



Letter from the Head

It is always good at the end of the year to look back, reflect upon what has gone well and plan for the future. The last year has been an important one for our school. We achieved Specialist Science status following much hard work by staff and generous donations from our sponsors, our parents and the wider community. I look forward to being able to share with you the successes, challenges and changes that we will enjoy as a result of our specialism.

We were of course very pleased with the Ofsted inspector's report describing us as 'a good school'. We are never complacent but it is good to know that the work being done to promote learning and raise aspirations is effective and girls are making good progress. The Government is making changes to the Key Stage 3 curriculum from 2008 and we will be reviewing our own curriculum provision next year to ensure we offer a wide range of appropriate courses for the girls.

Many girls have taken part in competitions and other community activities and you can read about many of them in this issue of Challney News. These extra-curricular activities give girls greater opportunities to practise skills in sport or in public speaking as well as those important qualities of being able to mix with and 'get along with' a range of different people of different ages and backgrounds. I hope that in the coming months more pupils will have the opportunity to take part in learning and serving activities outside the normal school day.



I would like to thank all parents and Governors who have supported the school this year. I would also like to thank all members of staff for their hard work and the commitment they show each week to help us fulfil our vision of an environment where respect, opportunity and achievement can flourish. I hope you enjoy this issue and I hope you enjoy having your daughters at home over the holiday period. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Eid, New Year or all three I wish you and your families a very happy time and trust that 2007 will bring peace for us all.

M Arthur



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Staff news

Two members of staff have retired this term. They are Mrs Lousada, Head of Drama, and Mrs King, Librarian. Both have served Challney for a long time and we wish them well in their retirement.

Mr Porter, our Premises Manager, has moved on to another school and Mrs Quraishi has left the Language Support team.

In September we were joined by new staff. The new teachers are: Miss Mir – Science, Mr Boulton – ICT, Miss Hobday – Geography, Miss Whitehouse – Resistant Materials, Mrs Kavanagh – PE, Mr Onuoha – Mathematics.

We also have new teaching assistants in: Language Support — Mrs Baxter; Learning Support — Mr Kendall, Mrs Kausar and Miss Akhtar; and Behaviour Support — Mrs Aslan.

Mrs Bownes has joined the school as science and maths technician and Mrs Archer and Mrs Tiller have joined us as Key Stage Liaison Officers. Mr England is our new Premises Manager. We are glad to welcome all these people to Challney and hope they enjoy working with us.

Learning Mentors

This year the Learning Mentors have been busy running a variety of clubs and workshops. We run weekly Attendance Workshops and a weekly Maths Booster Workshop. We have started a very popular Computer Club for pupils in Year 9. We also run a drop-in session on Friday lunchtimes for any girls who want somewhere to play, work and/or chat. Our newest team member, Mrs Aytoun, is running an extremely popular Gardening Club at lunchtimes which has been involved with a project at Luton Hoo. We also support the Breakfast Centre and the new monthly coffee mornings for mothers.

Later this year we plan to run a course in conjunction with the Windsor Fellowship aimed at improving the achievement of pupils in Year 10.

We are always available if you need to contact us.



Safety Warning from Your Safer Neighbourhood Police Team

It is essential that those of you collecting children from school do not park near the school. Traffic comes to a complete stand still every school day because of people parking too near the school.



There is a risk to both schoolchildren and road users in this increasingly busy traffic problem.

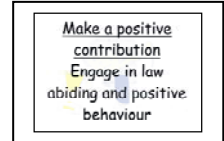
We would ask that you do not park your car in Stoneygate Road, but arrange to meet your child in other roads, Sandgate, Fieldgate, Homedale, Granby, Humberstone, Oakley - even PC World or MFI car parks. If you are going towards Dunstable you could meet in the slip road off Halfway Avenue in front of the Jet Garage area or Leicester, Atherstone or Overstone Roads.

Please bear in mind that parking too close to corners on the road causes terrible traffic flow problems and that you must not park over other people's driveways.

If our pleas are ignored and the parking in Stoneygate Road remains a problem we will resort to punitive action. We would remind you that parking on Zig Zag yellow lines may receive a £60 fine and 3 points on your licence. Parking on the pavement or less than 10 metres from a corner/junction incurs a £30 fine.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope you will be able to help us to help you with the traffic situation and ensure the safety of all.

If you would like to talk to any of us about this at all, please call Luton 394427 and ask for either PCSO 3972 Lynne McMunn, PC 587 Aaron Smith or Sgt 522 Martin Cahill.



Science News

The next generation of GM crops

On Tuesday 7th November 31 Year 10 students attended a fascinating public lecture on the future of genetically modified (GM) crops at Rothamsted Research Station, near Harpenden.

The first speaker explained the use of GM crops today (including the use of herbicide resistant crops) and possible GM crops of the future. These included;

- virus resistant crops
- those with a longer shelf life, such as the flavour saver tomato
- crops designed to remove salt from the soil
- healthier crops, such as soya beans
- those that are resistant to insect damage
- those with high vitamin A to help reduce childhood blindness around the world.

