



## Gravesend Grammar School For Girls

Newsletter Number 2

December 2004

Dear Parents

### **GGSG among the Top Schools in the Country**

If you read the Sunday Times you will know that we are among the top schools in the country for our A\*A at GCSE and A/B at A'level. We are 147<sup>th</sup> among the state schools, ahead of most Kent Grammar Schools.

***Congratulations to the Year 11 and Year 13 students of 2004 and thank you to their teachers!***

### **Newsletters and other reply slips**

I am sorry to say that many of your daughters are very unreliable when it comes to returning reply slips to their Form Tutors. (I am glad they have fewer problems with homework and certainly have none when it comes to returning slips for school trips!)

We have had such problems receiving returns from the last newsletter that I have decided that in future we shall not require returns. Newsletters are normally for information, they are posted on our website. The only records we shall keep will be that your daughter received her copy. There are 6 per year and they are numbered.

It also appears that many of you who opted to have your copy emailed have not received it because of technical issues. Please access it on the website in future. Any communication which, by law, will require a reply will be sent to you separately.



### **Student Planner**

May I remind you to sign your daughter's every week., please. It helps communication between home and school and enables you, as parents, to monitor how your daughter is working.

### **PhotoPhones**

Whilst these continue to be against our regulations we realise that many phones, when upgraded, are replaced by photo phones. If we don't see them we don't know! Girls have been told to keep them hidden from sight and switched off!

### **Theatre Trips**



This has been a very busy term of Theatre trips. Groups have been taken to local theatres to see:

- 'Jekyll and Hyde'
- 'A View from the Bridge'
- 'The Crucible'
- 'The Wind in the Willows'



### **Physics Trips**

The Physics Department, with L6 students, has twice visited the university of Kent at Canterbury for evening lectures. The first on 9<sup>th</sup> November, gave detailed information on the Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn and we are now looking forward to the Huygen's probe investigating Saturn's Moon Titan in January. The second, on 30<sup>th</sup> November, provided an historical perspective on how the structure of the nucleus was elucidated.

These lectures proved to be an excellent introduction to higher level Physics for the students and both evenings very very enjoyable. Thanks to Mr Dunn and Mr McCorkell for accompanying Ms Holton and the students.





## Debating



The first round of the English Schools Debating Competition took place at school on Thursday 25 November 2004. Rebecca Drewry (U6) and Stephanie Antoncini (L6) represented Gravesend and were well supported by Natalie Laurence (L6), Faye Angeletta and Agnieszka Langford (Year 11) who chaired the debates and kept time. The standard of debate between the fair local schools was very high with Wilmington Grammar School for Girls and the Dartford Grammar Schools proceeding to the second round.



## The Axios A\* Award

Rachel Lockwood (last year's Upper Sixth) was nominated by the exam board Edexcel to receive an Axios 'A' Star Award for achieving an exceptionally high mark in the 2004 ICT A Level exam, unbelievably her mark put her amongst the top ten females in the country for the Edexcel exam.

Katy Hill of Blue Peter fame was the guest presenter who in her introduction said how honoured she was to be involved in this major initiative to encourage more girls to study and take up careers in IT and tackle a huge gender imbalance in the industry. Less than one quarter of UK computing professionals are women.

Katy introduced guest speakers from IBM, Accenture and Microsoft, all senior directors and all women. They all described what wonderfully diverse careers they had had in IT and how much opportunity it had given them. They dispelled the myth that IT is boring.

Rachel was thrilled to receive a certificate and a cheque for £50 and a 'goody bag' provided by the sponsors. The girls achieving the highest marks from each exam board went into a tiebreak exercise where they had to design a website to determine the English and UK overall winners.

Rachel is at Bath University in the first year of a Computer Science degree and enjoying every minute of University life.  
**Well done Rachel!**

## Parent Governors

Just to alert you to the fact that you will receive papers for nominations in January.

