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N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2009

Headteacher's Hello

Last week we said goodbye to the Year 13s and Year 11s who have started their Study Leave. Year 12 have also started Study Leave, but will be returning after their AS exams.

We wish everyone taking GCSEs, AS and A Levels all the very best and hope they work hard during their revision period. And for those students going on to university, college, a gap year or employment, we wish every success in the future and hope they will keep in touch with St Clement Danes.

In the second half of term staff will be working hard to implement curriculum and timetable changes. In this Homelink there is information about the new timetable from September 2009.

I would like to thank parents for their support over the sixth form funding debacle. As you may be aware from statements in the press over the Easter holiday, the Government has given a guarantee to fund sixth form numbers in September 2009. Final figures will be in at the end of the month.

There is a new Medical Administrator Marion Whiteman starting on Friday 5th June. We are very grateful to Sally Green for covering the post temporarily.

Please take note of activities taking place in June and July. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the Creative Arts events – the Art Display, the Lower School Production and the Summer Concert.

Very importantly please attend the Summer Fair on Sunday 28th June and show your support to the school and the PA who do a tremendous amount for the school in their excellent fundraising.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

National Leader in Education

The Governors are delighted to report that the Headteacher, Dr Valentine, has been selected to become a National Leader of Education (NLE). Dr Valentine has become one of only 100 secondary heads across the country to be appointed to this prestigious role by the National College for School Leadership (NCSL). It also means that St. Clement Danes School is now designated a National Support School (NSS). This appointment reflects Dr Valentine's outstanding leadership qualities and we are proud that our school and staff are recognised nationally in this way.

NLEs use their success and professionalism as school leaders, along with the staff in their school, to provide additional leadership capacity in struggling schools. The type of support provided is flexible, ranging from coaching or consultancy and interim leadership roles, to leadership of more than one school in a federated or executive headship. They also have responsibility for helping to develop the next generation of NLEs and National Support Schools.

Dr Valentine is delighted to be joining other National Leaders in the NCSL scheme and is looking forward to the challenges the new role will bring. She is very pleased to be continuing in her role of Headteacher of St. Clement Danes School whilst providing colleagues in other schools with the sustainable support that can effect improvements to the educational standards for all students.

Governors would like to reassure parents that despite Dr Valentine's support of other schools, her leadership and commitment to St Clement Danes School will remain a priority. This is an exciting initiative that will benefit not only the schools that are supported, but will greatly benefit St Clement Danes School.

We congratulate Dr Valentine and wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Rosemary Hadfield

Chair of Governors

2008 AS/A2 Results

Over the Easter Holiday the Sixth Form Performance and Assessment report for the 2008 A2 and AS results was published.

This information not only analyses the school's attainment data within the national context, it also shows the achievement information (contextual value added) for schools and colleges.

As you will be aware we were very pleased with the A2 and AS results last year. The AS results showed the best ever average points per entry and equalled the best ever at A2. However, until receiving this information we were unaware of how well the school had performed in terms of value added data.

Analysis of the value added tables show that the 2008 AS and A2 results for St Clement Danes put the school in the top 2% in England.

You may recall a couple of years ago that there was a dip in the school's A Level results. To address this the school put in place a variety of teaching and learning strategies into the Sixth Form which had been highly successful in Key Stage 3 and 4. These latest results show that the initiatives have been successful and they are a testimony to the incredible hard work of staff and students alike.

Dr R Johnson

Acting Assistant Headteacher

Timetable - September 2009

Please note that as of September 2009 the school will operate a new daily timetable for the delivery of lessons across all Key Stages. Each lesson will last one hour and the timetable will be delivered over two weeks. A great deal of research has gone into this change and we are confident the alteration provides significant opportunities for improving the teaching and learning at St Clement Danes.

We will focus on ensuring students are aware of which week is operating, be that week A or B, and have built in transition times as the site is now quite large, to ensure lessons start on time. In addition it will generate less student movement around the school which given the crowded nature of the central area of the school site is a positive gain. As noted in a previous Homelink, the change will result in each school day ending at the same time.

