



NAME:

FORM:

Letter from the Head

I remember writing to parents last year after the worst winter weather for many years and I suggested that it was unusual and extreme! This winter's weather was equally extreme and I am hoping it was also unusual! After the snow disruption of January we had settled to some good working weeks and were looking forward to fund-raising and half term when we received news of our Ofsted inspection. We were pleased the inspectors judged our school to be 'good'. We look forward to being able to work with families to make our school even better, raising the aspirations of our young people still further and helping them to achieve at the highest possible levels both now and in the future.

You can read inside this edition of Challney News of the amazing generosity of the girls. They have responded to individual appeals and organised themselves to raise over £3500 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. That is a wonderful effort and everyone who contributed is to be congratulated. Activities and efforts such as those in our fund-raising week encourage the girls to show their developing skills in service of others and in citizenship.

The new building is progressing well. Wates, our partners, are on schedule to complete the school for our move in January. Some girls and staff have been to visit the site and been impressed by the opportunities afforded by the design and layout of classrooms and learning spaces. Decisions are now being made about decorating finishes and landscaping. This is an exciting time and we look forward to the move and to welcoming parents to the new school.

I would like to remind parents that canned or fizzy drinks should not be brought to school. Similarly drinks like

'Red Bull' or 'Boost' which are additive and caffeine rich should not be brought to school. Girls have access to drinking water and can have so throughout the day if they bring a clear, sports' top bottle for re-filling. Your support in helping us to encourage safe drinking habits will be much appreciated.

We look forward to the better weather and the brighter evenings. As ever, traffic congestion at the end of the school day is very bad and I would encourage all girls to go straight home, moving away from the school and behaving responsibly in the streets and safely on their journey. I hope you all have a restful holiday with your families and have a peaceful time this Easter. Year 11 will be working hard for their examinations. We wish them luck and will help them to be as well prepared as possible.

M. Arthur



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New heights of generosity

The generosity of Challney girls seems to have no limit. Once again they have astounded even those who know them best with their giving during this year's February Fundraising Week. Through their hard work, imagination and creativity, they have managed to set a brand new school fundraising record, raising the very impressive sum of £3604.66. Their efforts included the production of key rings, the making of cakes and sweets, holding food sales, providing henna decoration and setting up a cinema. The biggest money-makers of all, however, were the talent shows which were held before appreciative audiences that packed into the main Hall. This year's beneficiary, chosen by the pupils' own school council, is Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. A cheque will be formally presented to a representative of the hospital during our end of term Gift Day assemblies on Thursday 1st April. We have already received a letter of appreciation from Great Ormond Street Hospital, which is reproduced below.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity through your fundraising. Your generosity, both financially and in the time you have given is invaluable.



Thousands of children pass through the hospital's doors every year. Each one of these young patients is unique and we do everything we can to help them and provide support for their families.

The money you, and others like you, have raised is helping to pay for lifesaving equipment tailor-made for our smaller patients and important research to develop kinder treatments - like our pioneering catheter technique which replaces open heart surgery. Support like this will also help us to replace cramped and outdated wards with more suitable facilities, including a new state of the art cardiac theatre.

Great Ormond Street Hospital provides inspirational and world class care to hundreds of children every day, but it's the support of people like you which makes it such a special place.

Thank you for your support; we couldn't do it without you.

Yours sincerely

Karen O'Keeffe

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Children in Need

We have also recently received a letter of thanks from Children in Need in recognition of the £643.33 that we raised on their behalf in November:



Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your kind donation to The BBC Children in Need Appeal 2009. Every year we are humbled by your generosity and creativity in raising money for thousands of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK who need your help. We hope that while you were 'Doing Something Different' for BBC Children in Need you also had lots of fun!

Best wishes

Nathan Boggon

Finance Administrator for Children in Need

Haiti appeal

True to character, no sooner had we heard on our televisions about the earthquake disaster in Haiti than our pupils were asking themselves what they could do to help the victims. The girls themselves decided that the nature of the disaster demanded an immediate response and so a number volunteered to give up their lunch hours for a week to collect money in the dining rooms from anyone who wished to contribute. In no time at all they had raised £478.76, which we speedily passed on to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). We feel sure that the money will already be helping to restore people's lives. Congratulations to all pupils and staff who contributed so selflessly to the appeal.

