

## Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

Newsletter Number 6  
2006

July

Dear Parents

Another full newsletter which reflects the level of activity additional to the School curriculum at Gravesend Grammar School for Girls.

### Governing Body Update

Mrs Helen Skellorn is retiring from the Governing Body this summer. She has been a Governor for thirty years and for seventeen of those years was Chairman of Governors and was involved in the appointment of three Headteachers. Helen has always been very supportive of the school and attended Concerts, Prizegivings and sports events. When the school suffered fires in 1981 she was here in her 'wellies' and even when she broke her leg she was here in plaster!

Under her Chairmanship the school was able to build Mayfield Court and she worked to secure funding for the courts at the IN site.

As an ex-student, Helen has worked hard recently to re-vitalise the Old Girls' Association and we are pleased that she will continue to do this.

We know that she can be very proud of all that the School has achieved with her help and are very grateful for her untiring work on behalf of the School.

**There will be elections held for Parent Governors before Christmas. This is a very interesting and rewarding role so please think about joining us. If you are interested please contact the school.**



*From left: Mrs Green (Chairman of Governors), Mrs Skellorn and Mrs Chapman*

### Healthy Schools

Breakfast Club was introduced in June. So far the girls are not using the service. It will be discussed by the School Council. Any suggestions will be welcome.

We are going to work towards achieving the Kent County Council Healthy Schools Award. We would like to involve parents (probably no more than 6) in a working party to meet 2 or 3 times in the year. Meetings are likely to be during the school day or at 4pm. If any of you are interested in joining us, please contact Miss Stuart or myself in September.



### Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls participated in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry at The University Greenwich on Tuesday 16 May and won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for which they received a certificate and the school will receive £100.

Thank you to Miss Ormsby who helped the school to achieve this award.

## Science Roadshow Takes to the Road

GGSG Science College has been working throughout the year to get its very own 'Science Roadshow' working with local Primary Schools. Mr. Ken Harrison has designed a series of workshops which were offered to a range of Primary Schools and he has been busy taking his workshops out. The workshops are designed to engage Primary aged children with Science through a series of demonstrations and hands on activities. As an extension of this the 'Science Roadshow Plus' is deliberately aimed at engaging the parents of the children as they arrive to pick up their children at the end of the day.

This term has been an 'exploratory' series of bookings, but the plan is to extend the shows across the school year starting in September 2006. **ALL** local Primary schools can book a show by contacting Mr M<sup>c</sup>Corkell at the school. He will be sending out more information to schools in early September. If you have children at Primary school and they have not had a chance to see the Science Roadshow, perhaps you could ask your Primary School to have a look at the scheme and encourage them to make a booking.

Perhaps we have parents who would like to get involved in the Roadshow as a presenter? If so, please contact Mr M<sup>c</sup>Corkell at the school, and he will arrange to guide you through what it entails and see if you feel you could present some of the workshops.

## Johnny Ball Comes to Gravesham

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, GGSG Science College was pleased to welcome Johnny Ball (of 'Think of a Number' and Children's television fame) to the Woodville Halls in Gravesend.



He performed the entertaining and informative 'Funtastic Maths and Science' to a packed house both in the morning and the afternoon. In all, almost 1500 children in years 4 to 7 enjoyed the shows, from a range of schools across the Gravesham region and beyond.



*"My favourite part of the show was when the girl from the Grammar School beat the four boys by pulling on the rope"* wrote Chelsea Swain from Raynehurst Junior School. *"We thoroughly enjoyed the presentation."* wrote the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent Prep. School. *"The children had a wonderful time"* wrote Duncan Finlayson from Wilmington Primary, while the year 5 and 6 children at Wilmington Primary wrote *"It was very interesting to see how Maths could be turned into something so easy."*

This is the first time Science College has used the Woodville Halls, but the courtesy of the staff and the seamless organisation make it likely that we will use it again in the future. Do any parents have any ideas of who we could invite to perform for us? If so, please write to Mr M<sup>c</sup>Corkell with your ideas and he will follow up on contacts.

