



# home-link

N E W S L E T T E R

NOVEMBER 2008

## Headteacher's Hello

You will receive this Homelink prior to the Commemoration Services in London and Chorleywood. If the rehearsals are anything to go by the services should be a tremendous celebration of the unique community spirit and ethos of our school. Events such as this take a phenomenal amount of organisation and hard work to ensure they run smoothly. I am indebted to the commitment of colleagues within the Music Department, SLT and Admin Support.

The coming month will be a very busy one for school events and I urge you to consult your calendars for details of forthcoming events.

However, below are a few highlights.

*Josephine Valentine*

*Headteacher*

## Forthcoming Events

<b>Monday 1 December</b>	Occasional Day – Holiday
<b>2-12 December</b>	Year 11 Mock Examinations
<b>Wednesday 3 December</b>	Year 13 Parents' Evening 5-8 pm
<b>Tuesday 9 December</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening 5-8 pm
<b>Wednesday 10 December</b>	Year 12 Parents' Evening (postponed until 13 January 2009)
<b>Wednesday 17 December</b>	School Carol Service School Christmas Lunch Carol Service 7.30 pm Barbirolli Hall
<b>17-19 December</b>	Sixth Form Charity Events
<b>Friday 19 December</b>	December Homelink School closes for Christmas at 1.15 pm
<b>Monday 5 January</b>	School re-opens 8.40 am – <b>Please note that this is no longer a training day</b>

## Sixth Form Charities

**17 – 19 December 2008 Sixth Form Charities Event this year supports Eagle Wings, The local MS Society and Cystic Fibrosis.**

There will be numerous fund raising activities during the last three days of term and students are asked to bring in their donations to ensure the event is a success.

**Friday 19 December is a non-uniform day.** Students are requested to bring in £1 to give towards the Sixth Form charities.

## Car Park

Following the announcement in the September Homelink regarding the Governors' decision to close the car park at the end of the school day, I have received parent comments regarding the proposals.

These will be presented to Governors at their next Board meeting on Tuesday 2 December and following their decision a letter via Parentmail will communicate the outcome to all parents.

*Josephine Valentine*

*Headteacher*

## Student Reception

Student Reception is closed to all students and parents between 11.00 and 1.00 each day. If students need to see Matron she is still available at these times. Please can parents avoid bringing in forgotten items to students during the day.

## Support for Parents

Tania Dean, who is a parent support worker will be in school on the first Wednesday of every month from 9.00 to 11.00, starting on Wednesday 3rd December. Tania is working for the Extended Schools' consortium, of which this school is part of. She is able to provide confidential 1:1 sessions with parents to give information and support, put them in touch with local support groups and assist with places on parenting courses. She is also able to provide general support and advice on a range of issues including communicating with your child, managing challenging behaviour, bullying, smoking, drugs, alcohol issues and internet safety.

Initially Tania will operate a 'drop in' service so if you would like to see her, please arrive at Student Reception. Depending on take up she may implement an appointment system. If you would like any further information about this please contact me at school.

*Mrs J Pullen*

*Deputy Head*

## Year 11 Mocks

Mock GCSE exams are taking place from 2nd to 12th December. A separate letter has been sent out to all parents and students with details of the arrangements. Please note that students only attend school for their exams and should be studying at home at all other times. All students have been provided with a card explaining that they are on Study Leave and taking Mock exams. This may be needed on any journeys to or from school if they are stopped by the police who are monitoring students in this area who are out of school, as happened last year. It is advisable, therefore, for students to carry this card at all times, during the Study Leave period. Please also note that students are to wear full school uniform for all their exams.

*Mrs J Wheatley*

*Assistant Key Stage 4 Pastoral Leader*

## Medication in School

Can I remind all parents/carers that the school can only supervise prescribed medication. Non-prescription drugs (including "over the counter" painkillers) will not be kept in school and under no circumstances can students carry any medicines with them around school, the only exceptions being asthma inhalers and EpiPens. Please contact Mrs Harding, Medical Administrator, if your child requires any medication in school.

Thank you.

*Mrs F Harding*

*Medical Administrator*

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR  
2008**

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER  
11.00AM - 4.00PM**

Fantastic shopping, tempting food and drink  
and the chance to win some superb prizes!