School meals price rise

Unfortunately, we have been informed by Luton Borough Council Catering Services that the price of school meals is to increase from April 2010. For pupils, the price of a main course will rise from £1.55 to £1.60 while a set meal will rise from £1.75 to £1.80. Staff prices are similarly set to rise by 5p.

“Involve parents as much as you can”

Sadly, our programme of Information Evenings has come to an end for this year but thank you once again for your attendance and very positive feedback. The good news is that more parents and carers attended than ever before and the evaluation forms that you completed suggest that we are continuing to provide presentations and workshops that you find useful.

In all, 297 families attended an Information Evening this year, meaning that attendance more than doubled compared with last year. What is more, you told us in your evaluations that 74% (three quarters) of sessions that we delivered were “very useful” and that the remaining 26% (one quarter) were “quite useful”. Happily, 0% were judged by you to be “not useful”.

In addition you gave us some very positive general comments about the evenings. One parent wrote, “Keep up the good work and involve parents as much as you can.” We certainly intend to do this. In fact, we are on the point of sending out questionnaires to families that did not attend at least one Information Evening during the year to find out if there is anything we can do to help make attendance easier in the future. If you receive one of these questionnaires at the beginning of next term, please do complete and return it to us as quickly as you can. Thank you.

Parents’ help needed

We are currently reviewing the school’s Disability Equality Scheme and would like interested parents and carers to share their views with us to help develop our scheme.

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’.

To support this Act each school has a Disability Equality Scheme to help promote an inclusive environment in which all members of the school community feel valued. The Disability Equality Scheme is a requirement for all schools and seeks to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people

- Eliminate discrimination
 - Eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability
 - Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
 - Encourage participation by disabled people in public life
 - Take steps to meet disabled people’s needs
- During our review we will be consulting with parents, pupils and staff to help develop our scheme and create an action plan to ensure that needs are met. If you would like to contribute, please contact Mrs Masters at the school.

Soul Space

Pupils and staff have benefited greatly this term from a series of interesting Soul Space workshops held on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Whitbread Room. These have not only provided time and space for personal reflection but also an opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Thought-provoking films have been used to stimulate discussion, while the offer of popcorn has helped to provide a welcoming atmosphere. Sadly, Mrs Read, who was the inspiration for setting up Soul Space and the driving force behind it, has now left Challney and so we are looking for a new member of staff to take on responsibility for the organisation of future meetings from next term.



Islamic Union

Meetings of Islamic Union have continued to thrive this year under the direction of Mr Abdul, Subject Leader in Religious Education.

Held every Thursday lunchtime, open to all pupils of any faith or none, we have once again enjoyed a series of fascinating discussions. This half term the focus has been upon the Five Pillars of Islam, with a different Pillar, first Shahadah, then Salah, followed by Zakah, Sawm, and finally Hajj, being selected for special consideration each week. Next half term the theme will shift to “Challenges facing Youth”. We can, therefore, look forward to another very topical series of meetings.





Pupils who will be leaving us soon – the Year 11 Year Book Committee



Culture Club celebrated the Year of the Tiger which began on 14th February this year.



Colourful characters on World Book Day

Culture Club

This has been another busy term for Culture Club. Under the guidance of Mrs Sharma, with lots of support from other Language Support Department staff and from Mrs Dunville, our Learning Mentor, the Studio has been a hive of activity on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes. Already this year the girls have enjoyed making cards both for Mother's Day and for St Patrick's Day. In February, the whole school was able to join in the celebration of Chinese New Year, the Year of the Tiger, with a specially prepared Chinese buffet served in both dining rooms. Now, even as we go to press, Mrs Sharma and her team are preparing to judge the winners of this year's Easter bonnet competition. What will the summer term hold for the girls? Meetings are open to all pupils - why not pop along next term and join in the fun?



World Book Day 2010

Heroes and villains stalked Challney on Thursday 4th of March. Vampires flew through the shadows looking for their next victims, while Robin (although much sweeter than I remember him in the comics) had to survive the whole school day without Batman. The monsters were scary enough to scream about. Staff showed their true colours on World Book Day, while twin witches appeared in every corridor - spooky. Although, some decided to be 'Challney ghouls' (very imaginative), at least no one dressed up as a bat; the world definitely doesn't need any more of these.