The second speaker, a research scientist, described some of the techniques that are used to engineer GM crops.

The last talk was given by a farmer who was involved in the GM farm-scale evaluation trials. He described how the risks caused by GM crops can be reduced.

The public nature of the event was made clear to us when the audience was asked for any questions. There were several concerned individuals, including beekeepers, who voiced their disagreement with the scientists over the safety of GM crops.

Coffee Mornings



On Wednesday 8th

November we held our first coffee morning for mothers.

We invited a small group as the start of an initiative to involve mothers in their

daughters' education. We intend to continue with these mornings on a monthly basis.

These occasions will give mothers an opportunity to chat and get to know each other and the staff better.

Many have asked for the opportunity to find out more about what their daughters are studying in school. Staff will be pleased to

help parents gain skills so that they are more able to assist their daughters.

These meetings are also an opportunity to practise speaking English. We want very much to encourage English conversation and will ensure we have trained staff available.

If you are the mother of one or more of our pupils and would like to attend our January coffee morning please contact Mrs Akhtar, our Home School Liaison Officer. You are welcome to bring your pre-school children with you and we will have toys to amuse them.



Please come to our next coffee morning in January. Phone Mrs Akhtar for details on 01582 571427.

چالنی گرلز ہائی اسکول کے پورے اسٹاف کی جانب سے تمام والدین کو عیدالضحیٰ، کرسمس اور نئے سال کی خوشیاں مبارک ہوں۔ ہمیں امید ہے کہ اسکول کی تمام طالبات ایک نئے عزم کے ساتھ اگلے سال کا آغاز کریں گی۔

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A voice of Author - ity!

In October popular fantasy author, Cliff McNish, visited our school and shared some of the secrets of his success with pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10.

During his talks he explained how his first novel was written at the request of his daughter, who wanted to be the main character in an exciting story. It was a big surprise to learn that he grew up in Luton and went to Cardinal Newman School. For many years he worked with computers and never dreamed he would write stories for young people. Now he is a well-known writer whose books have been translated into many languages around the world.

Year 10 pupils participated in a workshop in which he revealed some of the 'tricks of his trade'. Starting with the invention of interesting characters, they then explored possible relationships between them and, finally, the storylines these might lead to. Within a few minutes, everyone had ideas for a possible story. He then urged them to practise and persevere and write... write ... write until it feels 'right'!

Cliff McNish never expected to be a professional writer when he was at school. Who knows what the future may hold for someone in his audience? Perhaps a pupil from Challney Girls' will one day visit local schools and recount how she was inspired to write her first novel after meeting a famous author...!



Cliff McNish who came to talk about his first novel

MEAP celebrations

What do you do when you have taken part in a national project to raise the standard of learning and have been very successful? You share the success with others! And that's exactly what a group of our pupils did at the end of the Summer Term.

At the invitation of Allan Barfoot, Luton MEAP Project Director, six girls and their English teacher, Miss Morris, took part in a celebration, at the Luton Learning Resource Centre, of phase one of the MEAP project. They took part in a presentation, expressed their views about the work they had been doing and gave a demonstration of the skills they had learned.

Our contribution to the Minority Ethnic Achievement Project focused on developing collaborative talk and critical thinking skills in order to improve learning in Key Stage 3 English lessons and improve performance in the KS3 Tests. The pupils who took part were so successful that the project is now being shared with other departments within the school in phase 2. Other schools taking part last year were Challney Boys' and Denbigh. This year Icknield has also joined phase 2 of the project.

If you would like to know more about the project, contact Mrs Tinch, Head of English. Meanwhile, watch this space... the rest is yet to come! Our thanks to Neelam Iqbal, Nabilah Ghazi, Sonia Hussain, Ismah Akhtar, Aneela Hussain and Iram Azaim for being such a credit to the school.

If you offer an opinion or idea you must give reasons.

Everyone must actively listen - show this by looking at the person and asking questions.

It is all right to disagree with someone else as long as you give reasons.

Everyone must share information and ideas. You must contribute.

You have to reach a solution - even if you have disagreed - for which you can all take responsibility.

10 miles in 6 hours?

Every year in the Summer Term, the school enjoys an Off Timetable Day and pupils have the opportunity to do something a little different. Last year Zicky Khanzada 11G chose one of the more strenuous options:

On 18th July, while most of you were off to theme parks, Mr Mackenzie organised a trip to Warden Hills for students in Year 10.

After registering in Lab 19 we set off at 9 o'clock. I think Mr Mackenzie was surprised at our enthusiasm.

Every so often we asked the usual, "Are we nearly there yet?" We kept walking but needed a break every hour due to the weather being extremely hot.

It took us at least three hours to get to the John Dony Field Centre where we ate our lunch. We were told the history of the Centre which I found interesting.

Our lunch had given us enough energy to start back to school. We returned at 3.30 pm but after a 10 mile walk no one had any energy left. I guess we ran out of fuel.

