



Gravesend Grammar School For Girls

Newsletter Number 3

February 2005

Dear Parents

Celebration!



Whatever one thinks of the concept of league tables when schools have such varied circumstances it is always a rewarding accolade to be placed at the top end. You may have read in the paper that Gravesend Grammar School for Girls came top of all state schools in Kent for its GCSE results and value-added measure for progress between KS2 and KS4. Our value-added measure of 2024.8 also places us among the top 20% of schools nationally.

Congratulations to last year's Year 11 and a big thank you to Mrs Bell, Ms Cocks, their tutors and subject staff who supported them so well.

Princess Diana Memorial Award



This prestigious award was presented to Hayley Hedges, Gemma Higginson and Kulvir Benning on Monday 31 January in assembly. We were delighted that Gravesham MP, Chris Pond and our Chair of Governors, Val Green

were able to be there to congratulate our 3 students. Their Heads of Year Miss Pulver and Mr Gilchrist had suggested their nomination for their achievements in overcoming personal challenges. *Congratulations!*



Personal Safety

Your daughters have recently received a sheet listing tips to keep themselves and their belongings safe. Please discuss these with them, they were sent to us by the Home Office and are eminently sensible.

School self-evaluation and strategic planning

In order to plan most effectively for the next 3 years' strategic and development plan you will be asked to contribute to the review by responding to a questionnaire and providing feedback, ideas and suggestions. This will come to you as a paper copy but will also be posted on the website for you to respond by email if you so wish. All staff, governors and students will also be involved in the process of review and planning.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Campaign 2005

Please look out for this. It will start in March and we intend to register as a school. We shall be asking for your vouchers!

Duke of Edinburgh

The award has been well supported by current year 10 students with 63 of them now doing their bronze award. They have been keen to find a wide variety of service placements in the local area and some students have nearly completed one section of their award already. The expedition training is just about to start and we are holding a Gelert sale at school for the students to buy the necessary items for their adventure. We are hoping that everyone will commit to the training so they can enjoy the challenge of the 15-mile qualifying expedition in July.

Students in years 11 and L6 are excellent role models to our new participants, proving that anything is possible when you try hard. Altogether, students went to Swattenden for the qualifying expedition last summer and achieved a 100% pass rate. Congratulations to them all!

Many of these have now completed their Bronze Award and are looking forward to the presentation night in April, which they are helping to organise.

Thank you to Nicola Gear, Karen Munns and Kayleigh Terrace who have joined the youth panel, representing our school and your views regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Music



Since the December newsletter went to print we have received all of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity Guildhall examinations taken last term. Well done to all of the following:

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Olivia Dand	7	Piano	3
Alex Hook	7	Piano	1
Isabelle Matthews	7	Piano	2
Nicola Caws	8	Flute	4
Jennifer Chong	8	Piano	4*
Emily Coode	8	Violin	2
Amelia Hook	8	Piano	3
Sophie Matthews	8	Oboe	4*
Nicole McQuade	8	Clarinet	4
Rebecca Walton	8	Piano	3
Melanie Nurdin	9	Piano	2
Sally Lynch	10	Singing	5*
Sally Lynch	10	Piano	4
Laura Winton	10	Alto Sax	5
Jenny Day	11	Flute	6**
Becky Jewiss	11	Flute	6*
Helen Layton	11	Flute	7**
Rebecca Warner	11	Flute	7*
Jade Johnson	L6	Piano	5
Amrita Randhawa	L6	Piano	4
Amy West	L6	Alto Sax	5
Madeleine Case	U6	Flute	8*
Kirsten King	U6	Recorder	8**
Antonia Kent	ex-U6	Alto Sax	8*

* = with merit ** = with distinction

We are currently working towards the Gravesham Festival of Music, which takes place on the 12th and 13th March. We have entered our Junior and Senior Choirs and Training Orchestra who will be performing on the Saturday and will receive feedback on their pieces (and hopefully bring back some trophies!).

After half-term we will be launching Practice-a-thon for Sargent Cancer Care for Children. We will encourage our instrumentalists and students in the lower years of the school to take part and raise money for this charity.

There are currently vacancies for instrumental and vocal tuition. For students interested in learning to play the clarinet, saxophone, violin, viola, cello or double bass we are running a new Group Tuition Scheme whereby students learn one of these instruments in a group of three or four and tuition fees are significantly lower than having

lessons on an individual basis. Details can be obtained from Miss Sayers.

Governing Body

Just to remind you all that the next AGM will take place on Monday 7 March 2005 at 8.00pm.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two newly appointed Governors who will be joining us with immediate effect:

Mr Anthony Laurent – Parent Governor and
Ms Pam Dhesi – Co-Opted Governor

Competitions

We would like to congratulate these U6 students who gained the following awards in the very tough Physics Olympiad Competition:

Katie Spinks	-	Commendation
Katherine Gover	-	Bronze II
Pascale Matthews	-	Bronze II

A very well done to all three!

