

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

Newsletter Number 6

July 2004

Dear Parents

Science College

As you know we have been designated a Specialist Science College from September 2004. This will mean many improvements for your daughters: new and refurbished Science facilities, better ICT facilities across the school and a range of additional equipment and resources. In addition focussed activities in Science, Maths and other subjects will prepare your daughter more effectively for the scientific world in which we live. Mr McCorkell has been appointed Science College Director from September. He will keep you updated with developments and will be inviting you to participate in the community events we organise in the future.

Building Project

The demolition of the Physics "hut" will have started by the time you read this - the building programme itself will begin on Monday 26th July after we have broken up for the summer break. The anticipated date of completion is 28th February. A well-defined building compound will be set up with priority given to the health and safety of the students, staff and visitors. A temporary building will be erected at the front of the school by the annex to accommodate the temporary Library before it is moved to the refurbished Biology Labs.

It is crucial to minimise traffic on the site and we therefore ask you not to drive onto the main site at any time except of course if you are collecting your sick daughter.

Changes to Key Stage 3 curriculum, September 2004 onwards

In order to meet statutory curriculum requirements in delivering ICT, Governors have agreed to make the following changes:

- In Year 7: 1 weekly period of D&T will be replaced by ICT.
- In Year 8: the fortnightly period of Latin will be replaced by ICT.

- In Year 9: the fortnightly period of Drama will be replaced by ICT.
- From September 2005 the fortnightly period of Latin will be replaced by a period of PE as the school does not currently meet the recommended 2 hours per week.

Drama will revert to being taught as part of the English curriculum. However, it is our intention also to provide opportunities for the students to experience Drama as an extra-curricular activity. Mrs Rosenthal will run an after-school Drama Club. If members are high, priority will be given initially to Year 9 students.

Miss Vamplew is also looking into an e-learning Latin course, which could be introduced on the school network.

National Schools Partnership

You will have received a letter from the National Schools Partnership via the School in mid-June. You will know, therefore, that in addition to providing some income for the School, the Partnership hopes to promote the cause of environmental and ethical consumerism.

The first letter from them introduced InkXpress and their scheme for refilling computer printer cartridges at greatly reduced costs. The Partnership were at pains to say that 40 million used cartridges accumulate in Britain every year, filling landfill sites and wasting increasingly valuable oil resources.

Should anyone require additional pre-paid envelopes for posting their ink cartridges for refilling, they can be obtained from Mr Jones at the School.

School Officials

Our newly elected Head Girl is Sharonjit Ahluwalia. Oneet Sandher and Stephanie Forbes have been elected Deputy Head Girls for 2004-5. Congratulations to them!

Sport



Athletics

In the Kent Championships on 15th and 16th May, three girls had success.

Rebecca Saunders broke the U17 Discus record by 500m, winning a Gold medal, throwing 40m 83cm. She was interviewed by Radio Kent and competes for England next Friday 16th July against Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Congratulations Rebecca!

Hayley Hickmott came second in the U15 800m final with a personal best time of 2m 24 seconds.

Rosalind Seeley took part in the U15 Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Javelin and 75m Hurdles events. In the Hurdles final she came 5th in a time of 12.74 seconds. Rosalind is now ranked in the top ten in the country in Discus in her age group, for her personal best throw of 39m 97. Well done!

Rebecca and Rosalind were selected for the English Schools Championships to represent Kent on the 8th and 9th July.

The Years 7 and 8 Athletics team and Years 9 and 10 team have taken part in the District League matches this term. Results will be available next term.

Rounders



In the North West Kent District Tournaments:

- Year 8 played at the Leigh CTC on Tuesday 18th May in a round robin against Northfleet School for Girls, Swan Valley, Axton Chase, Dartford Girls' Grammar and Leigh CTC. They won all their games to become district champions.
- Year 10 played on Tuesday 5th May. They beat Northfleet School for Girls, Dartford Technology College and Leigh CTC in their section and played Axton Chase in the final. They won 2 - 1 to become district champions.