I would like to congratulate all the girls who succeeded in this 10 mile walk. I would also like to thank the teachers that came with us and a big thank you to Mr Mackenzie for organizing this fantastic walk.

Training in Spain

We are always looking for opportunities to support our pupils in their individual needs. This term we were able to help Natalie Jones 9D, a talented swimmer, to realize her ambition to attend a training camp in Spain. Here are excerpts from her diary in which she has recorded her experiences:

Sunday 22nd October

We arrived at London Luton airport at 4 o'clock and everyone was really excited. We all sat together on the plane which left an hour late because two cases had been put on the wrong plane.

Monday 23rd October

We woke at 8.00 and had breakfast at 9.00. The food wasn't very nice but we had to eat it. We had some free time before our first

flexibility session so I sat by the pool. The pool was 50m long and outdoors so it was colder than we are used to. It was hard doing two hours, but I got through it. The lunch was much better than the breakfast and I had loads. We had our second swimming session from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. This was much harder because it was dark and cold, but as long as we kept swimming we kept warm.

Tuesday 24th October

The swimming wasn't as hard today, because we were getting used to the length of the pool. We had to rush lunch again because of the times of our swimming sessions. I went to the beach and went into the sea. It was really fun and I rode lots of waves—they were huge! It was scary when the wave took me under and spun me around, but it was addictive! A bit like a roller coaster! Our land training was near the beach. We did some running, a few laps along the beachfront. Then we did some relays; I think this was an excellent team building exercise. After swimming and dinner we talked to some of the people from other swimming clubs who were also staying at the hotel.

Wednesday 25th October

I woke up at 7.00 today because we were going to Barcelona for the day. Everyone was looking forward to going to Nou Camp, the Barcelona football stadium. We walked through the changing rooms and right down to the same level as the pitch. We could even touch the grass. I had a picture taken with Ronaldinho; unfortunately, it was a cardboard cut out! As we were leaving to get into our coach, an unbelievable thing happened. The Barcelona team, including Ronaldinho, arrived in their coach! Everyone was screaming with excitement! After the stadium we went to Las Ramblas, one of the shopping areas in Barcelona. This was fun and I bought a traditional Spanish dress.

Saturday 28th October

I woke up feeling sad because it was our last day. We had to get up at 6.00 am today because our coaches booked the earlier swimming session from 7.00 until 9.00. We were swimming next to the Russian national swimming team and one of our swimmers

managed to keep up with them. Unfortunately they had their legs tied together and were only using one arm!

We came back for lunch and played cards before the next session. The last swimming session for the week was going to be a mini-gala to see how much we had improved. I took part but had to stop early as I felt very sick, along with some other people. We all think it was the burgers which weren't cooked properly. The coach was waiting for us when we got back to the hotel but it waited while we went through our logbooks and prizes were given out. I won the "best session plan" prize. Unlike other swimmers, the coaches liked it.

When we got to the airport two of the swimmers announced that they had left their passports in the hotel. The passports had to be sent on to us and we boarded the plane only just in time for take off.

Sunday 29th October

I had normal swimming training on Sunday, back at Lewsey pool. I breezed through the session – the results of the training at the camp were beginning to show.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Foster for organizing the sponsorship for me and to Miss Arthur for granting the final amount of £50. Without the sponsorship money, it would have been harder to organise

Truancy Call

Ever mindful of the safety of our pupils, this year we have been trialing a new method of letting you know when your daughter has not turned up for school and we have not been given a reason. Mrs Akhtar, Home School Liaison Officer gives her account of how well Truancy Call has worked so far and how it can work better with your help:

I would like to thank all parents who have used Truancy Call and left messages about their daughter's first day absence from school. Since we have started to send calls to parents through Truancy Call the school's attendance has improved significantly. There are a few things



which I would like to remind parents about on how they can help to improve their daughter's attendance:

- Parents do not necessarily have to record their messages in English. They can be in Urdu, Punjabi, Pahari or Bengali.
- The school would prefer the message to be recorded by a parent.
- If parents do not leave a message on Truancy Call or do not send a letter with their daughter when she returns to school, her attendance is marked as 'Unauthorised Absence' and stays unauthorised until parents provide school with a valid reason for her absence.

High Sheriff's Service

On Monday 25th September, Manisha Purba, Head Girl, and Sadaf Batool, Deputy Headgirl, represented the school at a very formal and traditional High Sheriff's Service at St. Paul's Church, Bedford.

The office of sheriff goes back more than 1000 years to Anglo-Saxon times, to the days before the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest, and this event was in keeping with the historic custom of opening the legal year with a church service.

As we would all expect, Manisha and Sadaf represented the school splendidly with great dignity and maturity. It was, however, a very curious experience for them. In a congregation of around 2000, they were the only two Asian people to be seen. This serves as a reminder to us of how lucky we are to belong to a community like Luton with such ethnic and cultural diversity.

Well done girls!