Year 11 and 13 Interviews

Year 11 were interviewed in December and Year 13 this half-term. They shared their successes, plans but also concerns and for some of them, anxieties. They are mostly very much on track but will continue to need your and their teachers' support in months to come to ensure they achieve their potential and make the best choices for their future.

Training School

This term we say good-bye to the four Associate Teachers who have trained with us for the first half of the year. In the second half of the year we are expecting to train an Associate Teacher in Maths.

Science College

You have been receiving a separate newsletter produced by Mr McCorkell. It shows how much has been achieved so far and how much is being planned. The presentation by Casterbridge of the planned trip to the USA proved very popular.

We are grateful to Mr McCorkell for the energy and enthusiasm he is investing in his leadership of our Science College status. We now need more of our students to show their own energy and enthusiasm for the extra opportunities presented to them. Please encourage them.

Vacancies

If you are interested in helping at the school by working as Cover Supervisors (to sit with classes doing work set by absent teachers) or Examinations Invigilators, please contact me at the school. You would receive training and payment for this. The hours are very flexible to suit your needs.

Sam Gillam 2 Tickets for Charlton Athletic
 C Appleton 4 Tickets for Gravesend & Northfleet FC
 Les West 1 Year's supply of toilet rolls
 Hannah Parker £10 ASDA Voucher

A big thank you to the committee for their continued support!



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

AUTUMN TERM 2005
 Monday 5 September – Friday 16 December

Half Term
 Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October

SPRING TERM 2006
 Tuesday 3 January – Friday 31 March

Half Term
 Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February

SUMMER TERM 2006
 Tuesday 18 April – Friday 21 July

Bank Holiday Monday 1 May

Half Term
 Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Help the Environment

Refilling/Replacing printer cartridges

Instead of paying excessive shop prices, why not get your cartridges refilled or replaced at about 50% of the cost. Get a recycling envelope from Mr Jones and you should have a new cartridge within a few days.

Recycling Mobile Phones

The school continues to collect old mobile phones for recycling. Please take out the SIMN card and then drop the phone through the Finance Office letterbox.

The school benefits financially from these two schemes, which are also very environmentally friendly.

School Uniform

Some students need constant reminders about the length of their kilts. They must not be rolled at the waist and should be worn just above the knee. We have also noticed that an increasing number of students are wearing shoes with diamante buckles. Shoes really should be sturdy and practical to withstand daily wear.

Please support us by reminding your daughter. Thank you.

Charity Fundraising

The Charity Officials would like to thank everyone for their generous donations, collected during the non-uniform day on Friday 28 January. The money will be sent to UNICEF to help the children affected by the Tsunami disaster.

The Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust would also like to thank everyone who, at Christmas, kindly donated wrapped selection boxes to the children's ward. They particularly wanted to thank Emily Stedman and her Mother for initiating this donation and for Emily's help at the party.

Parents' Association

The Parents Association Quiz Night will be held on Friday 25 February at 7.30pm.

For those of you who are interested in participating please complete the attached form and return via the Form Tutors to Mr Holmes no later than 21 February 2005.

Christmas Raffle Prize Winners

1 st Prize	Tony Moore	Combi TV and DVD
2 nd Prize	Mrs M Spencer	DVD Player
3 rd Prize	Cathryn Ashley	£50 cash

All other prizes

A McGugan	Grocery Hamper
E Rohleder	Small Hamper
H Kemsley	Family Swim & Health Suite session
N Wade	Ten Pin Bowling Voucher for 4
Zoe Gillam	Tin of Biscuits

Readathon

Well done to Year 7 who raised £1,496.28 for the Roald Dahl Foundation for Sick Children and the Sargent Cancer Care for Children, during READATHON week. Harriet Moesli, in Year 7BH won the prize for raising the most, individually and 7TP raised the most, as a class.



Educational Visits

Please be aware that following the receipt of information from Kent County Council we will be requesting Parental Consent for all unaccompanied educational journeys or visits.

In future you will be notified when an unsupervised trip (eg: work experience) will be taking place. You will be asked to provide consent clearly stating that you understand that your daughter(s) will not be supervised by school staff and that you agree to take full responsibility for all activities in which the school has indicated that they

can take part for the duration of that trip. Should you have any concerns regarding an unaccompanied trip you will be asked to state your query in writing to your daughter's Form Tutor.

Advance Notice

A date for your diary.

A celebration of Vaisakhi is being organised at Gravesend Grammar School for Girls for the 12 or 13 April (to be confirmed). Look out for a flyer that will be distributed after half-term.

Tickets will be on sale for an evening of entertainment at £5.00 for adults, £2.50 for children. Food will be served.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

By now, you should have received a booklet that explains Key Stage 3 Curriculum. If you have not received one yet please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N Chapman".

Mrs N Chapman
Headteacher