The all day North West Kent District Championships were held on Tuesday 6th July at Dartford Harriers:

- The Year 7 team reached the final, which is yet to be played.
- The Year 8 team won, beating 5 other schools.
- The Year 9 team were unable to enter, due to SATs.
- The Year 10 team won, beating 7 other schools.

In the two friendly matches against Axton Chase, the Years 8 and 9 teams won.

Tennis

The U13 and U15 tennis teams have been competing in the Bexley league again this term.

Results to 6th July were:

- U13 played two and lost two
- U15 played one and lost one



The League will be completed by the end of term.

Cricket



The U15 team took part in the Kent League this term. They beat Sevenoaks in June and are due to play Bennett Memorial before the end of term. Their other two matches were cancelled by the opposition.

Diving

Eve Coomber, Year 8 took part in the Kent Schools Diving Championships on Saturday 3rd July and came 2nd in the Intermediate Girls' competition and won a Silver medal.



Cross Country

Rebekah Jarrett represented Gravesham in the Kent Schools Cross Country on Saturday 17th January.

Fun Run

The school Fun Run happened on Friday 21st May. We just managed to fit in a slightly shortened event in between rain showers on the day. The whole of Years 7 to 10 took part with great enthusiasm and entered into the spirit of the event by creating fancy dress costumes to the theme of the Olympics and Euro 2004.



The overall winner was Hayley Hickmott in Year 9, first finished were:

Year 7 - Sarah Jarrett

Year 8 - Hannah Daley

Year 10 - Kelly Cutting

In the Fancy Dress competition, the overall winner was India Webb in Year 8 for her Olympic torch and the group winners were 9JG, with the whole form running together as the Olympic track. The winners in the year groups were: Year 7 - the Olympic Rings,

Rosalind Fuller, Bridget Hamilton, Amelia Hook, Kerrie Marsh and Emily Stedman.

Year 8 - Rebecca Onyett and Lisa Wardle-'118, 118'

Year 9 - Elizabeth Cowan, Sian Harris and Ashleigh Jackson - 'Bill, Ben & Weed at the Olympics'

Year 10 - Sarah Gamble, Charlotte Cawsey, Charlotte Muir, Francesca Matthews, Rachel Snelling and Nicole Strudley - 'The Greeks'.

Second in the group category were Year 8's Jasmin Page, Nicola Relf and Olivia Walters - 'the Euros'.

Ms Stuart would like to thank all the students and staff who took part and all the staff and Upper Sixth who helped on the afternoon to make it such a success.

I must add that we got a disappointing response from a number of our students who are happy to take part and have an afternoon off lessons, but seem unwilling to raise sponsorship or contribute from their own pocket money. The Stepney Children's' Fund supports children from the East End of London who are seriously underprivileged. We would be grateful if you could support this worthwhile activity and encourage your daughter to contribute. We believe this is an important part of their citizenship education.

Sports Day

Ms Stuart's 23rd Sports Day ran very smoothly and finished just before the big thunderstorm. Everyone did very well on the day and thanks go to Ms Stuart, Miss Jewiss, Miss Medwin, Mrs Flynn, Mr Barron, Mr Barker, Miss Pulver, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Eley, Mr Gilchrist and all the other staff and students who helped to make it such a success.

The winners were:

7BR	10KJ
8DF	L6RB/NM/AS
9MM	

One record was broken by Kelly Cutting in 10SG, who ran the 1500m in 6m 23.30 seconds, beating the previous record set in 1998 of 6m 32 seconds.

Try-Angle Awards

This is the 10th Anniversary year of these awards which recognise the efforts and achievements of young people in the community in the Dartford and Gravesham area. This year the following girls were proposed for an award:

- For Personal Achievement in Music - Maja Photay and Hannah Arterton
- For Personal Achievement in Sport or Outdoor Activity - Hayley Hickmott, Lucy Francis, Rebecca Saunders and Suzannah Flynn

- For Good Friends and Young Carers - Hayley Hedges and Hannah Payne
- For Service to the Community - Natalie Hone

Suzannah Flynn, Natalie Hone and Maja Photay were all presented with trophies as the overall winners of their categories. The awards were held at the Orchard Theatre on 8th July.

