

Gravesend Grammar School For Girls

Newsletter Number 3

March 2003

Dear Parents

You have probably heard from your daughters that Mrs Chapman has not been in school for a few weeks. She has been very ill with pneumonia and was in fact in hospital for 2 weeks. However, we heard yesterday that she is now home, on the "mend" and hoping to be back in school in time for the Ofsted inspection. Obviously, this will depend on her rate of recovery, which can be quite slow from pneumonia, but she is determined to be here to support the school over this period.

Ofsted

We hope that you have all received the Ofsted questionnaire for parents and thank you very much for the responses to date. Please do fill them in and return them to the school by 12th March so that we can send them off to the Ofsted team for processing. If you have not yet received one, please contact the school office. We also hope that you will attend the Parents' Meeting with the Registered Inspector, Brian Rowe, on Tuesday 11th March at 7.30 pm in the School Hall. Mr Rowe will have been in school all day on 11th March, meeting staff, some students, Governors and finally parents.

The actual inspection starts on Monday 24th March and finishes on Thursday 27th March. It will comprise of a short inspection for Key Stages 3 and 4 but a full inspection for the Sixth Form.

Governors' Annual Report to Parents

You should all have received a copy of this from your daughters this week. Once again, if you have not obtained one, please contact the school office.

The annual Parent-Governor Meeting will be held on Monday 17th March, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

School Events

We have had a busy term to date, starting in January with tests and examinations which have affected Years 9, 10, 11, L6 and U6. The girls have been reflecting on their progress, setting targets for improvement and discussing these with staff. Those

who have found them more challenging have negotiated action plans with their subject and pastoral staff. We hope that this will allow them to fulfil their potential in the summer in both the internal and external examinations. If you are concerned about your daughter's progress, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Various curriculum trips have taken place during the term, including a Year 7 Art trip, L6 Geography field trips, L6 RE Conference with Gravesend Grammar School, the extremely challenging World Challenge Training Expedition for the Borneo trip this summer and a visit for Year 7 to the Astrodome which was set up in the school hall.

In February the Year 11 GCSE Drama groups performed 'Blue Remembered Hills' by Denis Potter as part of their GCSE examination course requirements. Both performances were very well attended and extremely well received by the audiences. The performers created an excellent atmosphere and Mrs Rosenthal was very pleased with the high standards achieved by the girls, both off and on stage. Some of these Year 11 students were also involved in a Drama Workshop with Fawkham Primary School which was based on performing roles of a different age from their own. Our thanks go to Mrs Rosenthal for organising this event.

Mrs Curtis organised the Real Game Initiative for Year 9 which involved the girls in a very busy day which included a consideration of various careers, the ability to live on a budget and to manage time effectively. The students participated enthusiastically. Our thanks to Mrs Curtis for her hard work and to all the staff who contributed to the day.

The highlights of half term for many girls were the trips to Prague, Spain, Germany and the Ski trip, reports of some of which follow. Our thanks go to the girls for behaving so well and being such good ambassadors for the school and to the staff who organised these trips and gave up their holiday time to take the girls. Thank you to everyone concerned.

Music



As usual the Music Department has been very busy. During half term, 38 of our musicians ranging from Year 7 to the Upper 6th participated in the Concert Tour to Prague. We performed three public concerts in some very grand venues, including St Nicholas Church in the Old Town Square, as well as taking in the rich culture of this beautiful city and sampling some interesting food (with mandatory soup!). The weather was very kind to us, with glorious sunshine each day and temperatures, which were warm for this time of year in Prague, even if we were very cold!

All of the girls enjoyed themselves and should be congratulated as they produced an exceptionally high standard of music whilst there. Thanks also go to Miss Sayers, Mr Barker, Ms Stuart, Ms Stuart, Mrs Garner and Miss Mills for giving up their holiday to take the girls.



Before half term, a larger number of students took part in the Practice-a-thon! To raise money for Sargent Cancer Care for Children. The deadline for handing in sponsor money is Friday 14 March, so please remind your daughter to bring the money she raised to Miss Sayers.

Since the last newsletter I have received details of more girls who took Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Guildhall and Trinity examinations last term. Well done to those listed below:

Name	Year	Instrument	Grade
Judith Hutchings	7	Theory	1**
Judith Hutchings	7	Clarinet	2*
Hayley Hickmott	8	Descant Recorder	3*
Hannah Parker	9	Piano	4
Frances Bateman	11	Theory	5
Kirsten King	11	Oboe	6**
Rosalyn Mott	11	Piano	3**

* = with merit

** = with distinction



German Work Experience

The following Lower Sixth A level students: Toni Atkinson, Stephanie Chandler and Joy Stockton took part in the German work experience in Neumunster

during the February half term holidays. They spent a week working and work shadowing in the local press offices and a Kindergarten. The students gained first hand insight into the working environment in Germany and were able to widen their knowledge of work orientated vocabulary as well as gather useful information for their A level units.



