



# Challney News



December 2009

NAME:

FORM:

## Letter from the Head

As the Autumn term and indeed the year draws to a close, I am amazed by the variety of activities girls, staff and parents have shared. Culture Club and charity collections challenge us to look beyond ourselves, to get to know more about the lives, faiths and difficulties of others. Through this we encourage the girls to mature into positive and active citizens. The vast majority of our girls, your daughters, are good ambassadors for Challney, for “teenagers” and for their communities.

This time next year we shall be surrounded by packing cases as we prepare for our move to the new building. Our aim this year and next year is to preserve the hard working ethos of Challney Girls’ and to encourage girls to reach the highest possible standards in the midst of the upheaval that will be inevitable. These are exciting times for our school and we look forward to the future with confidence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff members for their continuing hard work and commitment to the school and to the girls. We are fortunate to have a staff team which works together for the benefit of all students. I wish you all a very enjoyable holiday with your families this Christmas and trust that 2010 will be a year which sees greater peace than 2009.

M. Arthur



The front entrance and library of the new school building under construction



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Year 8 pupils with their Operation Christmas Child parcels

## Free School Meals

Can I remind parents that if you are in receipt of benefits your child may be entitled to Free School Meals and free uniform vouchers.

If you applied for Free School Meals your child would not have to take them if you would prefer her to bring in a packed lunch instead. The number of pupils on the Free School Meals' register affects the amount of funding that the school receives. So, if you think you are eligible, please apply even if you do not wish to use the provision.

*Qualifying benefits are: Income Support, Income based Employment and Support Allowance, Income based Jobseekers allowance (not contribution based), Pension Credit, Asylum Seeker Allowance, Child Tax Credit (if income is below £16,040).*

To apply please visit Unity House, Stuart Street Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 11.00 am. You will need to take proof of your benefit (within the last 3 months) and your child's date of birth.

*Mrs Julia Jack  
Education Welfare Officer*

**Home Access** is a new government scheme to be launched in January. It will offer laptop computers to families meeting the criteria to ensure more children have access to technology at home. Registration for Free School Meals is one of the criteria for eligibility.

## New building watch

As you all know, our school is being rebuilt. In just over one year the new school will be ready. Now we can all look out and see it but no-one actually knows how much hard work has been put into the development. As members of the School Council we have been fortunate enough to visit the construction site and get an idea of what is actually going on. The builders, along with staff and pupils, have worked extremely hard to make it an enjoyable, homely, welcoming learning environment that pupils will feel comfortable in. It will be a high-tech learning facility that caters for all students.

We look forward to this time next year when we return from our Christmas holiday to a brand new, clean, appealing school. Thank you!

*Zeba Hussain and Abigail Stephenson, 9A*

## Diwali – ‘Festival of Lights’

October 14<sup>th</sup> saw Diwali come to Challney Girls as part of our ongoing conscious effort to celebrate festivals from other faiths.

While Diwali is popularly known as the ‘Festival of Lights’, the most significant meaning is the ‘awareness of the inner light’. Diwali celebrates this through festive fireworks, lights, flowers, sharing of sweets and worship.

A lesson was structured to involve a combination of traditional activities, arts and crafts and religious studies, giving an insight into a festival celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains all over the world.

In an attempt to make the lesson more practical, the girls learnt how to put on a ‘saree’ (a traditional dress worn by Indian women which is draped around the body). A big thank you to Mrs Duggan (Language Support) and Mrs Mistry (Learning Support) for their help with this.

A fun afternoon was had by all and the girls, as ever, enjoyed learning about different religions, cultures and traditions.

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 girls involved; they participated with great enthusiasm and produced work for a display which was outstanding.

We had a lesson on Diwali which symbolizes a fresh start. People spring clean the mandir and their home.

We looked at artefacts which included a deity of the Lord Ganesh and Goddess Lakshmi. Lord Ganesh is the God of good beginnings and the fabled remover of obstacles. Lakshmi is the auspicious Goddess of wealth and fortune and people worship her hoping for the well-being and prosperity of their family. On this night it is believed that the goddess herself visits the inhabitants with wealth.

We also had a challenge in which we had to try putting on a saree in traditional Indian style.