The Breakfast Centre

Thank you to all parents who filled in a questionnaire at Consultation Day in June about a proposed Breakfast Centre. As usual, your ideas were very interesting and as a result we have opened a Breakfast Centre which is supervised by staff and open to all pupils in the Junior Dining Room from **8.00 am until 8.30 am** every school day. Pupils may eat and drink as much as they like for **only 50p** from a range of hot and cold food and drinks. Last serving is at 8.20 am so as to give the girls enough time to eat their breakfast without being late for registration.

Would your daughter be interested in coming along to the Breakfast Centre? We think that your daughter may well want to enjoy a cooked breakfast with her friends, or perhaps just a bowl of cereal or a cup of hot chocolate, in a safe and warm environment and get her day in school off to a good start – especially during the long, dark winter months. Why not ask her if she would like to come along?

Attendance Matters

*Thanks to all parents and pupils who have contributed to the improvement in our school attendance rate. Research indicates a direct link between attendance and achievement. At the time of writing, attendance is over 95% across the school. **Education Welfare Officer, Jill Stewart**, explains how we can improve further:*

In the dark days of January we sometimes begin to think of **summer holidays**. When planning, please do remember that holidays during term-time are discouraged at Challney and school permission is needed in advance for any such absence.

Occasionally **families move** to another part of Luton, elsewhere in this country, or even abroad. Challney does need your full new address, contact details and details of your daughter's new school before you leave here, or as soon as possible afterwards. The Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice to parents whose children have not arrived at

school as expected. In addition, unnecessary concern is raised about 'missing children'; these procedures can be avoided if parents keep in touch and provide proper information to the school. Please also remember to update the school with any **change of telephone contact number** or **address**. Apart from emergency situations, we greatly value being able to contact parents at other times and appreciate your support.

One of our targets this year is to improve pupil attendance before and whenever possible after **medical/ dental appointments**. Pupils should come to school before appointments and return to school afterwards. They should go to **main reception to sign out when leaving and to sign in again on their return** before going back to class.

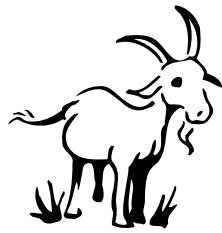
A School for the Future

*As part of its Building Schools for the Future programme, the government has committed to redecorate, refurbish or rebuild every secondary school in the country. Challney is no exception. Last month our School Council went to Luton Town Football Stadium to give their ideas about what a new Challney Girls' School should look like. **Syeda Qamarunnisa, 9I** describes the event:*

The School Council went to the football stadium to represent Challney and participated in the "Building Schools for the Future" workshop which will eventually help shape the future of Luton schools and the community. Many schools participated including Halyard, Challney Boys', Denbigh and, of course, Challney Girls'. We did a variety of exercises beginning with what we love, hate or want to change about our school. We had a 5 minute break and then began the next exercise. This was to do with money. We used our skills and knowledge of economics to make a presentation about the funding available in each school and how this is going to benefit students and the community. Each school had to present its own proposal about how they would spend the money. I felt this was a great opportunity for all of us. It was a great event.

A Goat for Christmas

Year 7 decided it would be a nice idea to make Christmas special for others this year. Mrs Brown suggested buying some gifts from Oxfam. We looked at the Oxfam site and got many ideas which were delivered at an assembly. I was overwhelmed at the enthusiasm and desire to help displayed by Year 7 pupils. We decided on giving 30p each... not much to ask when you see what we will buy. We decided on buying the following to help those less fortunate than ourselves. For just £58.50 in total, we are going to buy:



- A goat to supply dairy products and aid farming in poor areas.
- An animal care kit: to supply the goat with enough water and food for one year.
- Planting 25 trees: to give shelter and help to prevent soil erosion.
- Buying 2 text books for a pupil: to help them with reading and writing.
- School dinners for 100 pupils for one month.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the girls for their contribution and also a special mention to Mrs Foster who had a goat fund box in her classroom that other pupils from other years and staff contributed to. A huge “thank you” to all. Watch this space for updates on our goat.

Miss Ponsonby

Walled Garden Project

As part of Make a Difference Day some of our pupils helped with a gardening project at Luton Hoo, Naomi Smith 110 wrote:

I liked all of it. It was so peaceful there and interesting to see parts of it from the past. The best bit was planting the flowers and digging up bricks. Some people moaned because they got dirty but I never did. I worked really hard and loved playing with the little dog called Misty. I would really like to go back there and visit. After we had done the planting we went for a walk and a lady called Charlotte showed us around. We had a wonderful, exciting day.

Year 11 GCSE Art based on “Structures”



Sushruta Mohite



Zahrah Emamally



“Wacky Racers” at Specialist Science College Launch



Henna Rashid



Anam Akhtar



Hot and tired walkers on Off Timetable Day



Feeling on top of the world on Warden Hills

Children in Need

Form 9S wanted to help this Appeal so we held a food sale. We raised £35 in just 15 minutes at breaktime. We would like to thank everyone who brought in food, helped to sell it and, most importantly, those who purchased it. The event was a great success and we were really pleased with the way it went.