## Lead ICT in Science School

## Science College-Looking Ahead to 2006/07

As a consequence of being a Science College, GGSG was able to bid to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) to become a 'Lead ICT in Science School'. Our successful bid means that we have been chosen from several schools in the South East to represent the SSAT in the national network of Lead ICT in Science Schools. As well as attracting additional funding for this scheme, it recognises both the investment we have made in ICT across the Science and Maths faculties as well as the vision and skill of the teachers in those faculties at using ICT to enhance and develop teaching and learning.

The courses will be advertised to schools by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, but if anyone would like to make enquiries about the nature and content of the courses, please contact Mr M<sup>C</sup>Corkell at the school.



## Science of Tomorrow Competition

Students from 8AV entered a Science of Tomorrow writing competition in which they had to imagine the world of Science in 2056. The competition was organized by Cancer Research and was part of National Science Week work in the school.

Hannah Dolling won second prize in her age group. Her winning piece can be viewed at [www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org) where you can also read the following comments:

*Judge Tim Radford, former Science Editor of the Guardian, says, "There were some very imaginative entries in this age group. If these youngsters are as creative in the lab as in their writing, we can certainly look forward to some ambitious science from them in years to come."*

*2nd prize goes to Hannah Dolling from Kent who imagines the problems of living amongst the robots....*

*"As I called for my chair, another malfunctioned robot swiveled its way passed me as I pulled its gene strip out. As I stood there shrinking down the food I could eat, a thought hit me. Right on my head."*

Congratulations to Hannah. We hope that many more of you will want to enter this competition next year.

There are several events already planned for our students next year and more is being planned. The events already scheduled are:

**13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September** – For Year 11 students, a residential course at Wye College, organised by Imperial College. This event is entitled 'Entrepreneurial Bioscience' and looks at DNA techniques.

**22<sup>nd</sup> September** – For Year 8 students, working with other local Year 8 students on an 'adaptation and habitat' event at St. Margaret's Bay near Dover.

**13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October** – For Year 7 students, a chance to experience a residential course on Space, at the European Space Camp and practice their language skills. A joint event between Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

**10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November** – For Year 9 students, a residential experience in Northern France looking at different Science topics (Sea Life, rocketry, cooking and chocolate) as well as the horrors of both the First and Second World Wars. This will also be a good opportunity to practice their language skills. This is a joint initiative between Science, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities.

**8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June** - For Year 8 students, a residential course in Torquay covering Geology, Forensic Science and Leadership. This is a joint initiative between Science, Humanities and Creative Arts.

**February 2007** – For Year 8, another chance to experience 'Maths Workshops' provided by Millennium Mathematics Project, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge.

These are just some of the upcoming events and activities, and we hope that as many students as possible get involved. There will also be public lectures and events for parents, and the support of parents at these events is essential if we are to maintain and build an interesting and dynamic programme across the whole school community

## Next Generation

Teenagers' lives today can seem very different from their parents' own experience, and that can make parents feel isolated. Next Generation magazine is a new, subscription-only magazine which looks at how the relationship between parents and their teenagers



changes and what parents can do to help. Every issue contains expert features, commissioned articles, dispatches and debates reflecting parents' and teenagers' interests and concerns. Next Generation's aim is to help parents worry less and enjoy more!

To find out more call 01223 690043 or visit:  
[www.nextgenerationpublishing.com](http://www.nextgenerationpublishing.com)

### **Year 11 Cocktail Party**

The weather did not dampen the spirits of our first Year 11 Cocktail Party which took place on 26 June. Girls looked stunning in their "Cocktail Frocks". The food was exotic and exquisite (for some, it was their first taste of Sushi or Duck a l' Orange!). The inspiration for the party came from a group of girls from 11CHD and supported by Mrs Heywood who wanted to celebrate the end of the GCSE's, the end of Key Stage 4 and to say farewell to those who are moving on.



