

Gravesend Grammar School For Girls

Newsletter Number 3

February 2004

Dear Parents

Celebration!



The new year has started well indeed! As you may have read in the local press or been informed by your daughters we achieved a "hat trick" in recent weeks.

Firstly I received a letter from David Bell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, congratulating us on having been identified as a "Particularly Successful School" in his annual Ofsted reports. He explained that schools that are included in the list stand out as doing particularly well on virtually all fronts! They provide education of the highest quality and are not satisfied unless they are doing the very best they can for the young people they serve. They are schools that provide examples of best practice.

Secondly, Gravesham Borough Council granted us planning permission for extending our Science facilities namely the Library and Chemistry block.

Thirdly, we are being awarded Specialist Science College Status from September 2004. I plan to do a short presentation on our Science plans and the implications of becoming a Science College at the Governors' AGM on Monday 15th March.

50 Years of Service



You may also be aware that Miss June Bailey celebrated 50 years at GGSG in January. She joined the school in 1954 as an Office Junior, eventually she became Office Manager then Headteacher's PA. When she retired from full time work a few years ago she decided to maintain her links with the school by being a part time assistant in the Main Office and the Library.

Miss Bailey has offered to donate a prize to the students in memory of her long service to the school. Some of you may also have read that Miss Bailey was awarded an MBE a few years ago for her long service. We are grateful and thank Miss Bailey for her commitment to GGSG.

Sports & Personal Achievement

Cross Country



Hayley Hickmott and Lucy Francis represented Gravesend in the Kent Schools Cross-Country on Saturday 17th January. The Junior team (including Hayley) came third and the Intermediate team (including Lucy) came second.

Swimming



Several girls took part in the Kent Schools Championships on Saturday 31st January. In the individual events

Kimberley Dodd came second in the 100m Backstroke, Hollie Calver came 4th in the 100m Breaststroke and Hannah Daley came 5th in the 4 x 50m Individual Medley. Rachel Rickwood and Jenny Wallace also took part.

In the team events, the Junior team came 4th in the Medley Relay and 3rd in the Freestyle Relay.

Kimberley has been invited to swim for Kent Schools on 5th March.

Rugby

Lucy Francis in Year 9 was selected for the South East England U16 Rugby Squad in January.



Gymnastics

Samantha Hughes and Nicole Collins in Year 7 achieved a level 3 and level 4 respectively in the Kent Women's Champions Artistic Gymnastics in January.

Samantha Hughes 7TP recently took part in the Kent Championships and has become the Level 3 Kent Women's Artistic Gymnastic Champion.

Nicole Collins 7AV became the Level 4 Champion in this discipline.

I am reliably informed that to achieve this the two girls trained very hard (15 hours per week) at the Meapa Gymnastics Club in Gravesend. Congratulations Nicole and Samantha!

Music



All students who have vocal or instrumental lessons are encouraged to take part in the Music Department's extra curricular programme, which includes two orchestras, wind band, choirs, clarinet ensemble, flute ensemble and recorder ensemble. All groups rehearse weekly at lunchtimes and lunch passes are available for members to enable them to have lunch early in the lunch hour prior to going to the club. There is music for all standards of player and new members are always welcome to join.

Congratulations

The following girls passed Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations in the Autumn Term. Well done!

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Anna Fowler	7	Piano	1*
Amelia Hook	7	Piano	2
Sophie Matthews	7	Oboe	3*
Charis Richards	7	Clarinet	2**
Megan Abbott	9	Piano	1
Eve Coomber	9	Clarinet	2

Sally Lynch	9	Piano	3*
Sally Lynch	9	Singing	3**
Laura Winton	9	Alto Saxophone	4**
Simren Chada	10	Piano	4*
Sarah Finlayson	10	Piano	2**
Lucy Hagan-Walker	10	Piano	4
Katie Bateman	11	Piano	2
Emily Death	11	Bassoon	6*
Felicity Pilcher	11	Theory	5
Caroline Townsend	11	Piano	2
Emma Winton	11	Flute	7*
Emma Winton	11	Piano	5*

Paula Nice	L6	Piano	5*
Alana O'Kane	L6	Piano	5
Rachel Storr	U6	Viola	6
Charlotte Williams	U6	Flute	8*

* = with merit
 ** = with distinction



School Security

May I remind you that whenever you visit the school during the day you must report to Reception. We are very aware of the need to ensure the safety of our girls and must challenge any visitor who does not have a visitor's badge. This must include parents coming in to collect their daughter's Artwork. I have to ask you not to drive round to the back of the school, accidents happen so easily.

Cultural Evening

Our Cultural Official, Sunjeeta Kalkut is organising an event on Friday 5th March 7.00 - 9.30pm in the School Hall to celebrate cultural diversity and raise money for charity. You are cordially invited to purchase tickets for this event (£5) and come to enjoy a fashion show with entertainment. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Please support the event, an order form for tickets is included at the end of this newsletter.

Governing Body

I am pleased to report that Mrs Wendy Barrett has joined us as a Parent Governor from January.

We do still have one vacancy for Parent Governor, but existing Parent Governors will also come up for re-election in March. If you are interested in the position, or know someone who is, please contact Mrs P Bates, Clerk to the Governors, at the school. Should there only be the same number of nominations as vacancies, there will be no need to organise an election.