## Teaching & Learning

The pilot project described in the last newsletter on Assessment for Learning continues in the New Year in Science (Year 10) and English (Years 7 and 8). If you have any feedback on these changes to assessing the girls' work please let me know. This is a national initiative that will extend across the whole school in September 2005 so your

responses will help us to plan the best way to implement these new approaches effectively.

This half term we have done a lot of work with Year 10 and the Lower Sixth on study skills with particular reference to revision. Please encourage your daughters to put into practice the approaches they have learned when they prepare for their January tests. These are very important indicators of the girls' progress. Girls must plan their revision carefully and methodically, using a variety of techniques, to allow them to achieve their full potential. The Upper Sixth, Year 11 and Year 9 also take tests in January and should adopt the same serious approach to their revision.

## School Fund Reminder

Thank you to all parents who have already paid the School Fund. You will be pleased to read that we have been able to allocate from the School Fund £15,000 (from this and last year's) for the new Learning Resources Centre (high quality Library and private study area) and £2,000 for the Sixth Form Dining Room/Private study area. The Sixth Formers are the worst at paying School Fund and yet they will be benefiting greatly in months to come! Please remind them.



## National Schools Partnership

Please remember the schemes currently under way:

- Refilling your computer printer ink cartridges by post, saving some 50% of shop prices. Envelopes are available from Mr Jones.



- Recycling your old mobile phones. Please remember to take out the SIM card and post the old phone through the Finance Office letterbox.

Both schemes benefit the school, and the environment.



## PE

### Netball

Miss Vicky Medwin, a member of the PE Department, was selected for the Kent Senior County Netball team in September.

### Kent Schools Tournaments:

- U.19 was on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. The team won one game and lost three.
- The U16 was on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. The team won two games and lost three.
- The U.14 was on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. The team drew one and lost four games.

### District Tournament

- U.15 was on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. The team came second overall
- U16 also came second overall

### North West Kent League

- The U15 squad played extremely well all season, but unfortunately lost to Wilmington Grammar in the semi-finals.
- The U14 squad also played extremely well reaching the final. In the final v Wilmington Grammar School they lost by 7 goals to 16.

### Squash

Hannah Sewell, in Year 8, has represented Kent in the under 13's at Squash for the past two years and is now in the under

15 squad. Her Mother, Ann, ran a taster session for Years 7 and 8 on Monday 8 November.

### School Games Captain (omitted from the last newsletter)

Athletics – Sarah Drummond

### Fun Run

A further £500 has been donated to the local Lions Hospice. The rest of the money raised will be spent on equipment to benefit the school community.

Money raised so far:

- £1,000 to Stepney Children's Fund
- £500 to Jeans for Genes Day
- £500 to the local Lions Hospice (which nearly closed last year)

- £300 to Community Service Fund to support trip to Gilwell Park next year.

The other £2,000 was allocated to school equipment. Mr McCorkell is investigating a large roller laminator and a colour photocopier. He hopes to combine Fun Run and Science College Launch money to do this.

Miss Stuart was invited to NUT Headquarters in September to meet the South African Minister for Sport, Reverend Makhenkeri Stofile. He was investigating the delivery of Sport in Schools



### Diving

Eve Coomber, 10DP, took part in the Great Britain Diving Federation National Novice Championships at Cheltenham on the 2 October. She won the 14-16 year age group competition, with six dives, totalling 165.35 points to become British Champion. ***Congratulations Eve!***

### Cross Country

Two matches have been held in the North West Kent Competition so far, with one re-scheduled for next term due to bad weather. In the match held at Cobham Hall on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, Hayley Hickmott came 1<sup>st</sup>, Lucy Francis 4<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Cutting 5<sup>th</sup> and Joanna Coe 10<sup>th</sup> and Sarah Woodham 19<sup>th</sup> in the U.15 event. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at St.John's, Hayley Hickmott won the U.15 race and five girls ran in the U.12 race. Harriet Browning came 2<sup>nd</sup>, Emma Whittington 18<sup>th</sup>, Ailsa Dayley 21<sup>st</sup>, Kerry McGlinchey 24<sup>th</sup> and Georgina Ellison 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Football

The U.12's competed in the Gravesham Wagon Wheels 5-side indoor tournament. They played 4 matches, and won 4, goals for 9, goals against 0. Well Done to all those who took part and good work for the finals in January.