*Farzana Akhtar, 8L*



## Enriched in Oxford

The Oxford trip was good. We learnt a lot about animals in the first museum we visited. It was fun, and I even touched a cockroach. I also liked looking around the Pitt Rivers Museum to find things and then plot them on a map. Everyone liked it and the people there were very polite. We also learnt about the history of making a skeleton sculpture with real bones. They used to boil the dead animal (which smelt horrid) until all the meat fell off. I would like to go there again as there were other students there as well. Not just old people enjoyed the museum, but young ones too!

In the second museum, The Museum of the History of Science, we were asked to make an astrolabe. I don't quite know what it is but it looks cool. Later in the Natural History Museum we saw an elephant tooth and a police horse's skull. It was very interesting. Some students were having lectures in the museum as well. It was fun!

Over all, it was a very interesting trip and I liked it a lot!

*Zhane Quashie, 9M*



The Oxford University trip was great, and I really enjoyed it. We learnt a lot of things while still having fun. Everyone liked the Natural History Museum because we got to look around and take information about animals and minerals. Everyone was fascinated by the dinosaur bones. We were impressed by how people in the olden days invented many useful things even though they had limitations. We made an astrolabe and learnt how it was used.

We saw the skull of a police horse and we got to touch it as well. Some people held a cockroach – it was disgusting and cool at the same time. The elephant tooth we saw was huge. A lady showed us many fascinating things and told us information about them. We held a piece of rock which was actually dinosaur faeces. Yuk!

Overall it was really fun.

*Ashka Parmar, 9O*

## Magical Maths

What I liked about Enrichment Day was that I learnt how to curve-stitch. It was great fun. I also learnt how to make boxes and different 3-D shapes with cube nets. Also, what I really liked was that we were with the Year 7 pupils, and it was good because we got to communicate with other groups with different abilities.

*Ruby Grewal, 9A*

This was the best Enrichment Day so far. It was fun. The first two periods about treasure hunts were quite hard. I really enjoyed the magic show which came next. After lunch was even better because we made boxes and did some curve stitching. The best part was when I took 3<sup>rd</sup> place!

*Babli Begum, 9M*

I thought the day was really good especially the magic show. The lady made it interesting even with maths in it! I got to know some of the Year 7s – I learnt from them and they learnt from me.

*Chantelle Makombore, 9M*

The day was also much appreciated by: Areeba Khan 9M, Farzana Akthar 9A, Ismah Shafi 9A and Muqadis Iqbal 9N who also wrote articles which unfortunately we were not able to include this time.

## Year 11 Ice Skating

On 9<sup>th</sup> December a group of Year 11 students went on an ice skating trip after school.

There were about 90 pupils on the trip plus some members of staff. The ice skating trip went well, even though about 70 of us were holding on to the edge and screaming. The highlights of the evening were when Mr Rose was acting like a pro but then slipped over, and when Miss Dolan (who was trying to help someone) got pulled down on her bottom. But all in all everyone fell at least once which was very entertaining and something for all of us to remember. On behalf of the girls who went, we would like to thank Mrs Akyuz for organising this trip and the other staff who came and made it a night to remember. We hope there will be more trips like this

*Nadia Uddin, 11W and Sabina Sultana, 11R.*

## Fabulous Fundraisers Disasters in Asia

After hearing about the terrible disasters that had been destroying people's livelihoods in Asia, a group of Year 11 students wanted to do something to help. Haleema Ali and Banita Sharma had the idea of raising awareness amongst staff and students. Haleema created a PowerPoint presentation, while Banita, Evelyn Amoah, Shaista Chaudery, Farah Bukahri and Aseeba Khan helped to put a slide show to the rest of the school during year group assemblies. The disasters that had occurred for about two weeks included tsunamis, typhoons, earthquakes and mudslides. Wanting to raise money to aid the people affected, bucket collections were held at the end of each year group's assembly. Pupils and staff together managed to raise £406.55 for DEC (the Disasters Emergency Committee). Thank you to all pupils and staff, especially Mr Mackenzie, for helping to organise the assemblies.

## Children in Need



Pupils and staff raised £643.43 for Children in Need in the week leading up to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This total was achieved by baking and then

selling cakes, biscuits and popcorn.

There was also a raffle to win two Pudsey Bears, a Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar competition and a sponsored silence by pupils.