Not only will you be enjoying a great day out,  
you will also be helping to raise valuable additional  
funds for the school and students.

## Maths at Work

Recently Year 7 took part in a project to find out how Mathematics features in their parents' careers or every day life. The students asked their parents which type of maths they use most and what the consequences would be of making errors in their calculations. The findings were shared in lessons and it was very encouraging for students to see how the maths they learn in classroom can be applied in real life. Perhaps they will think twice before asking the age-old question "When am I going to use this?"

Here are some of the best responses which fit well into being reproduced in Homelink. Unfortunately there wasn't enough room to do them all justice, they were all brilliant.


Well done Year 7!

The work on this spread was contributed by:

Rob King, April Turner, Yusuf Kenawy, Rebecca Reynolds, Cameron Murray, Dillon Chamberlin, Kai Wiggins, Ian Bessant, Joanne Blackwell, Ross Bailey and Katie Williams.

Even though my mum is a full time housewife, she still uses maths in her every day life!

My mum is a brilliant navigator and whenever my dad goes somewhere she will work out the route he will take and how long it will take him. Mum uses addition and subtraction for this and will sum up how many miles it will take to get there.



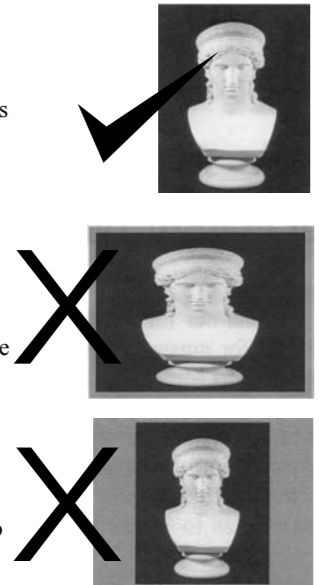
My mum was making a cake once using a recipe for a large sponge cake, as she wanted a smaller cake she divided the ingredients by three quarters. Unfortunately, mum did not accurately work out the baking powder and didn't use enough - the cake was very flat! This shows how maths can go wrong if you're not careful!



My dad works as a computer programmer that specialises in databases for museums. These museums use our software to catalogue their objects as well as storing images.

Images on a computer are made up of thousands of dots called pixels. The screen dad uses is 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high - the museums often use higher so they can zoom into fine details. Dad has to resize the images on screen.

If he doesn't do this correctly in proportion of the image then it ends up getting distorted, he needs to find the 'aspect ratio' of an image - then uses maths to calculate this so it always ends up looking correct.




A relative of mine called Amanda sets up the payroll. She uses maths to calculate each employee's monthly salary. If someone joins halfway through a month, Amanda has to calculate how much to pay them.

Mr Cash joined the company on September 15th on a salary of £28,000 per year. Amanda makes the following calculation:

$$\frac{£28,000}{262} \times (12 \text{ (number of working days)} \div 12 \text{ (number of days worked in September)}) = £1281.44$$



Thereafter a monthly salary of £28,000 / 12 = £2333.33

If Amanda makes a mistake in her calculations, staff could be underpaid or overpaid.




## How my mum uses Maths!

- She gets everyone up on time
- Calculates how much further the car can go before refuelling
- Estimating how long jobs will take
- Making sure we have enough money to buy food and essentials
- Searching bank interest rate for the best mortgage deal
- Measuring and weighing ingredients for cooking
- Measuring trouser lengths

My aunt is a marine biologist working in Australia on a global deep sea project. She uses remote ocean vehicles the size of a small car to descend to the bottom of the ocean to investigate marine life and pollution effects.

My aunt uses maths to analyse the data collected from experiments, she needs statistical techniques and various mathematical formulae to work out her results. Some of these maths formulae are very complicated!





My mum's job as a paramedic involves providing pre-hospital health care and transport for sick and injured people.

An important part of mums job is the administration of drugs. For adults this is a fairly simple procedure but with children is becomes more complicated.

Mum has to calculate the age of the child, add four and multiply by two to give an estimated weight for each child. The consequences of an inaccurate calculation would be catastrophic as the resulting dose could be an overdose or an inadequate amount of drug being delivered.


Both these situations can be life threatening and irreversible.

