry Tamplin.

On Tuesday 24th March 2009 St Clement Danes entered the National Schools tournament at Rosslyn Park for the second year. We played in a extremely competitive group and showed some moments of real class beating Reading 28-17 in round 2. However, the standard of rugby was very high and we struggled against more established teams including St Peter's, York who were eventual semi-finalists. The team spirit shown throughout was excellent.

Year 7 WON the District Final 34- 0 v Watford Boys and are District Champions.

Year 8 came third, Year 9 and Year 10 finished joint fifth in their respective leagues.

Particular congratulations should go to all the boys who were representing their school for the first time.

Mr E Charlwood

Rugby Coach



Year 7 Hertfordshire Emerging Schools County Champions

Information, Advice and Guidance

All students in Year 9 have been given a copy of the booklet 'Which Way Now?' It can also be accessed on the internet at www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow.

Top national websites which young people may find useful.....

www.connexions-direct.com includes information about....

Careers - Learning - Health - Free Time - Relationships - Work Money - HousingTravel - Your Rights

www.bbc.co.uk/switch/surgery/advice includes information about....

Friends - Family & Home - Body & Mind - School & Studying - Bullying - Work & Future - Drink & Drugs - Sex & Relationships

www.direct.gov.uk (Young People section) includes information about....

Travel - Learning - Crime & Justice - Health & Relationships - Money - Leisure - Work & Careers - Young Disabled People

Mrs C Payne

Head of Lifelong Learning

Insight and Headstart Programmes

Price Waterhouse Coopers are offering Year 13 students an opportunity to find out more about the firm and the work it does through a series of INSIGHT Days. To attend, you should be expecting a UCAS tariff of 280 points in three A levels or equivalent. INSIGHT Days will be held throughout April at the following locations:

Gatwick	3rd April
Uxbridge	7th April
Norwich	9th April
St Albans	9th April
Southampton	16th April
Reading	16th April

Registration in advance is essential. For further information and to register online go to www.pwc.com/uk/eng/careers/

The company's HEADstart programme offers students a real alternative to university through working as part of their Assurance or Tax teams and training towards professional qualifications. Again, full details are available on the company's careers website.

Mrs C Payne

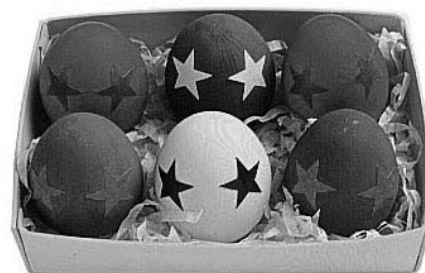
Head of Lifelong Learning

British National Trampoline Champion

Congratulations go to the trampolinists who performed superbly at the national finals in Birmingham a few weeks ago. A special congratulatory goes to 14 year old Oliver Smith who won the national under 15s trampoline title and is now British National Trampoline Champion.



*On behalf of St Clement Danes School,
we wish you a healthy, happy Easter break*



SPORTING BURSARY RECIPIENTS 2009

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded a Sporting Bursary in recognition of their outstanding level of performance as well as their contribution to school sport. The scheme established by the Trustees of the Schools Charitable Foundation to support outstanding sports students within the school. We received a greater number of applicants this year, reflecting the wealth of sporting talent in this school.



Nicola Burlingham 8B
Swimming

Nicola has competed at a National and International level representing Middlesex and is classed as one of the most talented backstroke swimmers in the U.K. She will also represent Division 10 in the National Schools Finals.



George Fenton 11B
Football

George has become a key member of the Hertfordshire FA U16 team this year, and has represented Borehamwood F.C., a semi-professional club at U18 level. His dedication to school sport is unrivalled.



Phillipa Lowe 12PLU
Cross-Country, Athletics

Phillipa is in the top 65 for 300 m and 800m in the country in her age group and is also 16th at the new 400m distance. She has also represented the school at the National Cross-Country Finals, as one of the best runners in Hertfordshire. Her commitment to school sport has been fantastic.



Amy Goddard 7T
Gymnastics

Amy competes at a National level as part of the Southern Region Squad on all pieces of apparatus. She is on the verge of competing for the British Espoir Squad. Amy has also competed for the school at the National Trampolining Championships.



Michael Goddard 8C
Cross-Country, Athletics and Football

Michael is a key member of the Wycombe Wanderers Centre of Excellence team. He recently came 7th in the National Cross-Country Championships, televised on Sky and is also ranked as the best 800 and 1500m runner in the Country, gaining a place in the UK All Time Top 10. He also broke District and County records in his first Athletics season for St Clement Danes.



Callum Neal 7C
Cross-Country, Cricket, Rugby, Football

Callum is a very talented all round sportsman, who has excelled in all sports since joining the school. He finished in the top 20 at the Hertfordshire Cross-Country Championships. He has also a member of the South Herts Cricket team. His contribution to school sport has been outstanding this year.



Simon O'Brien 10A
Rugby Union

Simon is a key member and captain of the Buckinghamshire County U15 Rugby Team and has recently been selected for the Wasps Academy. He will represent them at the National Academies U15 Tournament in May.



Nik Spears 10B
Swimming

Nik is one of the best swimmers in the South East Region at 50m, 100m and 200m Freestyle. He is currently working towards the National Championships in Sheffield in July. He is also one of the best 200m runners in Hertfordshire.



Eleanor Dolan 9S
Swimming, Cross-Country, Fencing

Eleanor is an outstanding sportswoman who is the best u13 girl in the South East Region and chosen to represent Division 10 in the National Schools Swimming Championships. She is also one of the best Cross-country runners in Hertfordshire in her age group as well being Herts County U14 Girls Foil Champion for Fencing.



Jessica Stone 8D
Tennis

Jessica is the best tennis player in Hertfordshire at U12 level, and is the Eastern Region Champion. She is ranked in the top 40 girls players at 12 & under in the UK. She represents school at a number of other sports and shows excellent commitment to these teams.



Craig Weston 13HAN
Cricket, Football

Craig has been a very talented sportsman all the way through St Clement Danes school and has made a great contribution to our success. He is now a member of both the Hertfordshire County Cricket and Football teams. He is now part of the Herts Senior Development Squad, where he will allow him to become the youngest member of the Senior squad.

ST CLEMENT DANES

SUMMER POLO TOP ORDER FORM

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER BELOW AND
RETURN THE FORM TO JOHN LEWIS IN WATFORD**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POST CODE _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR UNIFORM

JOHN LEWIS ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

CREDIT CARD DETAILS (SWITCH, DELTA, CONNECT, VISA, M/CARD)

CARD NUMBER _____

ISSUE NUMBER (SWITCH ONLY) _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

POLO TOPS REQUIRED

PRICE

QUANTITY

BOYS 11/12 YRS	£6.50	_____
BOYS 13 YRS	£6.50	_____
BOYS 14/15 YRS	£10.00	_____
BOYS SMALL	£10.00	_____
BOYS MEDIUM	£10.00	_____
GIRLS 30"	£13.00	_____
GIRLS 32"	£13.00	_____
GIRLS 34"	£13.00	_____
GIRLS 36"	£13.00	_____
GIRLS 38"	£15.50	_____
GIRLS 40"	£15.50	_____
GIRLS 42"	£16.50	_____
GIRLS 44"	£16.50	_____