Mr G Butler

Deputy Headteacher

Activity	Time
Meeting	8.30 / 8.40 am
Registration	8.40 / 8.50 am
Period 1	8.50 / 9.50 am
Transition	9.50 / 9.55 am
Period 2	9.55 / 10.55 am
Assembly / Break	10.55 / 11.15 am
Break / Assembly	11.15 / 11.35 am
Period 3	11.35 / 12.35 am / pm
Lunch	12.35 / 1.25 pm
Registration	1.25 / 1.30 pm
Transition	1.30 / 1.35 pm
Period 4	1.35 / 2.35 pm
Transition	2.35 / 2.40 pm
Period 5	2.40 / 3.40 pm

Chemistry Lecture

On 2nd April 2009 Dr David Read, a Chemistry lecturer from the University of Southampton, came to St Clement Danes to give a lecture on biofuels for the year 10 students.

After having met Dr Read at the university open day, I took the opportunity of inviting him to St Clement Danes with the intention of encouraging students to choose a science subject at A level.

The lecture was set in an interactive quiz style covering the GCSE specification as well as current affairs regarding global warming and biofuels which linked nicely to what the students were studying at the time.

Hopefully the lecture has given the students a different perspective on science and its uses outside of the classroom.

We hope to follow on this initiative with further visits from scientific institutions to widen the exposure to science at further education now that St Clement Danes is a Science college.

Natasha Leaper

Year 13

Medicine Master Class

Medical Master Class 22nd November 2008

12 students from yr 11, 12 and 13 (two from Dr Challoners High School) who expressed an interest in Medicine or Medical Sciences attended a master class given by Phyllida Roe a 4th yr medical student from Peninsula Medical School.

Attending students were expected to live up to the expectations of a first year med school tutorial, having pre prepared the subject matter on the anatomy of the human heart. The class progressed rapidly as the students performed clinical palpations of the heart on each other identifying and listening to the blood flow through all four of the heart ventricles. Various disease states and common abnormalities were discussed and the rapid fire questions from the students were answered equally as rapidly.

The session came to a close with a very informative question and answer session on how to apply to medical schools (both in the UK and abroad) and discussion on qualities and experience the Universities most value.

All our students enthusiastically contributed both academically and practically with the overwhelming feedback being a request for further like sessions.

Mrs S Driver

Biology Field Trip

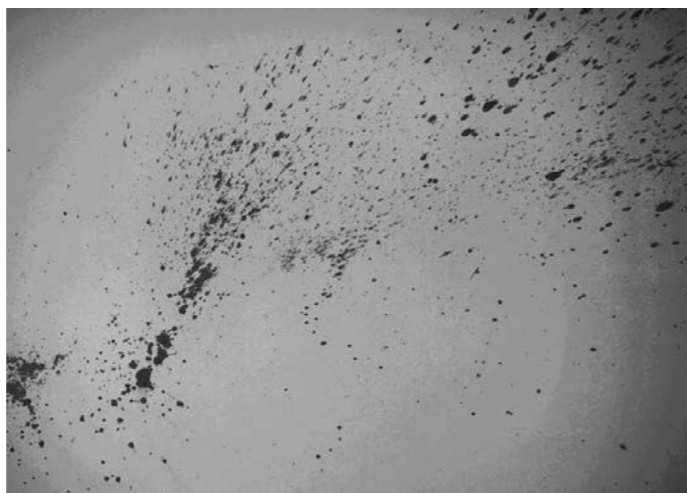
We went on a Biology field trip to Dorking in Surrey. We stayed in a field centre called Juniper Hall where we had lessons in ecology. We also spent some time on Box Hill and the local woodland studying the abundance of different organisms.

We learnt all about field work and statistics which geared us towards our coursework. We all found it enjoyable catching snails in the grounds tank!

The weather was variable, we had to endure hail storms whilst measuring the abundance of plants on an exposed hill to cold frosty mornings on the walks to the breakfast room.

We enjoyed the biology field trip very much and would like to thank Miss Fishley and Miss Buss for supervising and Emma Peasland for teaching us.

Ellie Chapmont and Becky Quinton
Year 13



Forensic Science GCSE Coursework



This year our Year 11 Applied Scientists embarked on a murder solving coursework project for their GCSE.