Rachel Fawcett and Sabreena Nazir 9S

MathsMagic Final

Two of our Year 7 girls, Wasima Hussain 7E and Sara Malik 7E, and two of our Year 8 girls, Haleema Ali 8A and Labiba Raheem 8W, took part in the MathsMagic Final 2006 at Cranfield University on 1st December. The event was organised by Setpoint Bedfordshire & Luton. Our Year 7 team won three of their five games whereas our Year 8 team did even better against most of the schools in Bedford and Luton and eventually reached the final. The final came to a nail biting finish, at one point we were very close to winning the cup and eventually won the runners-up prize.

Be Healthy

Did you know?

Over a third of children aged 6-15 years are overweight or obese and more at risk of developing heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

WHY NOT TRY

eating **MORE**:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Oily fish
- Bread
- Drinking water
- Healthier drinks

eating **LESS**

- Chocolate and confectionery
- Crisps and savoury snacks
- Salt
- Deep fried foods
- Manufactured meat products

Visit www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk or call 0800 089 5001 for more advice.

Extended Schools

The government requires that by 2010 all children, young people and their families will have access to Extended Schools, open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm for 52 weeks each year. Of course we have long understood the benefits of opening the school to pupils before and after the regular school day. Mr Golding, Leader of Extra-Curricular Learning, reviews our current provision:

The first term of the new school year is nearly over and the new Year 7s have settled in very well. Many have already started to come to Study Club in Room 13 in the morning from 8 am or after school until 4.30 pm. Both of these times are extremely popular as pupils are able to work in a supervised, quiet environment in order to complete homework or coursework assignments. The Study Club is also open throughout the lunch hour and, due to growing demand, additional rooms have now been opened mainly for Years 10 and 11 to complete their coursework.

Many subject departments within the school will be offering additional sessions after school for Years 9 and 11, both of whom have external examinations this year. The Mathematics and Technology departments started sessions prior to the mock examinations and these will continue into the New Year. There are also classes after school on Thursdays, staffed by maths teachers, to offer guidance with Mathswise homework sessions. The Science department will start KS3 revision classes in February, whilst KS4 pupils should see their own science teachers for details. Pupils interested in English revision classes should see their English teachers in the new term.

School however is about more than work and revision.

- There are plenty of sporting activities on offer from the Physical Education Department both after school, at a competitive level, and during lunch time.
- The Chess Club continues to run at lunchtimes in Room 5.

- The Art Club runs throughout the week in the Art Rooms.
- Music Clubs are ongoing.
- If you are keen to sing after school and at weekends, the Gospel Choir is growing in strength and continues to perform excellent concerts.

Unfortunately the school library is not open as often as we would like due to the retirement of Mrs King, the school librarian. However, as soon as we have a new librarian the library will open full time. I am sure that all avid readers in the school will be pleased when this happens.

Information about school activities is posted in the weekly pupils' newsletter.

Please remember that for any activity before or after school pupils must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian

<p><u>Achieve economic</u> <u>well being</u> Ready for employment</p>

Making a Difference

Challney pupils have a reputation for their generosity in giving their time to help others. As a further contribution to Make a Difference Day one group of Year 10 and 11 pupils made a difference at Dallow Community Centre as Saira Siddique 11C explains:

On the 3rd November a group of us went to the new Dallow Community Centre where we helped with 'Make a Difference Day'.

I volunteered to help a group of pupils studying the Asdan course to set up and serve a meal for elderly people at the Centre. Here I helped to set up tables and chairs for people to sit and arranged napkins which were different colours and set out the cutlery and plates.

As the elderly people arrived we greeted them and took them to their seats and arranged tea and coffee for them as they waited for everyone else to arrive. When they were all there we took them into the dining area and showed them to their seats and asked them what they wanted for starters – chicken or pumpkin soup.

The main meal was a choice of: tandoori chicken with bread, rice and dahl, salad, or jacket potatoes with cheese and beans

or tuna and sweetcorn, with apple pie and custard or ice cream for dessert. This was followed by chocolates and more tea or coffee and presents which we had wrapped earlier. The people were very happy and I enjoyed working with them.

Afterwards we had to help clear up and even though I was very tired I thoroughly enjoyed my day.

The girls' efforts were clearly much appreciated. Miss Arthur has since been showered with complimentary letters from grateful guests, such as this from Mrs Withall:

'Dear Miss Arthur, I would like to pass on my thanks to your staff and pupils who helped at the Centre on Friday. Their personality and help gave the school something to be proud of. All my friends and I from Dallow Road Senior Citizen Club were made so welcome by your girls. They were so pleasant and helpful. The girls worked very hard from when they arrived until the end of the day. Please pass my thanks on to all the girls.'