The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by all Students, Midday Supervisors and Staff! The "Cocktail" atmosphere was enhanced by live music performed by the Lower Sixth Music ensemble. The evening culminated in a request for Mr Barker to play the hymn "Shine, Jesus, Shine" which all sang with great gusto!!

A truly memorable occasion which hopefully will be repeated and enjoyed in future years!



### **Graduation Ball**

The nineteenth Graduation Ball for Upper Sixth leavers was held on Friday 30 June. Over 300 people attended from both GGSG and GGS. They were treated to a live band in the main hall and a disco in a marquee outside. The weather was ideal enabling the quad to be used to advantage and ensuring that the wonderful ball gowns could be shown off in the evening sunshine. All had an enjoyable evening and those attending should be congratulated on their excellent behaviour. I would like to thank all those who helped in the organisation and running of the event. The members of the Parents' Association had a busy night on the bar!



### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

We must thank you for all the vouchers you have sent in. At the last count we had 28,600 and we are able to order two Rounders Post and Base sets, Netball bibs, Rounders balls and bats, Hockey balls, Soft Discus, Relay Batons, 15 Foam Javelin, Folding Hurdles, 15 Soft Shot's Target Goal set's, 15 Squistle's, Duckwalkers, to name just a few..

**Please note that the deadline for tokens has been extended to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **We are also collecting...**

- Stars for Arts and Crafts tokens (Persil Washing Powder)
- Tennis Tokens (Ariel Washing Powder)
- Books for Schools Tokens (Nestle Cereal packets)

Your support is always appreciated so please keep collecting. Thank you

### **PE News**

## Athletics

The Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 athletes have been taking part in the North West Kent District Athletics matches this term. Unfortunately, the whole day competition falls on our Sports Day this year, so we are unable to take part and therefore will be unplaced overall.

Hayley Hickmott and Natalie Hickmott are experiencing much success at Dartford Harriers this Summer, Hayley at 800m and Natalie in the sprints. Rosalind Seeley was selected to compete in the discus in the English Schools Competition on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## Rounders

In the North West Kent District Competitions:

Year 7 won

Year 8 was postponed

Year 9 came fourth

Year 10 came third

Sports Day will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July and we would be delighted to see parents for the track events in the afternoon from 1.00pm.

## **Girls Rugby Union 05/06 Season**

The following girls have represented Kent County under 17 team in competitive matches against other counties.

Laura Theobald (Year 11)

Sarah Finlayson (L6)

Lucy Francis (L6)

Sarah Jones (L6)

In addition to this Sarah Jones has represented South East England in regional matches and in the RFUW regional tournament at Rugby School where they won the plate competition.

Well done to all girls involved!

## **U6 AL PE Trip**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May this year we joined together with the AL group from Northfleet School for Girls and visited Lord's Cricket ground and Wimbledon. We had very interesting guided tours of both venues and were able to spend time in the museums. The trip helps to bring to life the History of Sport section in the A2 PE syllabus. Thanks to Ms Stuart and Ms Decent from Northfleet School for Girls for organising and running the trip.



## **Eastbourne Tennis Tournament**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June the Year 10 GCSE PE groups went to the Eastbourne Tennis tournament for the day. We saw three excellent singles matches on the centre court, the best being between Daniela Hantuchova and Elena Likhovtseva. We were also able to watch Amelie Mauresmo and Martina Navratilova practising on the outside courts. The students filled in analysis sheets and learnt a lot about the game. Thanks to Ms Stuart, Mrs Flynn and Mrs Edwards for organising the trip.



## **School Sports Coordinator**

Ms Stuart and Miss Jewiss have been jointly fulfilling the School Sports Coordinator's role this year, linked to Meopham Specialist Sports College. Our Primary

link schools are Cecil Road, Dover Road, Rosherville and Shorne. We have established very good links with them culminating in Rosherville having their Sports Day on our field on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and the CSLA Festival on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Our four link schools and Ifield will spend the afternoon doing Sport led by our community Sports Leader in the Lower Sixth. A special thank you to Ms Stuart for organising the Rosherville day and Miss Jewiss for the CSLA day.