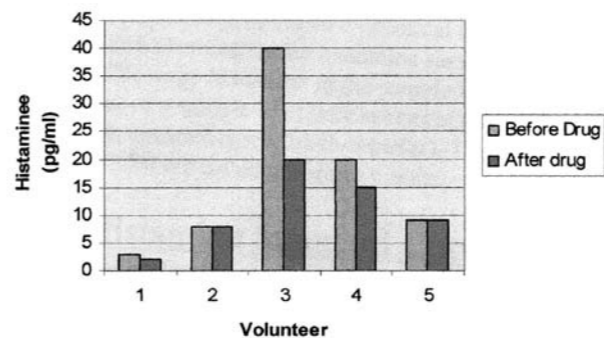
My dad is a safety manager in construction. He has to calculate 'lost time injury frequency rate' in order to determine if there are any trends eg. if accidents happen at a particular time of day, in different weather (hot or cold) or in a particular trade (steel, scaffolders, electricians).

Dad has to set up tables using graphs and pie charts to show which parts of the company are affected' Using these pie charts and graphs he can calculate the true cost of an accident. There are lots of hidden costs in accidents that need to be taken into consideration. For example, insurance, production delays, loss of expertise, overtime and temporary labour to cover for the injury, legal costs and investigation time.

Maths can give us a clear understanding of how accidents occur so they can be avoided in the future.



My mum is a biochemist. She measures samples taken from people who are taking part in clinical trials. Mum uses maths every day to plot lots of graphs and analyse different readings from the trials. She has recently done a trial involving the use of histamine in volunteers. These trials have to be really accurate and she plots how much of the histamine is in the volunteers before and after the test and using maths to calculate the effects.



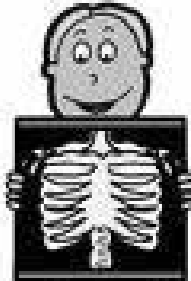

Volunteer	Before Drug (pg/ml)	After drug (pg/ml)
1	5	2
2	10	5
3	40	15
4	20	10
5	15	8

My dad's job is running a business servicing, testing and supplying X-ray equipment.

Dad uses basic maths at work (addition, subtraction and percentages) for preparing quotations.

He also uses calculations as part of a radiation survey.

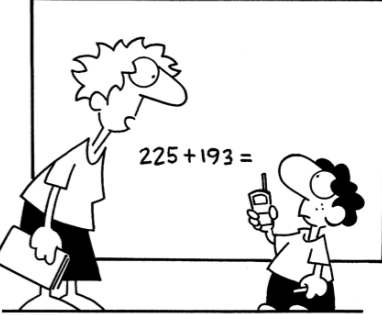
An error in correctly calculating cost from a quotation could result in a job running at a loss. Errors in calculation in radiation values could result in operators/ staff receiving higher than permitted levels of radiation which can be harmful to health.

My dad is a maths teacher in a boys school. He uses maths on a day to day basis in the course of any lesson. Dad also uses maths to mark books, do tests and exams, adding up totals and working out percentages. He uses all of this maths information to check on the progress of the boys during their classes.

Dad has to prepare his budget for the maths department to cover the cost of buying books and equipment so has to use maths to calculate this.

If dad got his calculations wrong in class the boys will learn the wrong information and then get things wrong in exams and it would affect the marks in exams - it would also be very embarrassing for dad and the school!





My mum is a production scheduler in a manufacturing environment which makes artists colour.

Mathematics is a big part of her job, she orders pigments which are like ingredients to make colour. Pigments have to be available to 'load' the colour.

Mum has to calculate months in advance what they are likely to order so that production is never shut down.

Mum has to calculate the price of pigment, quantity required, lead time, average usage and future usage. The loading stage of colour uses maths to calculate how much of each chemical and pigment is required in order to make a batch of colour.

## Learning Resources Centre Volunteer/s

Volunteers required for two 2-hour weekly sessions or one 2-hour weekly session to suit.

One session to be worked Monday or Tuesday, and one to be worked Thursday or Friday.

The Learning Resources Centre is looking for volunteers to help with general library duties, including keeping bookshelves tidy, covering and repairing books, displays and counter service. An interest in reading, a good eye for detail and a sound knowledge of Word would be advantageous. Please note that we are required to have Criminal Records Bureau checks on all school volunteers.