A large amount of money was raised when Miss Orr was sponsored to sing for the appeal. She was absolutely brilliant.

Thank you very much to all pupils and staff for their tremendous fund raising.

## NSPCC – Childline

During Enrichment Day in December Year 7 and Year 9 pupils were sponsored to raise money for Childline. They had to complete a number of maths tasks gaining points. We are delighted that the pupils managed to raise over £53.00.



*Girls raising money for Children in Need with the help of Pudsey Bear*



*Year 11 ice skaters enjoying their reward for good attendance*



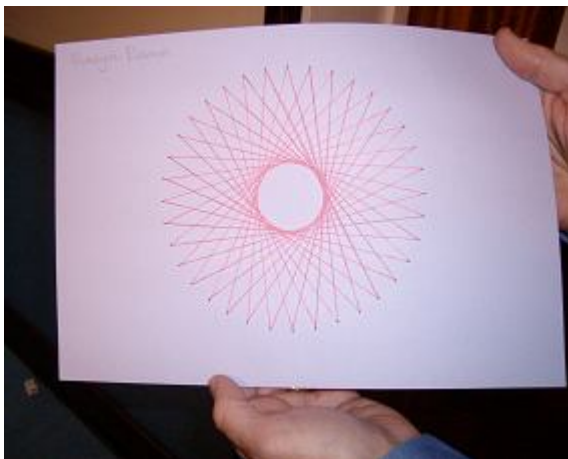
*Year 8 attendance reward trip to London*



*One of the Year 8 colourful tropical rainforest dioramas made during Enrichment Day*



*Year 8 girls on this year's day trip to Boulogne*



*The girls enjoyed 'curve stitching' on Enrichment Day in December*

## Greetings

I know everyone is very excited, making lots of preparations and putting in lots of effort for Christmas, especially Mrs Sharma in Culture Club. She is choosing very interesting things to do including fund raising events for charity. I would like to tell you about Year 8's Christmas fundraising event. Our chosen charity was Operation Christmas Child. We had a little contest to see which form could make the most boxes. These boxes were to be either for a boy or a girl in a particular age group (two to four years, five to nine years or ten to fourteen years). We put many different things like soft toys, jewellery and educational supplies into the boxes, wrapped them, put on the sticker indicating age and gender and sent them to a local church. Altogether our year produced 33 boxes – that is something to be proud of.

*Sharmin Akther, 8L*

## Congratulations, Mahwish

Mahwish Arif, 11B has been volunteering her time to help create a youth magazine called "Real Talk". The magazine looks at issues that affect young people as well as highlighting the opportunities that are open to young people on a local level. Mahwish recently contributed an article herself on disabilities which highlighted the difficulties faced by young people with a disability. This quarter's article is soon to be printed and distributed across Luton and the surrounding areas.

Mahwish also recently put herself forward to run for the position of Deputy Youth MP for Luton. This involved campaigning to encourage people to vote for her. This process was supported by Luton Borough Council and the UK Youth Parliament. We are delighted to report that Mahwish was successful and is now the town's Deputy Youth MP.

Some of the responsibilities that Mahwish will have are as follows:

- attending area and ward committee meetings to ensure young people's issues and concerns are raised
- meeting local councillors to discuss ways the council can better address the needs of young people

- attending various committee and scrutiny meetings with the Leader of the Council, other key workers and community representatives such as the mayor and local MPs
- working with Luton Borough Council to highlight and promote the positive work that young people are involved in on a local level.

Alongside this, Mahwish will also challenge the negative perceptions about young people both locally and nationally. She will be a true youth ambassador and a shining example of what can be achieved with effort, ambition and courage.

## Day Trip to Boulogne

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 150 students from Challney High School for Girls went to Boulogne. Unlike previous trips, we went on a train through the tunnel under the English Channel. Within half an hour we had arrived in Calais. On the motorway we drove on the right instead of the left. As we headed towards Boulogne everybody was chatting excitedly as they couldn't wait to arrive.

When we arrived, we visited the old town which had lots of shops and stalls selling souvenirs and many other things. Everybody rushed towards a shop they liked, finding souvenirs to take back home for their family and friends. They were selling a lot of candy floss; in French they call it *barbe à papa* (dad's beard). Boulogne has a huge old wall around it, which was built to keep intruders away in times of war. As we finished our shopping, we headed towards the beach.