Duke of Edinburgh

On the weekend of 2 - 4 July, 5 girls from the L6 went to Wales to complete their Gold practice training. It was very successful and they all enjoyed themselves. It presented them with new challenges which made it a very worthwhile experience.

38 girls from Years 10 and 11 (7 groups) went to Swattenden in Cranbrook on the same weekend. They were unlucky with the weather and found it very exhausting, but were all successful, completing their Bronze qualifying expedition. Thank you to Mr Barker, Mrs Garner, Miss Jewiss and Miss Downing for their help in organising and supervising this weekend.

Monday 5th July, lower sixth CSLA group ran their Top Link Sports Festival for 83 local primary school children. Pupils came from Ifield Special School, Cecil Road Primary School and Our Lady of Hartley School. They all had a great time being taken 'around the world' on an afternoon of fun packed activities. As usual our students excelled themselves.

Princess Diana Memorial Award

This prestigious award has been presented to Natalie Hone, outgoing Upper Sixth. She was nominated by Mrs Curtis for her services to the community as Guide Leader, her work at Dover Road Primary School and her willingness to help out with any duty required in school. Congratulations Natalie!

School Events

Challenge of Management

We are proud to report that this year's two-day Challenge of Management Conferences held simultaneously at both GGSG and GGS, were a resounding success.

Our thanks go to Mr Phillip Broszek from GlaxoSmithKline and to Mrs Fiona Davis from Barclays Bank, chairpersons at each school and to all the Group Advisors who helped the students through a variety of tasks. All tasks were work-related activities and included: the Egg Drop Challenge, Capital

Choices, Jot-Pad Manufacture, the Brick Activity and the Lego Challenge.

We hope all students benefited from exposure to these problems.

Work Experience - Year 11



Once again we are proud to report that our students obtained good Work Experience placements. Our thanks go to all parents who helped to provide such excellent opportunities for their daughters.

We are also indebted to the Gravesham Business Education Partnership for all their help and guidance in checking and confirming placements.

Music



We recently held the Junior Concert in which the style of music was varied and the standard of performance was very high. The Training Orchestra, Clarinet Ensemble and Wind Band performed music ranging from Gershwin's '*Summertime*' to a selection from the musical '*Me and My Girl*'. A high number of Key Stage 3 students were keen to show off their talents with solos and duets this year and those who performed in the concert had successfully auditioned. Performances included a piano duet by Abigail Alfrey and Amelia Hook (7BR), an Oboe solo by Sophie Matthews (7TP) and a vocal solo by Melanie Nurdin (8AW). Well done to all who participated in the concert.

From September we will be running Theory classes which are open to anyone of Grade 3 and above on their instrument, who has not yet taken the Grade 5 examination. Outside of school, theory classes incur a cost for the tuition and it is very difficult for instrumental teachers to complete the syllabus content alongside instrumental lessons. The classes we are offering are free of charge. If students wish to take the examination then parents will need to pay the entry fee, as per practical examinations. Classes take place every Thursday lunchtime in Room 47. Anyone who is interested should let Miss Sayers know.

There are vacancies for tuition in most instruments and singing in September. If you would like your daughter to begin lessons, she should see Miss Sayers for the appropriate application form. Shared lessons of two or more students dramatically reduces the cost.

Uniform



Our supplier has asked me to remind you that the kilts should not be tumble dried as it damages the pleats and the leather straps. Please also note that the kilts must not be washed in hot water (maximum 40°) - leather straps will no longer be replaced free of charge after 6 months of wear. The kilts have been getting gradually shorter, please ensure your daughter returns in September with the appropriate length of kilt.

Please be reminded that hair colouring is not allowed.