Please contact the main reception if you are interested in the position.

## Connexions

Below are some of the local college open events which are coming up in the near future. Before attending an open evening please check with the website or call the college to confirm the event is still taking place. If you are unable to attend an event and wish to visit the college please contact them by phone to see if something could be arranged for you, or check for future event dates.

If you have any questions please drop-in to the Connexions Room in the LRC on a Monday lunchtime.

Ms S Green

Youth Connexions Personal Advisor

## College Open Evenings

**Oaklands College** - The college is holding open evenings on the 20th, 21st and 22nd January at various campuses. Please consult with the college website [www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk), or contact them on 01727 737080 to ensure you attend the one relevant to your chosen course.

**Aylesbury College** - Please contact the college on 01296 588599 or visit the website [www.aylesbury.ac.uk](http://www.aylesbury.ac.uk) to find out about future open evenings.

Mrs C Payne

Head of Lifelong Learning

## Work Shadowing July 08

My chosen work shadowing placement was an exotic pet specialist. I found it all really fascinating and extremely informative. I presented myself at Ameyzoo in casual but smart clothing at 9.30am, and entered what felt like tropical temperatures but this was necessary because the animals needed their habitats to be a certain temperature for them to feel comfortable. Mark and Siouxie who own the shop, are fully qualified Herpetologists and Zoologists. During my day I was treated as part of the Ameyzoo team and was privileged to handle and care for many exotic creatures, of which some were Corn Snakes, Boa constrictors, Tarantulas, Pythons, Geckos, Bearded Dragons, Iguanas, Sugar Gliders, Tortoises/Turtles and many more. For each animal I cared for I learned a little bit of their background and country of origin. All in all I had an amazing day which ended all too soon.



Keri-Ann McDonnell-  
Rabbetts 9B with a  
Granite Burmese Python

## Art requests

Can we make a request please for newspapers, old shirts for art aprons in the classroom, white fabric, silk or cotton and spray cans of paint. Many thanks in advance.

## Senior Maths Challenge 2008

5 out of the 32 entries achieved certificates. The results are as follows:

**Year 13 - Silver** Karina Wiechert (*Best in school*)  
Charlotte Garner

**Year 13 - Bronze** Rosalind Hobbs

**Year 12 - Bronze** Isobelle Carey

**Year 11 - Silver** Victoria Hull

According to the organisers, this year's challenge was slightly harder than last year's. Our congratulations therefore go to all the participating candidates, and especially to Karina Wiechert, Year 13, who achieved the 'best in school' award, and also to Victoria Hull, Year 11, for achieving a silver certificate.

Many thanks to all the members of staff who helped with the setting out and invigilation of the challenge.

Mr E Addo

Maths Faculty

## Year 10 Work Experience 13-17 July 09

All Year 10 students have been issued with a pack concerning arrangements for Work Experience next year. The deadline for the return of the yellow parental consent form was 17th November.

Please note that the deadline for the blue own placement form is 23rd February. However any forms that have already been completed can be returned now to Mrs Ritchie or Mrs Payne.

Mrs C Payne

Head of Lifelong Learning

## Taylor Woodrow Art Competition

A big 'well done' for all the students who entered into the Taylor Woodrow Art Competition.

Six schools have entered this annual art competition. Dorothy Thornhill the Mayoress of Watford presented the awards at the Hilton Hotel in Watford on Wednesday 26 November 2008. The prizes were a £10 Harlequin voucher for each entrant, £150 Harlequin voucher for first prize per year group, £100 Harlequin voucher for second prizes per year group and £50 Harlequin voucher for third prize per year group. The entrants were:

**Year 7** - Eleanor Budden, Isabella Wood, Shana Hall, Emma Cooke, Fiona Taylor, Naomi Hutchinson, Emma Dibbs, Victoria Lees, Matthew Putman, Rosie Dowsing

**Year 8** - Grace Evans, Charlie Hammond, Amie Bailey, Hannah Chambers, Carter Nightingale, Natalie Brown, Deanna Jackson, Taznim Ali, Eleanor Dolan, Nils Bittman-Myers, Emma Kedgley, Oliver Smith

**Year 9** - Lucy Drake, Claire Dunkerton, Abigail Gallagher, Alexandra Grover, Fiona Kelleher, Loiusa Taylor

**Year 10** - Jess Millican, Annabel Dowsing, Daniel Woodbridge

**Year 11** - Emma Trimbee, Alexandra Shapland

A huge congratulations and thank you to the Art teachers and students who have each contributed to this success with their consistently high standard of artistic talent and hard work. We will let you know in the December Homelink how successful we were!