Besides the stress and frantic rummaging in wardrobes, trying on ten different outfits before the big day, only to realise the first one had been just fine, the actual event was lively and enjoyable. Many people took part in the fancy dress competition. Miss Arthur, therefore, had a tough time choosing a winner from all the hopeful candidates from each year group, but there could only be one winner.

The character competition was a lot of fun. Pupils had to identify characters from their pictures and to name the book that they appear in. These characters included the classical Captain Hook and the legendary Count Dracula.

Pupils were given World Book Day tokens, worth £1.00, which they could spend in the library or any book store. There was a variety of books on offer at the library, like ‘Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief’ (although what people see in him I will never understand).

Everyone had fun and many prizes were won, including £5.00 book tokens and exclusive Challney pens and bags, as well as a variety of awesome books, amongst them ‘Road of the Dead’.

Yusra Munir 11A, Senior Library Prefect

Eco-club

This half term has seen the introduction of our first ever Eco-club. Lots of new ideas are being introduced to our school to ensure that we are doing our very best to help the environment we live in. Of course, one of the newest ideas has been the use of red recycling bins that are now in every classroom. Look out for the new recycling notice board that will provide lots of information and fun competitions in the near future. For more information, contact Miss Colledge, the Eco-team co-ordinator, or any of the Eco-team:

- Divya Sharma 7N Ramesha Iqbal 7C
- Fauzya Mahmood 7D Saranika Ganesathas 7M
- Sarah Haque 7A Sarah Ampah-Wilson 7A
- Hariette Kwapong 8C Nazmin Mohammed 8M
- Rebecca Hill 8M Sundhas Nawaz 8I
- Amna Khan 8C Darakshan Razzaq 8O
- Huma Wahid 9A Julia Kimani 9A
- Maria Hussain 9A Abigail Stephenson 9A
- Thasnim Begum 9R Maryam Fatima 10I

Breakfast Centre

The number of pupils making the most of the opportunity to have breakfast in the Junior Dining Room before the start of the school day has noticeably increased this term.



Please remember that the Breakfast Centre is open to all pupils from 8.00 until 8.30am with last breakfast served at 8.20am. Pupils may eat and drink as much as they like for 50p and there is no charge at all for those on the Free School Meals Register. Preparation of breakfast and supervision of pupils is carried out by our regular staff.

The Rothamsted Comic Project



This winning comic was produced by Jeena Matthew, Keisha Bullock-Singh and Sagal Haji, 10R. See our Science News Sheet 11 for more information on this project.



Pupils enjoying their work on Enrichment Day



The results of the recent earthquake in Haiti

Easter activities

An exciting catalogue of activities has been organised by Luton Borough Council, in conjunction with Bedfordshire and Luton Enterprise Business Partnership and Extended Schools and Play, to take place across the town this Easter. We are delighted to say that Challney High School for Girls has been chosen to host a number of these activities during the second week of the holidays.



On Monday 12th April pupils will get a chance to handle reptiles and other mini –beasts during a day dedicated to “Exotic Creatures”. On Tuesday 13th pupils will have the opportunity to create a lifelike bouquet of flowers out of sugar at “Sugar Flowers” or else get involved in “Outdoor & Adventure”, a day for learning new skills such as archery and fencing. Other activities scheduled for the week include drawing manga cartoons, building a model CO₂-driven car, singing lessons, robot-building and tennis.

Incredibly, all these activities were offered to pupils absolutely free of charge, so it is no surprise that all courses are now fully booked up. We should say well done to all girls who took the initiative to sign up quickly. No doubt they are going to have a very interesting holiday!

National Science and Engineering Week

National Science and Engineering week this year ran from 15th to 19th March. The focus was upon the Earth, in particular the importance of biodiversity and the need to maintain the numbers of different species of animals and plants.

The Science Department engaged our Key Stage 3 students in a number of activities. On Tuesday 16th, Year 9 students attended a presentation by Tropical Encounters who, as usual, brought into school a number of fascinating animals that originate from tropical and desert environments: a snake, a parrot, a skunk, a meerkat and a lizard. Discussion centred around these creatures’ adaptations to the environment. On Thursday, classes from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a rocket workshop, students making their own rockets and launching them using compressed air. Discussion focused on the use of fins to provide stability and the need to ensure that

rockets are sealed in order to maintain pressure. On Thursday a group of Year 9 students visited Putteridge Bury Campus to attend a Luton Astronomical Society meeting. They had hoped for a chance to see the planets Mars and Saturn using the society’s telescope, but the weather was unfortunately cloudy so no viewing was possible. Nonetheless, students were still able to attend an interesting public lecture on climate change given by Professor Crabbe from the University of Bedfordshire, who described the negative effects of climate change on coral reefs and the worrying reduction in biodiversity. Members of the society commented on our students’ excellent interest and attitude. Thanks are due to Mrs Kaushal and Mrs Dunville for supervising them.