Exam Results 2006

At Key Stage 3 we had our best results ever with 59% of the cohort obtaining Level 5 and above in all three subjects, English, Maths and Science. The results in individual subjects were English 67% Level 5 and above, Maths 69% Level 5 and above and Science 69% Level 5 and above. We look forward to excellent GCSE results from these girls. The target is for 55% of them to achieve 5 or more A*-C grades. We feel sure that they will exceed this.

While GCSE results this year were not as good as they had been in 2005 when 55% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades, they were very much as predicted. Altogether 41% of last year's Year 11 obtained 5 or more A*-C grades and 14% obtained 3 or more A*-A grades. There were also some outstanding individual performances, notably Abereat Sabir (4A*and 5A) and Fathema Begum (5A*and 3A).

Last year we changed some of our procedures to conform to recommendations from the Department for Education. In

particular the girls had no study leave prior to the examination period. We are reviewing this and would like to know what any parents of last year's Year 11 pupils thought about the exam arrangements. Please contact Mrs Brown.

This year we are trying to ensure that all Year 11 pupils complete their coursework with sufficient time for thorough revision. All parents of pupils in Years 10 and 11 should have received a list of coursework deadlines as well as a copy of our coursework appeals policy.

Our Awards Night

Smiling dignitaries and proud parents packed into the Main Hall last month alongside pupils past and present to celebrate another year of success at the school annual Awards Ceremony.

Pupils who had achieved top grade GCSE grades were celebrated along with those who had impressed in individual subjects, those who had achieved highest levels at Key Stage 3 and winners of sports colours. At the announcement of their names, to the applause of a most appreciative audience, a stream of delighted and impeccably dressed pupils flowed across the stage before their Headteacher, Miss Arthur and Chair of Governors, Masood Akhtar, to collect their prizes from guest of honour, Kim Beach.

Kim herself provided an excellent role model and inspiration for all the pupils who were present on the evening. Today a senior scientist with Proctor and Gamble, 15 years ago almost to the day she had actually been our Head Girl, collecting her own end of year prize on the very same stage.

Kim's invitation to be this year's guest of honour was all the more timely in the light of the school's latest achievement, the award of Science Specialist College status. The evening, however, would not have been complete without the entertainment provided by our own pupils who, between the awards, played a wonderful range of instruments and sang to their usual high standard. To them we are very grateful.

SPECIALIST SCIENCE COLLEGE LAUNCH

On the Tuesday 5th of December the school celebrated its designation as a Science College. The celebration was to show to our guests the good work carried out in our school and to show what we can expect in the future as a Science College.

The evening began with students and parents taking part in a Wacky Racers Workshop in the Senior Dining Room. This was run by Gerry Heather from Bedfordshire and Luton SETPOINT. Students had to design the fastest racer over one metre, with parents and staff there to help.

Datalogging equipment from the e-Learning Centre was used to measure the speed of the racers (the school is the Science spoke of the e-Learning centre).

As the guests arrived, the prefects, Sehrish, Sadaf, Manisha, Hazeara and Soumaya took them on a tour of the school to see our new facilities. The tour included the new fitness room where pupils and staff were demonstrating their athletic abilities on the new equipment. Guests were shown the Maths department and the new lab in Hut 7, finishing in Lab 16 where Mrs Menni demonstrated the use of the Activote system. This system is an addition to the interactive white boards and allows the teacher to assess rapidly pupils' understanding through a series of multiple choice questions. It's a bit like the audience participation in "Who wants to be a Millionaire?", but without the money!

At 6.30 the guests returned to the Main Hall where, after introductions from Miss Arthur and Mr Mackenzie, the audience enjoyed a talk by Georgina Bingham from Rothamsted Research in Harpenden. Georgina explained to the audience why she chose a career in Science. She described the rewards of a career in Science, her visits to many different countries to carry out research and meet other scientists, as well as her thrill of being at the cutting edge of discovery.

Our school governor, Mr Bilal, described the valuable part that the community played in raising the money for Science Specialist status.

One of our sponsors for the Science College, Muslim Aid, was represented by Mrs Chaudhry who was presented with a certificate by Head Girl, Manisha Purba, for their help in raising some of the money we needed.

The event finished with tea and biscuits in the Junior Dining Room where guests were able to continue their conversations.

I would like to thank those who attended as well as all the staff who participated in making this event such a success.

Mr R.A.Mackenzie



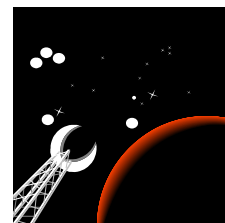
We are pleased to announce the visit of Dr Alexander Martynov of the Russian Space Programme
19th January from 7.00 to 8.30 pm
in the Main Hall

Dr Martynov is to give a presentation on "Manned Mission to Mars". He will be showing a video about the life and work of cosmonauts on board the Mir and International Space Stations, demonstrating cosmonauts' food and answering questions afterwards.