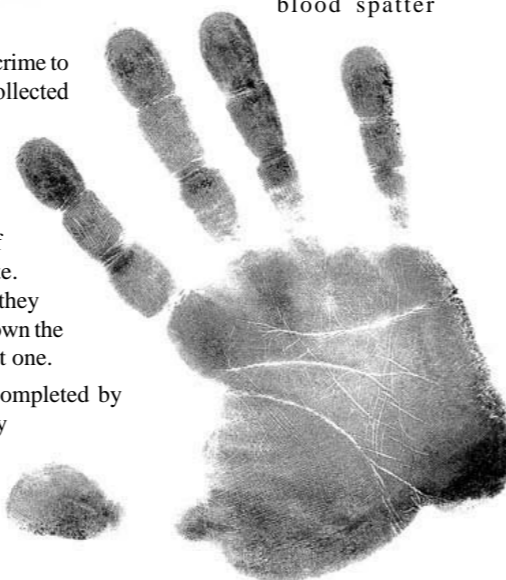
Taking the role of a SOCO (Scene of Crime Officer) students have had to research and apply many scientific principals used in the high tech field of forensic science and carry out many tasks to compile a prosecution case portfolio. To complete this coursework students have performed no less than eight different experimental procedures ranging from blood spatter

analysis at the scene of the crime to genetic profiling of DNA collected from the victim.

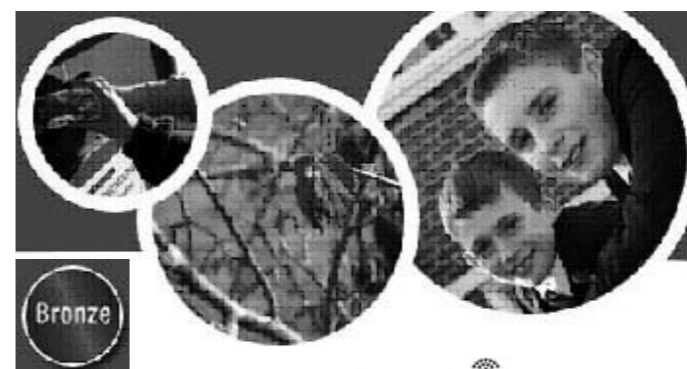
From collecting, testing and analysing samples students have produced enough results and data of vital evidence to evaluate. Over the course of a term they have been able to whittle down the 22 possible suspects to just one.

The excellent portfolios completed by our students are currently being packed up and sent away for the final verdict.

Mrs Driver



Eco-Schools



What is Eco-Schools all about ?

- We have become involved with a national programme, 'Eco-Schools' because it will help us to put the environment more fully on our whole school agenda.
- In addition, Eco-Schools provides an achievable reward system to work towards.
- "Schools work towards gaining one of three awards; Bronze, Silver and the prestigious Green Flag award".

What do we want to do at St Clement Danes?

- We hope to raise awareness of Environmental issues and in so doing, enable every member of the school community to become conscious of their own behaviour towards the environment.
- We also hope to cut the school's running costs, in the long term, and improve the appearance of the school, by improving the external environment.

So how did we get started ?

- In the Autumn term, Sixth Form students, Natasha Leaper and Jo Weaver, gave an assembly to highlight key environmental issues and the project was also introduced in more detail to the School Council.
- Since then a small focus school from School Council has met and we have produced a survey that all students and staff can take part in. Students from all year groups (in Science lessons) and interested staff can now carry out our online 'Environmental Review', so that we can gain ideas and opinions about our school's current environmental performance.
- From computerised analysis of results, we will develop an 'Action Plan'. One or two key areas will be tackled with proposed actions, timelines and how we will measure success.
- To be eligible for the Bronze Award: "The Action Team must produce an 'Environmental Review', set up a basic 'Action Plan' and share the plan with the rest of the school community". Our target is to do all of this by the end of this school term and work towards completing the action plan next academic year.

Dr Munro

Primary Links

Through our Science Status the Science Faculty have strengthened links with our feeder primary schools and we look forward to welcoming Year 6 groups for activity sessions taking place in the summer term. Feeder primaries have had the opportunity to loan equipment for the science department for use in their lessons.

In addition all partner primary schools were invited to send staff to two training sessions held at school but run by the East of England Science Learning Centre. The courses were on how to deliver science investigation skills to primary pupils in a more fun way. In total 25 teachers attended the two sessions.