The beach was full of people. Nobody could wait to start playing around in the sand with their friends. Even though the beach smelled of fish, we still had an enjoyable time. We had our lunch there and some people bought chips from a stall.

We later went to a hypermarket which was near Boulogne. It was very clean and we had two hours to shop there in groups with our friends. The security guards were always keeping an eye on children including us. There were lots of nice shops, and there was delicious food such as chocolate waffles, bread, ice cream and slush....

France was a lovely experience. Everyone had an enjoyable time and brought lots of souvenirs back home.

*Tajlim Fatimah and Muqadas Bibi, 7M*

## French Trip 2010

Next year's trip will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 and will be for Year 7 pupils only. The cost of the trip will be £32 and girls who want to go need to have a valid passport at the time of booking. They will also need to order an EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) if they do not already have one; they will not be able to go on the trip without. Cards can be ordered free from [www.travelhealth.co.uk/advice/ehic.htm](http://www.travelhealth.co.uk/advice/ehic.htm) but beware of other sites that charge for this service.

## Cinderella

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7M went on a trip to watch Cinderella at an art college in Hitchin as a reward for good attendance. All I can say about this trip is that it was absolutely fantastic. When we got there, everyone was very excited and overjoyed. The play was so interesting and amusing. There was a song at the end which went like this, 'I know a song that gets on your nerves, gets on your nerves, gets on your nerves, I know a song that gets on your nerves and this is how it goes'. Overall the whole trip was brilliant. We were glad that our form had won the attendance competition to go on the trip, and we hope that we win the next trip as well.

*Mariyah Fazal and Mehpara Naqvi, 7M*

## Parent and Staff Social

On the evening of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, parents and staff squeezed into the Whitbread Room for a social evening organized by the Challney Girls High School Association. This was an opportunity for all parents and staff to get to know each other a little better in an informal setting. It was planned to promote the multi-cultural composition of our school community.

Guests arrived in beautiful outfits reflecting their cultural heritage, bearing traditional dishes typical of their country of origin. During the evening, as our guests chattered, a series of silent presentations was projected in turn onto a screen to remind us all of the importance of some of the festivals that had been celebrated in school over the last term – Eid, Diwali, Black History Month and Christmas.

The evening was rounded off with a short presentation about the new school building which left us all feeling confident about the future.

## Year 8 Reward Trip

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 53 Year 8 pupils were rewarded for their good attendance, punctuality and behaviour with a trip to London. In a fun-packed day, girls skated on the open-air ice rink at Somerset House, took a fascinating boat trip along the River Thames and then jumped aboard the London Eye for fantastic views over the city, including Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and St. Paul's Cathedral.

There was even time for a little shopping before, tired but happy, we climbed back on board our homeward bound coach which returned via Regent Street and Oxford Street so that we could all enjoy the London Christmas lights. The journey back to Luton was pleasantly quiet, except for the recurring question from pupils, "Can we go on another trip like this again soon?"

Miss Bakin deserves a huge pat on the back for her excellent organization of the day (and for not falling over even once on the ice rink). Thanks also to all the staff who gave up their Saturday to make the trip possible.

## Soul Space

Soul Space was launched this term. It is a weekly gathering of staff and pupils who are interested in topics related to Christianity and faith.

This term we have explored some of the ways we can know God; we have watched short films and held discussions on issues that face us in every day life. We have also held 'prayer for Challney', where we thanked God for family and friends, acknowledged all the skills and talents He has given us and we have prayed for some of the difficulties pupils have at school, like exam pressure. We also prayed for some of the nationalities and cultures represented at Challney. We are planning more exciting activities for next term.

## Luton Schools Hockey Festival (Key Stage 3)

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December Challney Girls entered four teams in the Key Stage 3 hockey festival at Lea Manor. We entered two Year 8 teams and two Year 9 teams. The idea behind the tournament is to give all pupils in Key Stage 3 an opportunity to play as much hockey as possible in one night. As a result of this, Years 7, 8 and 9 all played each

other. In total 11 teams entered the tournament and their results are detailed below.