Mrs Edwards has worked part time, one day a week this year. The PE department would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment during that time.

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

Over the last few months nearly 60 girls from Year 10 have been working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

There are four sections to the award:

1. Developing a skill
2. Improving physical fitness
3. Volunteering service to the community
4. Taking part in a group expedition.

In June, all the girls took part in their practice expeditions, walking 24km over two days whilst carrying everything that they needed to be self sufficient including their tents, food and cooking equipment. The weather was warm and dry (unlike the weekend of their training a few weeks beforehand!) and despite the odd blister and tired legs everyone enjoyed themselves. Now that the girls have completed their practice expedition, they have to complete their final qualifying expedition around the Cranbrook area of Kent in September.

Thanks are due to all the members of staff who gave up their time to collect check point cards, meet the teams on route, and track them down when they got lost!

## **Fun Run**

The Fun Run this year took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm despite the rain showers in the morning! The whole of Years 7-10 took part, or helped with the organisation if they were unable to run.

The winners of the various prizes were:

### **Runners:**

**Overall Winner:** Kelly Preen 7PM (30m16s)

**Year 7:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jodie Smith 7AO (36m)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Dickins 7SH (37m29s)  
**Year 8:** 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Clifford 8AV (42m02s)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hannah Dolling 8AV (42m10s)  
**Year 9:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jenna Turner 9SSR (36m12s)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Rosie Ward 9SSR (36m12s)  
**Year 10:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kezia Brown 10LD (35m56s)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kara Waghorne 10SG (49m19s)  
**Fancy Dress:**  
**Year 7:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jenna Abbakouk 7KG (Noddy)

(Jack

2<sup>nd</sup> Corrigan Hicks 7AW (Ben)  
Group: Gabriella Driessen 7RDE

& Sally)

Olivia Steen 7RDE (Nightmare Before Christmas)

1<sup>st</sup> Harnisha Nijjer 8SP (Boobah)

2<sup>nd</sup> Zoe Hilditch 8DF (Noddy)

Group: Rebecca Steingass, Natalie Walton, Samantha Bennett, Kelly Warner, and Priya Janda 8SBS (The Teletubbies)

1<sup>st</sup> Min Fang Guo 9MM

2<sup>nd</sup> Jordan Langdon 9VM

(Chucky

Rug Rats)

Group: Abie Alfrey, Anna Fowler, Emily Ball, and Tijana Micunovic 9VM (Thomas the Tank Engine)

1<sup>st</sup> Bethany Price 10EP

2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Gillam 10RB (Travis)

Group: Emily Mason, Danielle

Hargood

Melanie Courtney, Vikki

Crane,

Lorna Clark, Kathryn

Dendias,

Louise Stoneham 10KJ (The Simpsons)

Overall Group Winner: Amelia Hook and Bridget Hamilton 9VM (Ghostbusters).





Despite the poor weather, the Fun Run was very successful and enjoyed by all. Ms Stuart would like to thank all the staff who helped to make the event run smoothly.



The money raised will go to Stepney Children's Fund for under-privileged children in Tower Hamlets, and towards new equipment for whole school use, to be decided upon next term.

## **Music**

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls has once again been awarded the Artsmark Silver by the Arts Council for the quality of Art, Drama and Music teaching and the opportunities those departments offer students. We first gained the award in 2003. Francesca Kent (Year 10) and Hayley Hedges (Lower 6<sup>th</sup>) will receive the award on behalf of the school on 6<sup>th</sup> July at a presentation ceremony in Horsham. They will be accompanied by Mrs Chapman and Miss Sayers, who put together the application.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July we had our Junior Concert, mostly featuring Key Stage 3 students. It looks to be an enjoyable afternoon of entertainment and we will publicly say 'goodbye' to Mr Barker.