We hope for a return visit soon in better weather for another chance to see the planets. Meanwhile here are some of our 9R’s, comments:

“We learnt quite a lot from the presentation such as that coral is not a plant but an animal which contains plant cells. We examined a diagram of a machine which can trap carbon dioxide underneath the earth and we were shown some real corals which we got to touch. We also learnt how the sea level rises, which effects the corals, and why the corals might not be able to adapt to their new surroundings.”

Neeha Sheikh, Latifa Abdillahi, Tooba Qureshi.

“We got to hold some coral and find out what it feels like. The scientist who made the presentation had visited a lot of different places which he described to us. The trip was fun and different to anything I’ve experienced before.” *Rimsha Fawad,* “We learnt a lot of important facts about what people could do to help the climate. It was a very enjoyable experience and I would like to go again.” *Sanaa Shah*

Staff

We wish the following leavers well:

Mrs Grace Read – Learning Mentor
Mrs Christine King – Temporary Data Manager/PA
Mrs Chenai Gwenzi – Science/Maths TA

Welcome to the new starters:

Mrs Susan Haque – Midday Supervisor
Mrs Azra Shaheen – Temporary TA, Learning Support
Mrs Deborah Hughes – TA, Behaviour Support
Mrs N Ahmed – 1:1 Tutor
Mrs A Seldon – 1:1 Tutor
Miss C Allen – 1:1 Tutor (in addition to supply cover)

Swimming lessons

In addition to evening community swimming lessons held in our swimming pool, classes are also held solely for our pupils every week on Mondays from 3.30 – 4.00pm. There is a charge for these classes, although they are absolutely free to all pupils on the Free School Meal register. Anyone who is interested should contact Mr Palmer at the school.



Year 8 netball

After the success of winning the league earlier in the term, it was time again for the Year 8 netball team to dust off their trainers and bibs and play in the Year 8 town tournament to be held on our very own, new netball courts. It had been over 10 weeks since the girls had last played together, so they knew that this tournament wasn't going to be easy; indeed with a total of nine teams entering, it was going to be a tough challenge. As usual this did not faze our players who got off to a great start by beating Ashcroft 4-0. They went on to win against Barnfield South and draw against Barnfield West but then lost against Lealands. This defeat was a heavy blow as they had never before lost a game against another Luton school. It was a tense time waiting to see if they had made it through to the semi-final but thankfully they had scored enough goals throughout the stages to pip Barnfield West.



To secure a place in the final they needed to beat Stopsley. Again, this was not going to be an easy game. In fact, at half time the team was losing 2-1 and feared that there would be no way to get into the final. However, they pulled together and showed some awesome team work, eventually beating Stopsley 7-4.

The team focus now turned to beating Icknield and becoming town champions. They played a brilliant game with some excellent shooting from Shenia and Sonia plus some amazing team play by Persia. At half time we honestly believed we could win, but towards the end of the game the team ran out of steam. Sadly, we lost by 7 goals to 4, although this score does not reflect our team's excellent effort and determination.

Finishing as town runners-up is not a bad result for a team that believed they hadn't done enough even to get through to the semi final. This was a brilliant effort, Year 8s; your determination and fighting spirit continues to amaze us!

Evening of dance

The evening of Tuesday 23rd March witnessed the best evening of dance at Challney that anyone at the school ever remembers seeing. Based upon the theme of musicals through time, the audience was treated to a succession of breathtaking dances by our very own pupils. Starting with an interpretation of 'Overture' from The Full Monty, we were then treated to a taste of West Side Story, Grease, Hairspray, Footloose and numerous other musicals besides. The older members of the audience in particular appreciated a performance of Mary Poppins' 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious', whilst 'We're All in this Together', from High School Musical, brought us right up to date, to the pleasure of some of our younger members.