### Year 8 A Team

**Captain:** Shenja Jouavel

**Vice Captain:** Tolu Akinmokun

Opposition	Result	Scorers
Icknield A	2-0	<i>Kiran Afsar</i> <i>Tolu Akinmokun</i>
Challney B	1-0	<i>Tolu Akinmokun</i>
Lea Manor	1-0	<i>Natasha Choudhury</i>
Cardinal Newman A	1-0	<i>Natasha Choudhury</i>
<b>Overall Position in the Festival 1/11</b>		

### Year 8 B Team

**Captain:** Gillian Majange

**Vice Captain:** Natalie Arigundiya

Opposition	Result	Scorers
Icknield B	0-0	
Cardinal Newman B	0-0	
Challney D	1-0	<i>Hina Shafi</i>
<b>Overall Position in the Festival 3/11</b>		

### Year 9 A Team

**Captain:** Anna Burton

**Vice Captain:** Kelly Heslop

Opposition	Result	Scorers
Challney A	0-1	
Cardinal Newman A	0-0	
Lea Manor	0-0	
<b>Overall Position in the Festival 5/11</b> <b>(Decided on short corners won)</b>		

### Year 9 B Team

**Captain:** Retha Khan

**Vice Captain:** Rachel Diggie

Opposition	Result	Scorers
Cardinal Newman B	0-0	
Icknield B	0-0	
Challney C	0-1	
<b>Overall Position in the Festival 6/11</b>		

The girls' play and behaviour were fantastic and it was an absolute pleasure taking them to the festival. As you can see, out of eleven teams taking part in the competition the school performed extremely well and is really becoming a formidable opponent for any team in the town. Well done, ladies. Keep it up!



## The New School

The new building has grown at a rapid rate over the last term; the better weather earlier enabled good progress to be made. It is hoped that the roof will be going on sometime in late January/early February. Seeing the plans become reality has been an exciting experience.

Some staff and students have had guided tours of the school to see at first hand the progress being made. Safely kitted out in hard hats, boots, reflective jackets, gloves and protective glasses they have walked through the new classrooms and heart spaces. They have climbed temporary staircases to the first floor and have been able to admire the views over the present school and across to the Downs. One of the benefits of the new school is that we are no longer overshadowed by the motorway junction, but raised up and able to see skyline and some open land.

In October we had the handover of the AWP (all weather pitch) and the new MUGA (multi use games area). This facility will enhance the PE provision and ensure that the girls have a good surface on which to train and play matches regardless of inclement weather. They have certainly enjoyed being able to use it, because during the construction period the PE provision is obviously restricted. Part of the field has been re-sown and the grass is growing, but it is not yet ready for use.

We are still involved in meetings to confirm electrics, internal finishes, signage among other things, and these will progress as the work on the exterior of the building is completed and the interior work begins. The staff and students have been involved in some Landscape meetings with the landscape architects. Several ideas have been discussed for the different external learning spaces in terms of geographical and scientific features, alongside plans to develop art spaces and gardening plots. The girls went round the current buildings taking photographs of what they did and did not like to discuss with the architects, before giving suggestions of what they might like to see in the new school. We are at present waiting for the report of the sessions from the architects.

The recent bad weather has made visits to the site more difficult, but we do hope to arrange for more staff and students to see the latest progress in the near future.

## Diary Dates 2010

4 <sup>th</sup> January	Training Day
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Term starts
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Yr 11 Parents Consultation Evening
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Yr 7 Parents Information Evening
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Yr 9 Parents Information Evening
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Enrichment Day (Yrs 7-10)
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Fund Raising Week
Half Term week beginning 16 <sup>th</sup> February	
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Yr 8 Parents Information Evening
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Yr 9 Parents Consultation Evening
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Yr 8 Parents Coffee Morning
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Yr 11 Parents Information Evening
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 11 Parents Coffee Morning
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 9 Parents Information Evening
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 9 Parents Coffee Morning
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Dance Show
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 10 Parents Consultation Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Gift Day Assemblies and End of Term



*Challney pupils entered a poetry competition in which they had to write about Luton. Sonia Hussain, who came second, is seen here receiving her award from famous local poet, John Hegley.*



*7M visited Stockwood Park during Science and Maths Enrichment Day where they investigated some of Queen Victoria's carriages. In this photo the girls were measuring wheel diameters.*