The Parents' Association have offered to sell on second hand uniform. Please send in items, clearly labelled and in good clean condition to the school office.

Vacancies - Sept 2004



Midday Supervisors (2 posts) are required to help supervise the girls in the dining room and around school at lunch times (12.30 - 1.45) Term-time only, including 4 weeks paid holiday. Rate of pay: £5.45 per hour.

Clerical support including typing UCAS application forms for our Sixth Form students is required in the Autumn. Hours are flexible, good word processing skills are essential. Rate of pay: £6.00 per hour.

Please contact Mr Jones at the school if you are interested.

Mobile Phone Mast

I have received the pre-consultation on behalf of T-Mobile Limited for a Telecommunications Installation comprising one 11.7m high slimline Monopole with 3 antennas contained within a glass reinforced plastic shroud, one 0.3m diameter microwave dish, radio equipment housing and ancillary development in the courtyard of R B Hammond, May Avenue Industrial Estate, Perry Street, Northfleet, Kent. The cell is centred on two mini roundabouts at the junction of Pelham Road South, Old Road West and Pelham Road.

In response to the 'Stewart Report', the government has stated that emissions from radio base stations should meet the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure adopted in the UK. They can confirm that the proposed installation will comply with these guidelines. In fact, because of the very low power utilised by telecommunications sites the

emissions will be many times lower than the ICNIRP threshold.

If you would like to research information on the subject yourself, I would advise you to visit the following websites:

www.nrpb.org/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/absd14-2.htm

www.cost281.org/over.php

www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/60-7.htm

www.iegmp.org.uk/

www.who.ch/peh-emf

I intend to respond on behalf of the governors stating that we have no objections so long as we can be reassured that there are no health hazards attached.

Please contact Peter Flanagan, Compro Telecommunications, Northern Office, Unit 4 Wentworth Business Park, Maple Court, Tankersley, South Yorkshire S75 3DP, if you wish to offer your comments.

Mobile Phone Policy



You will find a copy of this attached to your newsletter as a reminder.

Headlice

We have had recurrent cases in Year 7. May I ask you to check your daughter's hair regularly and seek advice from your pharmacist.

School Fund - Reminder

This will be due in September:

£21 for one girl

£31 for two sisters

£41 for three sisters

School Meals



In line with other Kent schools, we are raising the price of a basic school meal (main course and dessert) to £1.65 from 1st September. Other prices will also rise at a similar level of around 5%.

Staff Leaving



This year we say goodbye to the following staff:

Miss Hawkes (Maths & Head of Year 7)

Mr Smith (English & Head of Year 13)

Miss Sivaji (KS3 Science Co-ordinator)

Miss Viseras (Spanish)

Mrs Liddle (English)

Mr Rayner (D&T)

Mr Morris (D&T Technician)

Mrs Bates (Headteacher's PA)

Mrs Heywood will be taking a sabbatical year.

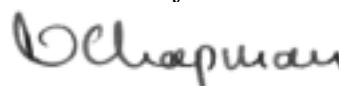
I am pleased to report that all staff have been replaced for September.

On Wednesday 21st July term ends at 2.00pm for students. Buses will leave at 2.15pm **with the exception of the Nu Venture bus, which will leave at the normal time.** If you wish your daughter to stay in school until this time, please send a letter stating this to the School Office **by Tuesday 20th July.**

The new term starts on Friday 3rd September for all students at the normal time of 8.45am.

May I wish you all a pleasant summer.

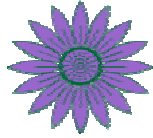
Yours sincerely



Mrs N Chapman

Headteacher





Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

Please return to your daughter's Form Tutor

I acknowledge receipt of the following:

- 1 The Newsletter, Issue 6
- 2 Uniform List
- 3 Term Dates for September
- 4 Assessment Pattern
- 5 Mobile Phone Policy (reviewed)

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 visit our website and download one or ask your daughter to collect one from the school office if this is the case.

Daughter's name _____

Form _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____