Dr Johnson

Biochemistry Master Class

On Saturday the 25th April the Science Faculty held a Biochemistry Masterclass on DNA. This was led by Dr. Annie Hodgson of the University of York. Eleven sixth formers attended the masterclass. The session include a lecture and the opportunity to builds models of DNA. Dr. Hodgson also gave students an insight of how this molecule synthesises proteins. The session ended with a fun activity: the students were able to make bracelet with name using a genetic code.

Dr Matondo

Science Club

This year over a dozen Year 7 students have attended Science club. The keen scientists have carried out several practical investigations which have ranged from flame tests to making an indicator from red-cabbage. In this final term they will complete a study of the properties of different types of shampoo

Dr Matondo

Gifted & Talented Master Class

A number of Year 10 students took part in a Science Gifted and Talented master class earlier this year. The focus of the master class was the science of space.

In the space science master class we encountered many things that we don't usually see in the classroom. Firstly we watched an interesting video about the international space station and all the different rooms it contains. We then got to do a selection of experiment such as crushing chocolate bars to test how brittle bones become without oxygen and calcium deficiency. The interesting part was we were not given precise instructions so had to make an experiment ourselves.

We also investigated how much oxygen pond weed can provide for people in space. We looked at three different types of pond weed and did a simple experiment to see which type of weed produced the most oxygen.

The funniest experiment was making a space ship, which we then tested to see the effect heat would have on it when it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere.

Our team decided to cover our space ship in foil; sadly it went up in flames almost immediately.

Lastly we got to sample some space food such as chocolate ice cream and strawberries, they were yummy!!!

A review of the master class by Alice Hounsome

Some comments from other students present

"The building of the space rocket was the most fun however all the activities were beneficial and gave us a greater understanding of science"

Phil Corden

"I found the science master class extremely interesting. It was really fascinating to find out how astronauts live their lives in space. It was very exciting to see how a space station is structures"

Vikash Patel

Astronomy

This year, eight students in Year 12 have studied Astronomy as part of the enrichment curriculum. The students have met at lunch time and studied topics that range from objects in our solar system to constellations. Some of the students have also undertaken project work which has involved producing a lunar chart with its principal features of the moon. The Sixth Formers have also undertaken aided observations using binoculars. It is hoped that through these lessons the students will be able to further develop their interest in the subject and carry out observations independently.

Dr Matondo

Do The Right Thing


ST. CLEMENT DANES SCHOOL SAYS
DO THE RIGHT THING
DON'T PUT UP WITH BULLYING
OR BAD BEHAVIOUR, CONTACT
dotherightthing@stclementdanes.herts.sch.uk

All students in Years 7 to 10 have been issued with a small red card with an e-mail address on it to report incidents of bullying and poor behaviour. This is a School Council initiative which has been introduced to help combat types of behaviour which should not be tolerated in school. Students

have been spoken to about this in Assembly. Using the e-mail address is a confidential way of reporting bullying and anti-social behaviour incidents by students. Information received will be acted on.

Mrs J Pullen

Deputy Headteacher

St Clement Danes Website - Feedback

You will be aware that the school launched a re-designed website in March of this year. The second phase of the website re-design will be taking place in July. In this phase of the development, many of the photos on the website will be updated.

We would welcome any feedback with regard to the new website design. Please would you email your comments to: websitefeedback@stclementdanes.herts.sch.uk

Mr S Thompson

Assistant Headteacher

Collection of Vouchers

Times Books for Schools - A reminder that vouchers are printed in the Times every day and can be redeemed for books for the school. We have already ordered some current fiction titles but need many more vouchers to take full advantage of the offer. Please send all vouchers in to the LRC.

Tesco for Schools and Clubs - Thank you for all the Tesco vouchers sent into school so far. The last vouchers will be issued on 7 June so please send them in promptly so that the orders can be submitted well before the deadline.

Mrs F Hirst

Library Assistant

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

All Year 10 students have been issued with a copy of 'It's Your Choice' - Information on work and learning options. This is also available online at www.connexions-direct.com/itsyourchoice.