The National Academy for Gifted & Talented Youth

Universities across the county (including Canterbury Christchurch) organise summer schools for 2/3 weeks. They are supported by the DfES and offer academic programmes of high level learning for students of high ability; they support learning with an engaging social

programme (evenings and weekends); they give students a realistic experience of university life.

The school may be able to contribute to a proportion of the costs if Summer School Funding is available from KCC. If you are interested please ask your daughter to collect a leaflet from Mrs Bell.

Term Time Absences

For your information, you will receive a letter from KCC on this matter, which reaffirms our legal position. I also thought it might be helpful for you to have early notification of the term dates for 2004-05 in case you wish to make an early booking.

Please note that staff training days have not yet been confirmed for 2004-05

SPRING TERM 2004

Monday 5 January - Thursday 8 April

Half Term

Monday 23 February-Friday 27 February

SUMMER TERM 2004

Monday 26 April - Wednesday 21 July

Half Term

Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

Bank Holiday Monday 3 May

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AUTUMN TERM 2004

Wednesday 1 September - Tuesday 21 December

Half Term

Monday 25 October - Friday 29 October

SPRING TERM 2005

Wednesday 5 January - Wednesday 23 March

Half Term

Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February

SUMMER TERM 2005

Monday 11 April - Friday 22 July

Half Term

Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May

Safety on the roads



One of our Sixth Form students was run over on the Pelham Road pedestrian crossing on Friday 30th January as she travelled to the Isaac Newton Building. This happened outside the times when Peter Cowling, our Crossing Patrol man is on duty, as the girl was going to her lesson early. The motorist was totally at fault but the girl has suffered

some serious injuries. It will be some time before she returns to school.

The girls have all been made aware, but I ask you to reiterate the need for caution when girls cross the road. The need for greater care and awareness of others extends to girls who wait for buses on the pavements. A neighbour has described them as "disorganised mobs", which was not nice to read! Please remind your daughters, as we do, to be mindful of other pedestrians.

I have had further complaints from neighbours about thoughtless stopping and parking outside their home, blocking them in or preventing them from accessing driveways. Sixth Form students have been reminded that they should park at the I.N. site where there is plenty of safe parking space for them.

I ask you once again to be more considerate towards our neighbours when you attend Parents' Evenings or drop off or collect your daughters.

Uniform

Our students are generally looking very smart. I am pleased to say that with few exceptions, they are sensible about following school regulations, however, I feel I need to remind you that hair colouring is not permitted. Whilst we do not check the girls' hair in detail, any noticeable change will be dealt with. I accept that it may be some time before we notice, often when the girl's natural colour starts coming through. It is much easier to say no colouring than to have to establish what is or is not acceptable. On the whole, you are very supportive when the matter is brought to your attention and I am grateful for this. I ask you not to let your daughter persuade you that "it is all right, lots of girls have their hair coloured". It is not true. Whilst the more subtle natural shades of highlights may not always be noticeable, I can assure you that all girls whose colouring is noticed are asked to rectify the situation.

Kilts are looking neat on the whole. I am told that the permanent pleating should not fall out if the kilts are drip-dried. They must not be tumble dried. Mr Fletcher of Longfield Wools also confirms that you should not be charged to have buckles replaced. Please speak to him directly if you have an issue with this.

Finally, we only allow gold/silver ear studs, not any form of earrings. This is a Health & Safety matter.

A Mystery!

Last term I received a donation of £100 towards sponsorship from TLG (The Linar Group). I am grateful and would like to thank the sender. Would anyone be able to let me know who to contact. Thank you.

Year 11 and 13 Interviews

Since my last newsletter I have held my annual interviews with each Year 11 and 13 student. I continue to be most impressed by the way the girls speak about their school. For the first time I interviewed the same girls in Year 13 as I had in Year 11 two years previously. It is particularly pleasing to see how much they mature in that short space of time.

Personal Accident Scheme for Pupils

Once again the school would like to offer parents the opportunity to obtain accident insurance cover for their daughter(s). The attached leaflet explains the scheme and possible benefits if the worst happens.

The cost for one year's cover is £8.50 - £7.35 for the company and the rest to cover the school's administration costs.

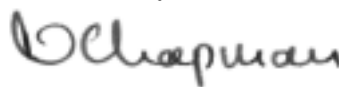
Should you wish to take part you need to obtain the following:

- Send a cheque for £8.50 made out to Gravesend Grammar School for Girls along with the completed application form, in an envelope with your daughter's name and form on it to the school's Finance Office.
- Please do this well before 1st April, which is the date cover would begin.

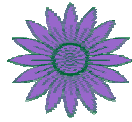
Please note that the company will only operate the scheme if there are 50 participants.

I trust the half term break will be enjoyed by all!

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Chapman
Headteacher



GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Please return to your daughter's form tutor by Wednesday 18th February

I acknowledge receipt of the following:

- 1 The Newsletter, Issue 3
- 2 KCC letter regarding Term Time Absences
- 3 HSBC Insurance Forms

Please send my Newsletters by email. My email address is: _____

Please note: we regularly update email addresses when we receive additions or amendments, however occasionally some newsletters still do not get through. Please ask your daughter to collect one from the school office if this is the case.

Daughter's name _____ Form _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____



GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Cultural Evening Friday 5th March 2004

Please return to your daughter's form tutor

I would like ___ tickets for the Cultural Evening on Friday 5th March.

I enclose £5 per ticket. Total amount enclosed: £_____

Daughter's name _____ Form _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____