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art

## 'My Faith, My Life' Art Competition

Westminster Faith Exchange - Tuesday 2nd December 2008. 5.30pm - 7:30pm. St Martin's Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ

Westminster Faith Exchange are inviting all those children who entered the competition, and their families, to the next meeting of the Westminster Faith Exchange on Tuesday 2nd December where there will be a prize giving and exhibition for the competition. The following students won prizes in the 11-14 years age category:

**1st Prize** - Theo Ralli

**2nd Prize** - Catherine Simons

**Highly Commended** - Sarah Mugglestone and Kayleigh Nobbs

All of the students who entered the competition will receive a certificate and a small prize.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art

# GOVERNOR PROFILES

At school functions such as Speech Day, you may have heard reference to a shadowy group called “the Governors”. The Governing Body has decided to come out of the shadows and tell readers of Homelink who we are and what we do.

The booklet given to new Governors says s/he exists to “improve the quality of education and standards of achievement” and that the Board as a whole has three roles: Strategic; Critical Friend; Accountability. Legally, the Governors run the school: they have statutory duties ranging from employing staff to insuring the premises. They set the tone but, of course, day-to-day management is the province of the Head and the Senior Leadership team (SLT).

And yet, every member of the Board is a volunteer. As you put some names to faces you may recognise below, you will see that there are different types of Governor. Some (e.g. Parent Govs) are elected by fellow parents - watch out for an election soon: there is a vacancy! Others are appointed: Foundation Governors are invited to serve by the Holborn Estate Charity, which supports the school in many ways.

Other elected Governors represent the staff - teaching and non-teaching. Here, we introduce non-staff Governors, but, for the record, the others on the Board are: Dr Valentine (Head, ex-officio), Mr Brown, Mr Bilton and Mr Heward.

We are delighted to show our faces, but should advise that we have to behave in a corporate way - i.e. act as a group after discussion and, where needed, votes. If you have an issue you wish to raise with us that cannot be dealt with by teachers or the SLT, please communicate in writing to the Chair, via the School office.

## Rosemary Hadfield – Foundation Governor, 1990

**Special Responsibilities:** Chair of Governors

**Committees:** Education; Resources; Performance Management

**School Connection:** Parent: sons 1984-1991, 1985-1992

**School Interests/Activities:** member, then chair of the PA; trustee of Anchor Fund; trustee of Holborn Estate Charity

**Occupation:** Retired primary school teacher

**Interesting Fact:** Loves all things Spanish: language, food, the people. Also loves silk painting and creative textile work



## Mike Brasier – Foundation Governor, 1992

**Special Responsibilities:** Vice-chair; Chair, Resources Committee

**Committees:** Resources; Admissions

**School Connection:** Parent: Katy 1984-1991; Sarah 1989-1994

**School Interests/Activities:** PA Committee 1991-1994; Fundraiser for Barbirolli Hall

**Occupation:** Chartered Surveyor and Company Director

**Interesting Fact:** Enjoys all aspects of France and spends too much time playing and watching sport. Is a keen student of cinema.