Year 10 Work Experience

13-17 July 2009

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

Year 8 Work Shadowing

16 July 2009

The deadline for returning the pink placement agreement forms for Work Shadowing is Friday 5th June. These must be returned to form tutors.

Capel Manor College Open Day

Saturday 13th June, 10am-5pm

The Open Day is a showcase event promoting the work of the college through student demonstrations and activities. It is a fantastic opportunity to visit the college and to discuss with tutors and current students, the wide range of land based courses on offer.

Capel Manor College is the specialist college for land based studies with centres across London offering courses in Horticulture, Garden Design, Hard Landscaping, Floristry, Animal Care, Arboriculture (Tree Surgery) Environmental Conservation, Balloon Artistry and Saddlery.

Free entry voucher for the 30 acres of gardens for 13th June available from the LRC. For further information or a current prospectus please contact 08456 122 122.

Mrs C Payne

Head of Lifelong Learning

Engineering Diploma

The school consistently seeks to develop curriculum provision in order to maximise the opportunity for students to achieve and be prepared for progression into further or higher education together with ensuring they possess the skills required by employers. This September the school will deliver for the first time, in conjunction with West Herts College, the Engineering Diploma at the Higher Level. This course is the equivalent of 7 GCSE at grades A* to C and will be completed over one academic year during Year 12.

The provision of the course at St Clement Danes is different to how it will be delivered in other areas of the country where the course will be taught over two years at Key Stage 4. The school considers this option for a one year delivery in Year 12 an excellent opportunity for those aiming at career progression within engineering plus those students who would benefit from an additional year to establish good GCSE equivalent qualifications or would achieve more successfully with three years in the Sixth Form. It should be noted that the employment based course will be taught and assessed in a different manner to routine GCSE / AS courses.

The school has already held information evenings for this course and the Year 11 Sixth Form options booklet has a section on the Diploma. [This is found on the school web site - School Documents / Sixth Form Prospectus] If you want any additional information please contact Mr Clarke or Mr Butler. The course is open to students from other schools.

Mr G Butler

Deputy Headteacher

Parents Association Summer Fair

SUMMER FAIR

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

12^{PM} ONWARDS

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. If you are interested in reserving a craft or gift stall, please contact Suzie Boniface at suzie.boniface@bopenworld.com or telephone 07881 952161.

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

Public Viewing of the Art Show

The Annual Art Show will be open for public view on Tuesday 16th June from 5:00pm until 9:00pm in the school's Sports Hall. It is always a wonderfully enjoyable evening viewing the GCSE, AS and A2 Level Art work. Everyone is welcome and there will be snacks and refreshments provided. To support the artwork there will also be musical performances provided by the talented music students which contributes to creating a fantastic evening of creative and expressive arts. The art department staff hope very much that you will be able to attend and join us and the students to celebrate their wonderful talent and hard work. May we also thank everyone for their support in the donated items we very much needed for the students' projects. All gratefully received. Thank you.

Mrs D Reid

Head of Art



From left: Tom Love, Veronica Malkonian, Rosie Homewood - all Year 11

Activities Week

During the final week of the summer term, from Monday 13th to Friday 17th July, the school will offer a range of curriculum provision that differs from the routine timetable.

The schedule for the week is as follows.

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	Bude	Bude	Bude	Bude	Bude
8	Normal Lessons	Half Year Groups – Thorpe Park or RE Activity	Half Year Groups – Thorpe Park or RE Activity	Work Shadowing	Work Shadowing Debrief
9	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Half Year Groups - Science Museum or Activities	Half Year Groups - Science Museum or Activities	Normal Lessons
10	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience
12	Interview Forum	Interview Forum			
Whole School	Music Trip – Prague Art / Drama trip to Barcelona	Music Trip – Prague Art / Drama trip to Barcelona	Music Trip – Prague Art / Drama trip to Barcelona		

Please note the following –

- Details of each event will be communicated to the appropriate students by the staff taking responsibility for the organisation
- Year 7 trip to Bude departs on Sunday 12th July
- Year 7 trip not attending the Bude trip will be following a separate timetable in school
- The Music and Art / Drama trips depart on Saturday 11th July
- Year 12 students will finish the term at the close of school on Tuesday 14th July
- The term for all other students ends at 1.15 pm on Friday 17th July