Dr Martynov will talk about many aspects of his work including:

- The Space City of Korolev
- The cosmonaut's work on the space stations
- Manned flight to Mars. Why?
- The international co-operation of engineers, scientists, doctors and cosmonauts
- Power station in space – could it solve future energy problems on Earth?

Dr Martynov has written books entitled "Manned Mission to Mars" and "A to Z of Cosmonautics", in English, published in Russia. Books will be on sale on the night which he will be available to sign.



The talk is free but space is limited, so please let us know if you want tickets. Call Sandra Smith at the school
☎ 01582 571427 or email:
ssmith@challneygirls.luton.sch.uk

On the right tracks?

Thank you to all parents and carers who regularly attend Consultation Days and Parents' Evenings. Attendance at the last Consultation Day in November was a very impressive 91%. We always find your contributions very beneficial in helping us provide your daughter with the best education that we can. Some parents have said, however, that they would like to understand a little better some of the jargon which we teachers insist on using when talking about their daughter's progress!

We would therefore like to run a series of workshops especially for parents and daughters next term to demystify matters such as National Curriculum levels, SATs and GCSE grades.

Please come along with your daughter, or without if she is unable to attend, to find out more about how teachers track her progress and for guidance in what you can do as a parent to help her more. Light refreshments will be available.

To help us plan the evening successfully, please complete the slip below to indicate whether you will be able to attend.

These sessions will be held as follows, starting at 5.00 pm finishing at about 6.00 pm:

- Monday 8th Jan. – Year 11 parents and pupils
- Monday 15th Jan. – Year 10 parents and pupils
- Monday 22nd Jan. – Year 8 parents and pupils
- Monday 29th Jan. – Year 9 parents and pupils
- Monday 5th Feb. – Year 7 parents and pupils

I will/will not be able to attend the work shop on Monday

I will/will not be bringing my daughter

Signed

Daughter's name (please print)

..... Form

Invite to the David Beckham Academy

Wednesday 4th July 2007 will be a very exciting day for Year 7 & 8 footballers in school. We have been invited to a coaching day at the David Beckham Academy in London for sessions and a mini tournament ... and all for free! It was luck that got us a place as over 2000 schools applied. We are certainly one of the lucky ones, and I know that this will be a super day for our girls although it does seem ages away at the moment!

Sports Roundup

YEAR 8 NETBALL TEAM CHAMPIONS OF THE TOWN!

On 17th Oct, the Year 8 netball town tournament took place at Ashcroft High School. Having won the Luton League last year, we had a reputation to keep. Our first game was against Denbigh...our rivals! After a closely fought match, the final score was 4-2 to us. We then faced Cardinal Newman and Keri-Ann and Lauren's shooting was top notch, and we successfully beat them 9-1. Next up was Ashcroft...again a very close game which we won 4-3. An excellent start in our pool. We sailed through to the semi-finals where we met our even bigger rivals, Icknield, and yes, we beat them 4-3 for the third time in a row! Delightful! The final saw us take on Putteridge and after a fantastic display of netball, we narrowly beat them 3-2! I think we all had our hearts in our mouths! Everyone gave 200% to every game and we could not have asked for more. The team was as follows: Antonia Christopher, Tereze Gaile, Aneela Ahmed, Atila Ageyman-Opoku, Keri-Ann Salkey, Lauren Wheeler, Yusra Quadri and Monique Dayes. Congratulations to all players on a fantastic team performance.

Miss Ponsonby

Netball League

Year 7 and 8 Netball Leagues are off to a good start!

The league began for both year groups on 8th November 2006. The following is a list of results from games so far.

Challney v Denbigh

Yr 7: lost 4-0, Yr 8: won 8-3

Challney v Halyard

Yr 7: lost 8-3, Yr 8: lost 8-7

Challney v Lea Manor

Yr 7: Won 5-2, Yr 8: Won 8-2

Well done to all the girls who have represented Challney so far in the netball league. They have all been little stars and a credit to the school. Keep up the dedication and hard work.

More Sporting Achievements...

Year 11 Inter-form netball

With just four forms participating, it was sure to be a tight battle! All forms played very well and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout. The results...

- 1st Place 11 G
- 2nd Place 11 R
- 3rd Place 11 U
- 4th Place 11 C



Year 10 Inter-form netball

Year 10 displayed some admirable team-work in this competition. All of the matches were very close, most with only a difference of one or two goals. 10C and 10H reached the final in the end, with 10C becoming the overall winners. The results were:

- 1st Place 10C
- 2nd Place 10H
- 3rd Place 10G
- 4th Place 10S
- 5th Place 10E

Year 7 Inter-form netball

More recently, Year 7 had their first competition at Challney. Teams were fired up and ready to go and the first pool saw 7P come up trumps, winning both of their qualifying games. With only two out of the three forms taking part in Pool B, the girls played a much longer qualifying game with 7R ultimately taking the win. With Mr O'Connor and Mr Justin out in force supporting their forms in the final it was sure to be an exciting match! All the girls played really well and in the end 7R won the match and were crowned champions.