Spanish Trip to Seville

On the 23rd February thirty students visited Seville in the south of Spain. The weather was not always as sunny as we would have hoped, but the girls' behaviour was exemplary and the staff who took them really enjoyed their company. They climbed up the Giralda, visited the Arabic Palace and walked plenty of kilometres around the most beautiful of cities. They even managed to see a Spanish film and have *chocolate con churros* – hot, thick chocolate with sticks of sugary batter to dip into! The girls all had the opportunity to try some of the famous *tapas* such as spinach and chickpeas, cured ham, Russian salad, squid rings, cod stew, meat balls in white wine sauce, stuffed omelette, strong cheese and much more. However, I believe they were rather grateful for a McDonalds takeaway on one occasion!

They were accompanied by three sixth formers whose job it was to buy lunch, sort out the bus fares, buy cinema tickets and anything else the staff required. Apparently they still have nightmares that include the words "sixth formers, we have a job for you". The trip would not have been as successful without them, so Ms Pina, Miss Viseras and Mrs Graham would like to thank them again on behalf of the students.

Sport



Cross Country

Following two matches in the North West Kent League, three girls took part in the Kent Schools Competition on Saturday 18th January at Hythe. In the junior section Kelly Cutting came 42nd and Hayley Hickmott (running as a guest) came 13th. Rebecca Jarrett had to withdraw from the Intermediate section due to injury.

Swimming



In the Kent Schools Championships held on Saturday 28th January and 1st February, the junior relay team, Hannah Daley, Nicole Ramsey, Jenny Wallace and Kimberley Dodd came 4th in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay. These four and Hollie Calver also took part in individual events and the Medley relay. In the Intermediate section, Katie Ogden was first reserve for the 100m Backstroke final and Anna Wallace came 5th in the 4 x 50m Medley final. In the senior section, Victoria Rickwood came 2nd in the 100m butterfly final.

Netball



In the U12 County Preliminary Tournament on Wednesday 5th February at Bexley Grammar, our Year 7 team came 5th overall. Our Year 7 and 8 teams are taking part in the North West Kent District league this term.

Life Saving



Julia Marshall (Year 11) reached a very high level of performance during 2002. Some of her notable achievements include:

- April - 1st in the Kent Open Championships, Senior Girls, with a partner
- June - 3rd in the South East Region mixed pairs championships
- September - 1st (team of four) in the South East Region Open Water Championships
- November - 1st (team of six) in the Crawley Open Championships, where she was the youngest competitor.

We wish her luck for her competitions this year.

Tennis



We received a framed certificate for display in school for winning the U15 HSBC/BSTA Bexley Tennis League 2002.

Proshare Student Investor Competition

Congratulations to 3 lower Sixth Business Studies students who entered the National Proshare Student Investor competition, organised by HSBC in conjunction with the London Stock Exchange, who have got through to the Quarter Finals. Their names are:

Baldip Sodhi
Holly Dudley
Kelly Jackson



The competition involves the team purchasing £100,000 portfolio of shares and then managing it over a 6 month period.

Mobile Phones

A reminder to students that if they need to use a phone **in an emergency** and they have no money for the pay phone, they should either go to the school office for help or see their Head of Year, Mrs Redmayne or Mrs Bell who will arrange for the phone call to be made. There is no need for them to use their mobile phone. If they are expecting an urgent message from you, they should see their Head of Year or the school office who will make the necessary arrangements for them to receive it.

Uniform

Many of the girls wear their school uniform well and we thank both you and them for that. However, some of the kilts are becoming rather short, as are some of the Year 8 girls' skirts. Please remedy this and do not allow your daughters to persuade you that the length is 'legal!' Some girls are also wearing nail varnish, make-up and jewellery, which does not conform to the uniform regulations. We ask for your support in ensuring that the uniform regulations are observed by all our students.

Charity Fund Raising

We raised over £8000 for charity last year and we are on course to raise a lot this year. To date we have raised:

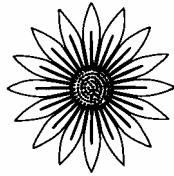
Readathon: £2397.82
Children in Need: £1026.38
Fun Run: £2500.00

Our new venture this year has been to link with a secondary school in South Africa, Jongilizwe School in the Eastern Cape, through the charity Link Community Development. The school is located in a very rural area in what used to be called the Transkei. They have very little in the way of classroom accommodation, facilities, textbooks, equipment and what they have is often vandalised or stolen. The aim of the link is to encourage a greater awareness of each other's culture and way of life and to develop curriculum links. The students will contact each other as will staff. The money raised will go towards the project of which their school is a part, and so to the school to help its development in terms of facilities, equipment etc. and teacher training. We are hoping that this will provide a very fruitful partnership over the next 4 years.

Finally, our apologies for not sending this newsletter out as scheduled, but, as you will appreciate, life has been very hectic in school over the past month.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Bell
Deputy Headteacher



GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Please return to your daughter's form tutor

I acknowledge receipt of the following:

The Newsletter, Issue 3

I also acknowledge receipt previously of the following:

1. Notice of Ofsted Inspection Meeting
2. Governors Annual Report to Parents

Daughter's name _____

Form _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____