Looking ahead, there will be vacancies for instrumental and vocal tuition in September. If you would like your daughter to start taking lessons at the start of the new academic year, it is advisable to apply during the next term. Miss Sayers has details on each of the lesson packages available, ranging from piano, guitar and voice to orchestral instruments.

## **Princess Diana Award**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running we have made a successful nomination. This year the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award went to Abrica Bennett (10SG) to recognise her battle with cancer and commitment to her studies. It was presented to her in a special assembly in May.

Abrica is an example to us all for the courage and determination she has shown throughout her illness. We look forward to her return to school full time next year.

## **Try Angle Awards Ceremony**

On the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> July four of our girls attended the annual Dartford and Gravesham Try Angle Awards ceremony at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford. Abrica Bennett (Year 10) was a nominee for the Bravery category, Judith Hutchings and Rebecca Knights (Year 10) and Rena Lakha (Year 8) were nominees in the Personal Achievement in Music category and Hannah Daley (Year 10) who could not attend was nominated for Personal Achievement in Sports and Outdoor Activities. All received a framed certificate and medal in recognition of being nominated. Judith also received the overall winner's award for Personal Achievement in Music and her name will be forwarded for the Kent Try Angle Awards. In addition to our award winners, Caroline Mitten and Nicola Gear performed a dance just before the interval and received rapturous applause.



## Summer Art Exhibition

The Art Department presented their annual Summer Art exhibition, in association with the Design Technology department, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> June this year. Each Sixth Former had their own space in which to hang work and put together a unique display of coursework. We also displayed a substantial amount of GCSE Artwork including paintings, mixed media pieces and sculptures, exhibited alongside preparatory sketchbooks. The department are to be recognised for their new and innovative hanging techniques this year - very few nails and lots of string!!



Externally Set Assignment - Katy Piper U6

The quality of the students' work was, as usual, exceptionally high. The range of subject matter and approach demonstrated tremendous individuality. This was reflected in the comments made by the public during the Private View held on 20<sup>th</sup> June. This event proved a huge success as Sixth Formers were joined by family and friends to celebrate their achievements. It remained popular until the end of the evening and we were pleased to greet several Governors and many GGSG teachers. The girls also impressed Art teachers who had been invited from local schools to view the work. We appreciated all

the interest especially that from the new Art teacher, Mr Marriott, who was able to attend and support the whole event.



Natural Forms, Year 10 - Emma Winton (left), Jordan Hook (bottom left), Geetha Kalkut (right)

The two departments encouraged as many students as possible to visit the exhibition whilst on display. The overall response from the girls was very positive and I hope that this experience provides inspiration to future Art students. The AS/A2 students are to be congratulated on their efforts this year and for the excellent presentation of their work. Keep up the hard work Lower Sixth; we look forward to your exhibition next year!



Jellyfish Lighting Feature, Design and Technology Coursework - Rosanna Church L6ER



## **Race for Life**

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Sarah Finlayson, Nicola Gear, Karen Munns, Lucy Thomas, Jo Coe and Miss Jewiss took part in the Race for Life for Cancer Research. Despite the very hot weather it was an enjoyable day and all for a very

Good cause. They managed to raise lots of money for this charity - if anyone would like to offer a contribution please see Miss Jewiss with your donation.

## **Uniform**

### **Sixth Form**

A reminder that all those joining or returning to the Sixth Form in September must adhere to the arrangements for Sixth Form dress, as outlined in the letter sent out with your daughters. If you have not seen the letter, please contact the school office. We reserve the right to send students home to change if they are not properly dressed.

### **Key Stage 3 and 4**

May I remind you that all uniform should be checked over the Summer and if kilts are too short they should be replaced for September. Some of the kilts are now very short! I have enclosed a copy of the uniform for September and there are no changes this year.

The uniform will be reviewed annually by staff and the school council for anomalies that may exist. However, I emphasise that we have no plans to change the uniform in any major way.

Please be reminded that only discreet make up is acceptable. It does not include eyeshadow, eyeliner or lipstick. Students should not dye their hair; any noticeable change may lead to your daughter being sent home. We have noticed in recent months that some students are returning to school after the weekend with painted nails (sometimes even nail extensions). Please make sure this has been removed before Monday morning!