### Hockey

The U.13/U.14 team played a friendly against Cobham Hall winning 6-0. Well done to all players!



## Music



This is always a very busy time for the Music Department and this year is no exception.

Since the last newsletter went to print, we learnt that Emily Death (L6) has got into the Kent County Youth Orchestra and the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra on bassoon and Sally Lynch (Year 10) has gained a place in the Kent Youth Singers. Well done to both of them!

### Examination successes:

The following girls have all taken Trinity Guildhall flute exams this term and deserve our congratulations:

Nicola Caws	8SSR	Grade 4
Madeleine Case	U6	Grade 8*
Helen Layton	11AM	Grade 7**
Rebecca Warner	11KJ	Grade 7*
Rebecca Jewiss	11AM	Grade 6*
Jennifer Day	11SH	Grade 6**

\* = merit

\*\* = distinction

We are awaiting our ABRSM results and these will be printed in the next newsletter.

In the week before half term we had the Year 7 concert. Several Year 7 students performed solos and showed a good deal of courage as the audience was far larger than we had anticipated! Well done to everybody who took part, as a soloist or as part of an ensemble and thank you to families who attended.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> selected members of the Senior Choir took part in the Armistice Day service outside the Town Hall. They sang "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" and were extremely good ambassadors for the school. We received congratulations from members of the public and the Mayor's Parlour.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, Maya Photay (L6) was selected to attend the Kent County Try Angle Award Finals at the Ramada Hotel in Maidstone. She had previously been nominated for a Try Angle Award in the Dartford and Gravesham awards in July and won the Music Category. Maya received an 'ice' trophy for getting through to the finals. She was the only winner from the music category at

the final and was up against people from the other creative arts. She did not win the overall prize but did incredibly well to get that far.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December the Senior Choir entertained residents at St James Oaks with a selection of Christmas Carols. At the time of writing they are also working towards The Christmas Concert on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and the two carol



services at the end of term. Some of our musicians will also be providing musical entertainment and accompaniment at Bronte School's Carol and Christingle Service this term.

Next term the Department will be working towards the Gravesham Festival of Music in which our Training Orchestra and two choirs will be participating.

### **End of Term Christmas Arrangements**

Tuesday 7 December:	Christmas Concert 7.30pm
Friday 10 December:	PA Christmas Draw in Assembly
Tuesday 14 December:	Christmas Lunch: Yrs 7, 10, U6 Junior Carol Service P5
Wednesday 15 December	Christmas Lunch: Yrs8, 9, 11, L6
Thursday 16 December	Carol Service Years 9-U6 P4 + 5 Karaoke: Years 7 & 8 P4 + 5
Monday 20 December:	Pantomime
Tuesday 21 December:	Last Day of Term:

### **Arrangements for the last and first days of term**

This year the last day is **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Please note that girls will leave school at 12.35 on that day (buses will leave at 12.45). There will be an extended break service in the canteen but no lunch.

Your daughter should have received a green form informing you that **the Nu Venture Bus will leave at the normal time**. If you have not received this and are unable to make alternative arrangements, please inform the school office.

We will return on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005** which will be a normal day.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Chapman  
**Headteacher**





## Year Book Sponsorship

Dear Parents

Just a quick note from the yearbook team.

If you or your company are interested in sponsoring a page(s), or placing a company advert in this year's yearbook, please fill in the form below and return it via your daughter to the Finance Office.

If you have an advert to put in, please send a copy of it with the reply slip below.

Thank you in advance

The Yearbook Team 2004/05



To: The Yearbook Team

Re: Yearbook Sponsorship

### TO BE RETURNED TO THE FINANCE OFFICE

Name: .....

Company Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Contact Telephone Number: .....

Email Address: .....

*Please tick*

Full Page Advert    £90           

Half Page Advert    £60           

Quarter Page        £30           

Page Sponsorship   £15           