The list of performers is long, but every single girl who participated deserves her special mention. They were Divya Sharma, Sarah Ampah-Wilson, Haseebah Armstrong, Alicia Brown, Aisha Mhatay, Sharon Musara, Unbreen Aziz, Ambrin Kauser, Alliyah Sorzano, Natalie Arigundyia, Shahnee Parkins, Gillian Majange, Crystalbel Chege, Annabel Chege, Kelly Heslop, Iona Odwin, Anna Burton, Natara Rainford, Nafisah Rashid, Patricia Chidavarume, Abigail Stephenson, Michar Kirwan, Yasmin Saddler, Alice Wheeler and Chanique Davis.

Other girls were generous with their help, too, namely Shenia Jouavel, who operated the curtains, and Arooj Mansha, who was charged with responsibility for the music. Thanks are also due to Miss Harlock and Miss Bakin for their work backstage, to Mrs Whitehall, Mr O'Connor and Mr Justin for their work front of house, to Miss Ponsonby for operating the lighting and to Miss Dolan for the filming. Massive support to the whole enterprise was also given by Miss Colledge and Miss Orr. A special vote of appreciation goes to Emma Orr, sister of Miss Orr, who, as the choreographer, provided so much wonderful creativity that allowed the whole show to take shape and ultimately enabled the stage to come alight. What a night!

Luton in Harmony

Challney girls are proud of their town and want to show it. That is why so many of them are wearing the Luton in Harmony badge. The aim of this campaign, supported by Luton Forum and its partners, is to promote greater understanding between the various communities that make up Luton.

It is underpinned by a belief that we should celebrate our diversity and work together to ensure that Luton develops a positive reputation on both the national and the international stage.

The campaign, therefore, runs much deeper than the simple wearing of a badge; indeed all those who choose to wear it must first sign a pledge card which reads:

Because prejudice and hatred harm us all:
 I will wear the Luton in Harmony badge with pride – and tell people what it means
 I will make friends with people from different backgrounds – and learn about their values
 I will promote my beliefs in a spirit of peace and harmony – and encourage everyone I know to do the same.



To sign up to the campaign or simply to find out more, visit www.luton.gov.uk/harmony

Wear the badge with pride and support our girls in supporting Luton!

Art Workshop

Earlier this month the Year 10 Art groups enjoyed an exciting two-day workshop with Susan Room, a local artist who exhibits her work across Bedfordshire. All the drawings and photographs which they produced will form part of the preparation for a sculpture project next term. Aemon Iqbal 10M gives us a pupil perspective of the experience:

“On Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th March, as Year 10 Art students, we had the pleasure of meeting local artist Susan Room. The aim was to help us with our drapery project. Mrs Room set us a number of tasks which included using fabrics to create folds which we then modelled. We spent



time looking at sculptures by the late Henry Moore which we adapted and re-enacted.

We took pictures of our work and were also set the task of creating a picture by tearing paper into a desired shape based on Henry Moore’s sculptures. This task was a little challenging because we couldn’t draw or use rubbers throughout the session. Other than that, the day ran smoothly. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun!”

Easter revision classes

As usual we will be holding revision sessions for Year 11 pupils during the Easter holiday. Letters have been sent home inviting specific pupils who, at present, have been estimated a ‘D’ grade. If your daughter is one of these pupils, please encourage her to attend.

The revision sessions are:

Wednesday 7th April:

Hospitality 9.00am - 11.00am

Child Development 11.30am - 1.30pm

P.E. 10.00am - 1.00pm

Thursday 15th April

Maths 10.00am - 1.00pm

Friday 16th April

Geography 9.00am - 3.00pm.

Diary Dates 2010

Mon 19 th April	Training Day
Tues 20 th April	Summer Term starts
Wed 21 st April	GCSE PE practicals start
Mon 26 th April	GCSE Language aural and Music exams start
Thurs 29 th April	Y7 Consultation Evening
Mon 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Fri 14 th May	Y11 Study Leave begins
Mon 17 th May	GCSE exams begin
Mon 31 st May	Half Term holiday week begins
Thurs 8 th June	Y8 Consultation Evening
Fri 2 nd July	French Trip
Tues 6 th July	Sports Day
Wed 7 th July	Y6 Parents Information Evening
Thurs 8 th July	New Intake Day
Fri 9 th July	Town Sports Day
Wed 14 th July	Enrichment Day
Tues 20 th July	Certificate Presentation Assemblies
Wed 21 st July	End of Summer Term