Flesh coloured tights and trainer socks can be worn until 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Thank you to those of you who send in items of second hand uniform. They are gratefully received by new and existing parents alike. I shall be discussing with the Parents Association how we might develop this service.

## **Padlocks for Lockers**

To circumvent many of the problems we have experienced we have decided to supply all the padlocks for girls' lockers ourselves in future. We will be moving to a common procedure for all lockers, whether of the padlock variety or the integral lock variety.

When students return in September they will be allocated a locker. If this is of the padlock variety, it will come with a padlock attached. All girls will need to go to the Finance Office and pay a £5 deposit, and they will then be issued with a key.

The deposits are, of course, returnable at the end of the year on the production of the key. During the year, lost keys can be replaced at a cost of £1.50.

As usual, we will be asking all girls to empty their lockers before they leave for the summer holiday. If any lockers are not emptied, the Premises staff will do this during the summer holiday; this may involve cutting off the existing padlocks (which is one thing our new arrangements should solve in the future!).



## **Arrangements for Parents Being Away**

It occasionally happens that parents make arrangements for their daughter to stay with a friend or relative whilst they are away on holiday or business. We would be grateful if you could make us aware of such arrangements by writing to the Form Tutor or Head of Year providing details of name, address and contact number. You will understand this is important in case we need to contact you. Thank you.

## **School Fund - Reminder**

This will be due in September.

£21.00 for one girl

£31.00 for two sisters

£41.00 for three sisters

The Finance Office staff will be at the new Year 7 Open Evening where it will be possible to pay School Fund for the new academic year. Cash, cheques or

Direct Debit payments will be accepted on the night and held until September.

## School Meals

The school attempts to match the pricing structure operated by KCC in other schools. At present, this is hard to assess for September as KCC have not announced their new pricing structure. While we apologise for this situation, what we can announce is:-

- From September the price of a main meal plus dessert is likely to be in the region of £1.80 (currently £1.70).
- New menus will be on offer to meet the government's new healthy eating guidelines.
- A breakfast option will continue to be offered.

## Staff Leaving

This year we say goodbye to the following staff:

Miss Jewiss (Teacher of PE and Outdoor Education Coordinator) moving to a post as a Schools Sports Coordinator.

Miss Medwin (Teacher of PE) who will be moving to a school in Wimbledon.

Mr Barker (Teacher of Music and ICT) to be Head of Music at Harvey Grammar School.

Mrs Curtis (Teacher of Maths and Head of Careers) and

Mrs Foxon (Teacher of English) are retiring

Mr Delnon (Teacher of German) who will be looking for part-time employment.

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

## End of Term

On Friday 21 July term ends at 2.00pm for students. Buses will leave at 2.15pm.

The new term starts on Wednesday 6 September 2006 for all students at the normal time of 8.45am.

## Term Dates 2006/2007

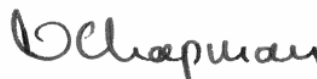
I enclose an updated copy of the term dates for 2006-07. We have 6 terms but they follow the same pattern as the 3 term year with the half terms becoming shorter full terms, making this 6 terms. Please note that there are 5 Development Days, 3 in the first and second terms, one in Term 4 and one in Term 6.

I also include the Assessment Pattern for 2006-07, with an explanation of our contacts with parents. Please note that we have altered the timing in the year of Year 8, 10 and Upper Sixth examinations and of the Year 7 and 10 Parents Evenings. We have also introduced information meetings for Parents at the beginning of Lower Sixth, Year 10 and Year 9.

I ask you again this year to avoid asking for holiday leave during or preceding the examination periods. In fact, I would appreciate as few requests as possible for holiday absence during term time. There is a great deal of research detailing the detrimental effects of absence on student learning and we look very carefully at every request for such absence.

May I wish you all a pleasant Summer.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Chapman  
**Headteacher**