## Gill Collison – Foundation Governor, 2001

**Special Responsibilities:** Vice-Chair; Chair, Education Committee

**Committees:** Education; Student Management; Performance Management

**School Connection:** Local resident

**School Interests/Activities:** Staff and student well-being

**Occupation:** Retired Headteacher. Now Company Secretary

**Interesting Fact:** Mad about mountains – walks, skis and paraglides over them



## Peter Allen – Foundation Governor (Parent), 2005

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, SEN

**Committees:** Education; Staff Discipline

**School Connection:** Parent of two boys, Years 7 and 8

**School Interests/Activities:** Art (year-end exhibition is a must); uses astro turf regularly on Monday nights

**Occupation:** Business Consultant

**Interesting Fact:** Enjoys cooking and cycling. Keen gardener and (sadly) a supporter of Tottenham Hotspur



## Mark Austen – Parent Governor, 2003-6, LEA Governor, 2006

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Admissions

**Committees:** Education; Student Management; Staff Discipline; School Council

**School Connection:** Parent: two daughters 1997-2007

**School Interests/Activities:** A keen supporter of the excellent work within the school

**Occupation:** CEO in office supplies industry

**Interesting Fact:** Once played guitar live on Capital Radio



## Andy Burks – Parent Governor, 2007

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Training and Communication

**Committees:** Resources

**School Connection:** Former student; Parent: children in Years 13, 12, 9 and 7

**School Interests/Activities:** IT, sport, choir

**Occupation:** Computer network manager

**Interesting Fact:** Was in first Chorleywood intake at SCD in 1976, along with wife Claire



# GOVERNOR PROFILES

**Richard Carey** – Foundation Governor, 1976

**Special Responsibilities:** Link Governor for IT, Lead Governor, Staff Discipline

**Committees:** Resources

**School Connection:** Chairman of Trustees of St. Clement Danes Holborn Estate Charity

**School Interests/Activities:**

Governor link with Old Danes

**Occupation:** Chartered Surveyor

**Interesting Fact:** Father was a Governor 1950-1983



**Peter Corbett** – Foundation Governor, 2001

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor for Health & Safety and for Child Protection

**Committees:** Resources;

Admissions; Student Management

**School Connection:** Ex-parent (three sons, 1987-2000)

**School Interests/Activities:** Enjoys tasks that contribute to required administrative processes

**Occupation:** Retired from 37 years in the oil and gas industry

**Interesting Fact:** Has been the highest and most southerly person in Africa



**Andy Etchells** – Parent Governor, 2005

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Student Management

**Committees:** Education; Student Management

**School Connection:** Parent: Joe, 1999-2006; Mimi, 2000-2007

**School Interests/Activities:** Parent choir; PA Treasurer, 2000-2005

**Occupation:** Former magazine editor and publisher. Now runs publishing and charity fundraising consultancy

**Interesting Fact:** Once ran the marathon in under two and a half hours



**Stephen Godbold** – Foundation Governor (Parent), 2005

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Finance

**Committees:** Resources

**School Connection:** Parent: Daniel, 1998-2005; Jonathan, 2001-08; Matthew, Yr 10

**School Interests/Activities:** Parent choir – has sung in 10 Commemoration Services

**Occupation:** Chartered Insurance Broker

**Interesting Fact:** Norwich City fan



**Michael Jordan** – Foundation Governor, 2003

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Pay/Performance Management

**Committees:** Resources

**School Connection:** Ex-student, 1958-1966

**School Interests/Activities:**

Fulfilling Governor's responsibilities

**Occupation:** Retired financial markets trader

**Interesting Fact:** Loves exotic food and fine wine, travel, playing cricket and Q.P.R.



**Bob Masters** – Associate Governor, 2005

**Special Responsibilities:** Chair, Anchor Fund, Lead Governor, Insurance

**Committees:** Resources

**School Connection:** Parent: son, 1995-2001. Parent Governor 1997-99; Foundation Governor 1999-2005

**School Interests/Activities:** Special interest in insurance matters

**Occupation:** Director of insurance company

**Interesting Fact:** Fanatical about winter walking in the Lake District



**Judith Moore** – Parent Governor, 2005

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Curriculum

**Committees:** Education; Student Management; Admissions

**School Connection:** Parent: daughter, 2001-2008; son, 2003-present

**School Interests/Activities:** Music and drama performances

**Occupation:** District Nurse

**Interesting Fact:** Overworked and underpaid with a penchant for chocolate and holidays



**Kath Unger** – Foundation Governor (Parent), 2008

**Special Responsibilities:** Lead Governor, Pay and Personnel

**Committees:** Education

**School Connection:** Parent: Alex 1998-2005; Jeffrey Yr 12; Thomas Yr 10

**School Interests/Activities:** Exam invigilator

**Occupation:** Formerly civil servant in HR with Dept of Work and Pensions

**Interesting Fact:** Left Liverpool 30 years ago, but still a Liverpoolian!