- 1st Place - 7R
- 2nd Place - 7P
- 3rd Place - 7S
- Joint 4th Place - 7I and 7E
- 6th Place - 7M

Year 9 Netball League 2006/7

After reaching the town semi-finals last year, our team was eager to get the ball rolling this season. This year we are in a pool alongside Halyard, Icknield, Putteridge and South Luton High Schools. In the first game we played South Luton away and, after a defeat last season, we were fired up for this one. It paid off as we won 10-8 in the end. Very close game!

Icknield were next on our list. After a very long battle, we unfortunately lost this game which made us even more determined for the next against Halyard. We played through rain and wind, gave it our all, but were again defeated.

Next were Putteridge and we were ready! We won! It was 10-6 in the end. So that's two wins to Challney for the first half of the season. We look forward to meeting these schools again after Christmas for the second half of the season!

Year 8 Inter-form hockey

Review by *Aneesa Akhtar 8B*

In Pool B, the games were between 8B, 8N and 8I. It was especially exciting for 8B and 8I because they are always very close in sporting competitions. The first match was between 8B



and 8I. Tensions rose when the whistle went. The match was won by 8B because 8I gave away more free hits than us. The next match was between 8B and 8N. 8B victoriously won the match 2-0, with Aneela scoring the

goals. The final match in our pool was between 8N and 8I and if these two teams scored more than two goals, 8B wouldn't get their place in the final... but they didn't! The final score was 1-0, with Iram from 8I scoring the goal. The final was between 8R and 8B. This match was extremely hard but in the end 8B won with Marissa and me scoring the goals, final score being 2-0 to 8B.

- 1st Place 8B
- 2nd Place 8R
- 3rd Place 8I
- 4th Place 8N
- 5th Place 8A

Year 9 Inter-form basketball

Pool A saw D, E, S and Y battle it out for a place in the final. The deciding match in the end was between D and S, both teams had to win. It was so close and tensions were extremely high. D ended up winning the match but only by one basket! Pool B saw T and N fight for their place in the final with T, in the end, being victorious. So D versus T in the final... here are the results:



- 1st Place - 9D
- 2nd Place - 9T
- 3rd Place 9S
- 4th Place - 9E
- 5th Place - 9N
- 6th Place - 9Y

Many thanks for all your hard work, girls.
Miss Randall

That's what Eid's about

Laughter of the kids playing,
Aroma of the meals cooking.
Family reuniting,
That's what Eid's about.

Glistening in embroidered wear,
Hair spray and mousse to style the
Gifts and happiness for all to share.
That's what Eid's about.

Scattered plates of leftover food,
Stacks of washing up to do.
Rubbish everywhere left for you,
That's what Eid's about.
Zirien Chowdhry 9A

WE CONGRATULATE OUR TOP PERFORMERS IN GCSE EXAMINATIONS 2006

	A*	A	B	C
Lindelwe (Lindy) Sibanda	0	4	3	1
Maleeha Tahir	0	4.5	3.5	1
Henna Rashid	0	4.5	4	1
Shabina Khatoon	0	4.5	5	0
Zeenat Iqbal	0	5	3	2
Depack Sallan	0	5.5	3	1
Suman Tariq	2	2	2	2.5
Philippa Royston-White	2	3	3	0.5
Anam Akhtar	2	3	5	0
Tahira Kausar	2	5.5	1.5	1
Farah Rashid	3	0	6	1
Hansa Bi	3	1	4.5	1
Rabiea Abdullah	3	1	5	1.5
Roobi Aziz	3	1	5	0.5
Dhara Patel	3	2.5	3.5	1
Tahreem Hasan	3	4	1	1
Zainab Shafiq	3.5	2	4	0
Abereat Sabir	4.5	5.5	0	0
Fathema Begum	5	3	1.5	0

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY EID-UL-ADHA**



MathsMagic participants

Diary Dates 2007

Spring Term

- Thur. 4th Jan.– Term begins
- Mon. 8th Jan.– Year 11 parents and pupils session
- Mon. 15th Jan. – Year 10 parents and pupil session
- Thur. 18th Jan. – Year 11 Parents’ Evening:
- Mon. 19th Jan. – Evening talk by space scientist
- Mon. 22nd Jan. – Year 8 parents and pupils
- Mon. 29th Jan. – Year 9 parents and pupils
- Mon. 5th Feb. – Year 7 parents and pupils
(Half Term: week beginning Mon. 12th Feb.)
- Mon. 26th Feb.– Year 10 start 2 weeks of Work Experience
- Thur. 15th Mar. – Year 9 Parents’ Evening:
- Thur. 29th Mar. – Year 10 Parents’ Evening:
- Fri. 30th Mar. – End of Term

Summer Term

- Tue. 17th Apr.– Term begins
(Half Term: week beginning Mon. 28th May)
- Thur. 28th June – Consultation Day
- Thur. 19th July – end of Term



The girls really enjoyed the “Wacky Racers” as these pictures show:

