



Challney News



July 2009

NAME:

FORM:

Letter from the Head

I hope you enjoy this edition of Challney News. The articles give a good 'flavour' of the positive things which have been happening this year. As I write these notes, Year 10 students are involved in Chemistry at Work Day, taking part in a variety of activities facilitated by chemists from the world of work and research. The additional experiences we can offer definitely enhance the girls' understanding and awareness, so helping to raise their aspirations and achievements.

Your support of your daughters and of the school this year is much appreciated. Whatever we do, we do better when we work together. There are still three vacancies on the Governing Body for parents. I shall write to you again in September inviting nominations for this important role. Parents' views are important and it is right that their voices should be heard as we make decisions affecting the long term future of our school and form the strategic plans which will help us achieve our aims. If you would like more information over the holiday period please contact Luton's Governor Services on 01582 548018 or www.luton.gov.uk and follow links to Education and Governors.

We are very excited by the new build process. The school field looks different every day and the work is progressing well. Everything is on track for us to move in January 2011 and I am confident the girls will thrive in a modern purpose-built learning environment where students, parents, staff and the wider community can learn and work together. "Watch this space" has never been more true than when applied to our existing field and the old athletics track!



Pupils breaking the ground for the new school

I would like to thank all staff for the efforts they have made to enhance the girls' attainment. Staff commitment is very high and the girls' progress and well-being drive the work that is done. We are all, however, looking forward to the holiday! I hope you all have an enjoyable time with your families this summer and look forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 10 on Thursday 3rd September, Year 11 with their parents for Consultation Day appointments on that day and all students on Friday 4th September.

M. Arthur

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Arrivals and Departures

Welcome to our new staff

Ms C Allen — English Teacher
 Mr A Blaal – ICT Teacher
 Miss E Kirkby – RE Teacher
 Ms L Brown – Welfare Assistant
 Mrs C King – Data Manager and PA
 Miss J Simpson – Key Stage Liaison Officer
 Mr V Mehta – Teaching Assistant - Learning Support
 Mrs D Mistry – Teaching Assistant - Learning Support
 Mrs A Tyagi – Teaching Assistant - Learning Support
 Ms R Prince – Science Technician
 Miss S Wilson – Art Technician

We wish staff who are leaving us well

Mr B Zaman – ICT
 Miss Z Fentor – English
 Miss S Rezaei – Art Technician
 Mrs A. Kausar — Teaching Assistant - Learning Support

BSF Groundbreaking

After a week of very doubtful weather, Friday June 12th dawned bright and sunny to the relief of all those who had been planning the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new school. This was to be the official start of the project to rebuild Challney High School for Girls. In fact the work had begun during the half term holiday, so the fencing had been in place and the diggers on site for a couple of weeks.

At 2pm the guests were assembled, including people from the Local Authority, members of the BSF team, employees of QED Wates, Governors, staff and students. Speeches were made by Councillor Tahir Khan, Mr. Kevin Crompton CEO, Mr. Tim Wates and Miss Arthur, before the ceremonial cutting of the turf took place. This was done by the three students Kokoab Khan, Saarah Malik and Anika Aris with a specially engraved shovel. Of course there had to be photographs, one of which was in the local press. Everyone then enjoyed some light refreshments in the Library, with the chance to meet some new faces and talk about the prospect of the new school and the opportunities it will afford. Altogether it was a most enjoyable afternoon, and hopefully the first step on the exciting journey of building the new Challney High School for Girls.

Investors in Families

We believe that parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life and that, in order to improve our pupils' life chances, we need to work in partnership with their parents and carers. This is one reason why we wish parents and carers to feel valued and welcomed in our school.

You can imagine, therefore, how delighted we were last month to be awarded Investors in Families status, the very first secondary school in Luton to have received this prestigious award. Investors in Families is a national accreditation scheme that was established to celebrate schools that work closely with families, with the aim of improving outcomes for their children.

The official announcement was made to us at a special presentation ceremony at the Menzies Strathmore Hotel in Luton on Friday 5th June where we were presented with our commemorative plaque by Chris Waterman, Director of Investors in Families. The event was attended by over 100 children, parents and staff from seven Luton schools, as well as by David Bruce, Sure Start and Extended School Manager, Tim Skinner, Family Support Services Manager and Parenting Commissioner, and Kelvin Hopkins MP. Also present was TV presenter, Dave Benson-Phillips, who provided entertainment for the pupils.

At the ceremony we were very highly praised for our commitment to working with families of our pupils, especially our willingness to go the extra mile in order to encourage their involvement in the school.

More information about Investors in Families can be found on their website:

<http://www.investorsinfamilies.org.uk>

School Twinning

Our link with Shirin Sultan Dossa School near Lahore is developing well. In fact, we have had some very touching messages sent to us that can leave us in no doubt as to how highly valued this project is by pupils in Pakistan. Here are some of the messages that they have sent us:

“I never thought that I would ever be able to have a friend in the UK. I am very grateful.” – Sabia Rafiq



"I know that this relationship-friendship is like a book that may take a few seconds to burn but years to write. So I am trying to write it carefully and will never let it burn because it's a great blessing from God for me. I am very thankful to all who are promoting love and friendship especially for students like us who live in small villages and hardly get such chances." – Neelam Maqsood

"I feel lucky to have such a beautiful relationship with a girl in the UK and I would like to continue this friendship throughout my life." – Kiran Rafiq

"My pen pal is very nice and I love her concern and care for me. May she live long!" – Bilqees Ahmad

Meanwhile our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils continue to exchange letters with their pen pals in Pakistan. Here are some comments that some Challney pupils have made about the project:

"I think that it is really great having a friend on the other side of the world." - Celsa Paiva, 9I

"I am really excited. We were really buzzing when we received our letters!" - Wasima Hussain 9E

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up, too, just like my pen pal" - Raabia Nabi, 9M

If you are in Year 9 or Year 10 and would still like to join in the project, it is not too late. Just let your Head of Year or Mr Palmer know as soon as possible and you, too, can be paired up with a pen-pal and play your part in helping greater world understanding.

Star Chart Awards

As a reward for their excellent attendance and punctuality, girls in form groups which have collectively achieved the highest attendance and punctuality over the Spring Term were invited to a



Movie Night which took place immediately after school on 13th May.

The form groups invited included 9P, 9S, 9I and 11N. The girls were served light refreshments by staff whilst they enjoyed viewing a film

with their friends.

We would like to congratulate these girls on their excellent attendance and thank parents and carers for their continued support.

Gift Day

Following our Gift Day assemblies at the end of last term, we received a kind letter from Andy Cavill, Local Chairman of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, our chosen charity for 2008-9. He wrote, "The reception we received from both staff and pupils was fantastic. The staff were very attentive, helpful, reassuring and the manners as well as the behaviour of the pupils were impeccable. We found the whole day a very enjoyable experience."

ContactPoint

ContactPoint is a national directory for professionals who work with children and young people and is due to be introduced in 2009. It will contain only basic details about a child (0-18) and where applicable the contact details of any professionals working with the child. Its purpose is to make it easier and quicker for professionals working with children to contact each other so they can provide a more coordinated delivery of services, thereby benefiting the child.

ContactPoint will be very secure and access to it will be restricted to authorised users who need it as part of their professional role, like those working in education, health, social care, youth offending, police and some voluntary organisations.

As an additional safeguard a small number of children's records on ContactPoint will also be "shielded". This means that if a decision is made to shield a record, any details that would identify the location of the child/family would be hidden from view.

Shielding can take place if it is considered that the child or another person is placed at "increased risk of harm" if details of their location are shown on ContactPoint. Records can also be shielded where full details being shown could put a child's placement at risk (in some cases of adoption) or could prejudice the prevention or detection of a serious crime.

Luton Borough Council works with partner agencies in order to determine which records are to be shielded, but a child or young person over 12 or their parents can also make a request to shield a record if they consider that one of the above reasons apply to them. These requests will go to a

panel of professionals to determine the validity of the request.

The information that can be held on ContactPoint is limited by law as provided by Section 12 of the Children Act 2004 and the supporting Regulations.

Year 10 Sixth Form Trip

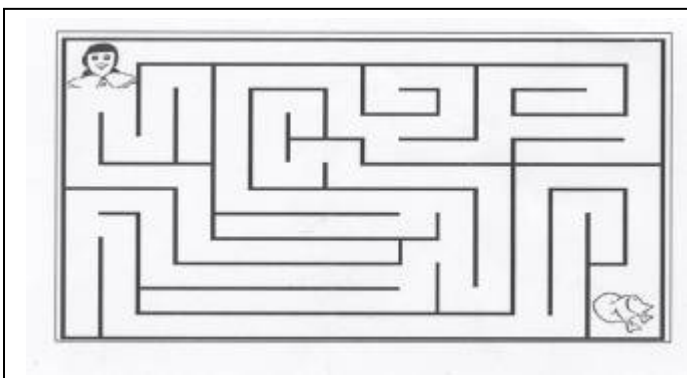


Pupils concentrating at the VI Form

On Monday 29th June, 31 Business Studies pupils participated in a 'People in Business Day' at Luton Sixth Form College. The Sixth Form staff were very welcoming and they prepared a professional and very informative programme of activities.

Ideas on recruitment and employer law were presented and discussed, and role playing was used to highlight the difficulties that management can encounter. Our girls were also able to explore the college, meet sixth form students and gain an insight into how the college functions.

All our pupils were a credit to our school and they obviously gained a lot from the experience.



Extra Curricular Activities

There have been many extra-curricular activities organised throughout the year both by our teaching staff and our support staff. These activities have offered pupils a wide range of experiences which supplement their formal learning in lessons. They have included a variety of clubs and practices organised by the P.E. Department both at lunchtime and after school, such as rounders, cricket, tennis, swimming and the use of dance mats. The fitness suite has also been open daily at lunchtime as well as after school, except Friday. All these activities have proven to be popular across all year groups. The Maths Games Club, held every Wednesday lunchtime, has been popular with Years 7, 8 and 9.

With GCSE examinations at the forefront of the minds of both Year 11 pupils and subject staff, after school revision classes were organised by most departments. These offered pupils the opportunity to revise in smaller groups with staff in a quiet environment. Many staff also gave up their time during the Easter holidays to provide additional tuition. Meanwhile, both the Breakfast Club and the Study Club continue to be popular, the Study Club continuing to open in the morning, lunchtime and after school.

There have also been visits arranged by numerous departments to take learning out of the class room, so as to broaden the curriculum base and to help pupils' understanding of their subject. These have included visits to The Tate Modern Art Gallery by the Art Department; to Hitchin town centre by the Geography Department; to The London Dungeon and The National Archive by the History Department; to The Science Museum, The Natural History Museum, The National Space Centre, Woodside Animal Centre and to Science Master classes by the Science Department; to Regent's Park Mosque and the Islamic Cultural Centre by the R.E. Department; to Grove Theatre and to Dance workshops by the English Department; to Delivering Maths, Maths Team Challenges and Maths Master classes by the Mathematics Department; to taster days at Cambridge University, Cranfield University, Hertfordshire University and Barnfield College; and to Luton Hoo by the Garden Club. All these activities do not even include those organised as part of our whole school Enrichment Days.

Parent English Classes

Since May and the departure of Mrs Kausar, the responsibility for teaching our Spoken English classes for mothers has been taken over by Mrs Akhtar, our versatile Home School Liaison Officer. They are held every Monday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm. Such has been the success of the classes that some mothers have now been regularly attending them for a whole year since they first began.

If any mother who has a daughter in our school and whose spoken English is at a beginner's level would like to join us, we would like to hear from you. By attending these classes you can improve your Spoken English and find it easier to take a more active part in your daughter's school life.

Please contact the school and talk to Mrs. Akhtar on 571427.

Science Outreach

As a Science Specialist School, we have endeavoured to give our local community greater access to Science. Since September 2008, we have worked with several primary schools in our catchment area. The three which participated this year were Foxdell, Dallow and Maidenhall.

All attended four after-school sessions here at Challney High School for Girls to participate in "hands on" science practical experiments which had links

with everyday science. The activities involved: making an electro-magnet; testing household solutions to see whether they were acid, alkali or neutral; exothermic and endothermic reactions; and looking at the colour change when dipping a metal compound into a Bunsen flame.



We followed this with a visit to Foxdell in June, where their Year 6 pupils made hydrometers which could identify the difference between normal and diet coke (without drinking them!).

We have received very positive feedback from all three schools which took part this year, and there is now a waiting list of those who would like

to participate in the future. We would like to thank all three primary schools so far involved for their commitment and hope to continue our outreach work in the autumn term when we expect Beechwood Primary to participate in the scheme.

A step in to the future

Challney Girls Design and Technology Department has taken a step into the future with its latest piece of equipment; we can now boast that we have a Laser Cutter. This will give the girls an opportunity to study Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) using one of today's major high quality laser machines supported by student friendly software. Next year will see some exciting projects being developed in D&T using this very versatile machine.

Challney Girls High School Association

Many parents and carers tell us that they would like to be more involved in their daughter's school life. Did you know that we have a parents and teachers association called the Challney Girls High School Association which currently has vacancies? Did you know that you can also join our committee whether or not you are a parent or carer, so long as you have an interest in the well-being of our school? If you are interested, please telephone 571427 and ask to speak to Alan Palmer, Assistant Headteacher, who will tell you all you need to know.

Latest to be elected to the committee is Mr Nasir Kayani, father of Romaana Kayani, 9S. We extend a warm welcome to him. For news of this and all other CGHSA developments, do visit the school website (www.challneygirls.luton.sch.uk) and follow the Challney PTA link.



Enrichment Day

Sounds

Enrichment Day was lots of fun. It all began with an assembly at which the theme of Science was explained to us. We were then linked to the English Department. First we looked at a diagram of different parts of the body that are used to speak; afterwards we practised sounds of words out of which we made a rhythm. When we went back to our class we were mixed with pupils from different year groups. After lunch we chose a poem to perform. We recorded it, changed the pitch and added effects on the computer. Finally, our teacher had to choose which group should read out and perform their poem. Everyone's was so good that eventually our teacher chose all of them. During period 5 we went to the Senior Dining Room for the performance.

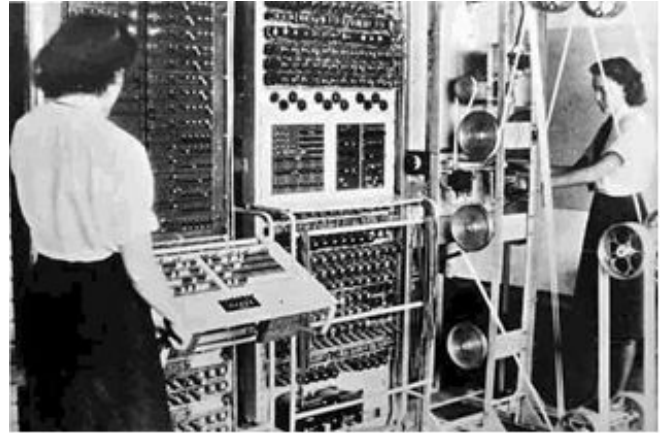
We felt a little shy at first but as the day went on we gained confidence. The whole experience was fantastic. We got to meet new people and learned a lot of new facts about Science and English. We are looking forward to our next Enrichment Day.

Nazmin Begum and Henum Amen Iqbal, 7M

Food and Fitness

On Enrichment Day some pupils in Year 7 focused on the topics of fitness, diet and body. Pupils in 7O started the day by conducting some experiments with Mrs Noreen. They tested different types of food to see if they contained glucose, protein, fat or starch. Afterwards, they burned some cereals and crisps to see which of the foods released most energy. They came to the conclusion that it was crisps that actually gave out the most. After two hours of exciting practical work, they headed off to the IT rooms where they were given the task of making a data base in groups on a subject given by Mrs Noreen. After everyone had finished, Mr Boulton put them all together and created a Food Groups link on our school website. To end the day the pupils made board games based on everything they had learned. It was an enjoyable day.

Husna Fatima Shah, 7O



Picture of 'Colossus', the machine that broke the Enigma code used in the History & Science part of Enrichment Day



Demonstration of when a batsman is 'in' or 'out' - showing that speed and force come into play



Picture taken in Stockwood Park where pupils learned about the diverse shapes and colours used by plants



Science and fitness



A Japanese koto in preparation



Some of the lovely blossom we saw at the Tree Cathedral

Music and Art Combined

At the start of the day we were given background information on the Russian expressionist painter, Kadinsky. It was explained to us how music and art are connected. We were then split in to groups of five; two pupils were to be musicians while the other three were to be artists. I was a musician. After going to the music room for a demonstration, we decorated small planks of wood to make a *koto*, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument. We also drew in the style of Kadinsky. My group chose the theme “emotions”. We decided to use bright colours for happiness and dark colours for anger. On my *koto* I drew the rainbow as it included a variety of different colours. *Saima Ahmed, 10I*

Glorious Blossoms

Our group visited the Tree Cathedral at Whipsnade and the Dunstable Downs. Our mission was to identify various trees and plants and to learn their Latin names. We took pictures and produced drawings; some of us even created bark rubbings.

The Tree Cathedral was an experience! It is one of those well kept secrets that really should be shared. From here, we walked to the Dunstable Downs to look at some of its flowers and to have lunch.

Back in our groups in school, we decided to make posters to record our visit. We used some real leaves from the different types of trees that we had seen and researched their Latin names. These posters are currently on display in Mrs Radcliffe’s classroom.

Maths Leader Award and Outreach Work

Some of our Year 9 girls are training to become Maths Leaders. They have already been visiting the primary schools of Dallow and Beech Hill with Mr Sauer, where they have been delivering Fun Maths lessons to Year 6 pupils. They have been a real hit not only with the pupils and staff of the primary schools but have also impressed the Liverpool University Outreach team so much that we have been offered the opportunity of becoming a mini-hub for them.

The girls involved are:

Zarah Hussain, Christina Gohar, Nazia Hussain, Anmol Hussain, Ayesha Hussain, Palwasha Rafi, Amna Anwar, Kausiha Baskaran, Harsimran Kumar, Tahir Elahi, Ammara Hafiz and Mariam Fatima.

Our School Uniform

New Clip-on Ties

Do you have problems tying your tie properly? Do you find your tie a little restrictive, especially in the hot summer months? Struggle no more! From September we will be introducing clip-on ties which may be worn as an alternative to our traditional 52cm tie. They have been designed to look exactly the same as regular ties but have the advantages of being easier to put on, always looking as though they are properly fastened, and so helping our pupils always to look their very best. Priced at just £2.80, they are available to all pupils from the Finance Office and will be compulsory to next year's Year 7.

While we are thinking about looking our best, we have included below details of our full school uniform as a reminder of exactly what is and what is not permitted to be worn by our pupils, along with the contact details of our uniform suppliers. Have a great holiday and then please make sure that you return in September looking your very smartest.

The School Uniform

All girls **must** wear:

1. Shirt – plain with a collar – WHITE
2. School Tie
3. School jumper/cardigan – with school logo – DARK GREEN
4. Shoes — which must be practical and suitable for school – BLACK OR BROWN
5. Socks – WHITE, or tights – PLAIN

Girls **may choose** from the following:

6. Skirt – knee length or longer down to ankle length, plain (no buttons, slits or pleats) – DARK GREEN
7. Trousers – plain tailored, straight legged – DARK GREEN
8. School blazer – BLACK; the blazer may be worn instead of the school jumper
9. School shalwar-kameez (standard style – pinafore top and straight - legged trousers) – DARK GREEN;

Headscarf and headcovering – which must be the school-approved dark green two-piece headscarf available from Amsons, 209 Dunstable Road, Luton, 01582 734 627.

All clothing must be labelled with the pupil's full name so that it can be easily identified in case of loss.

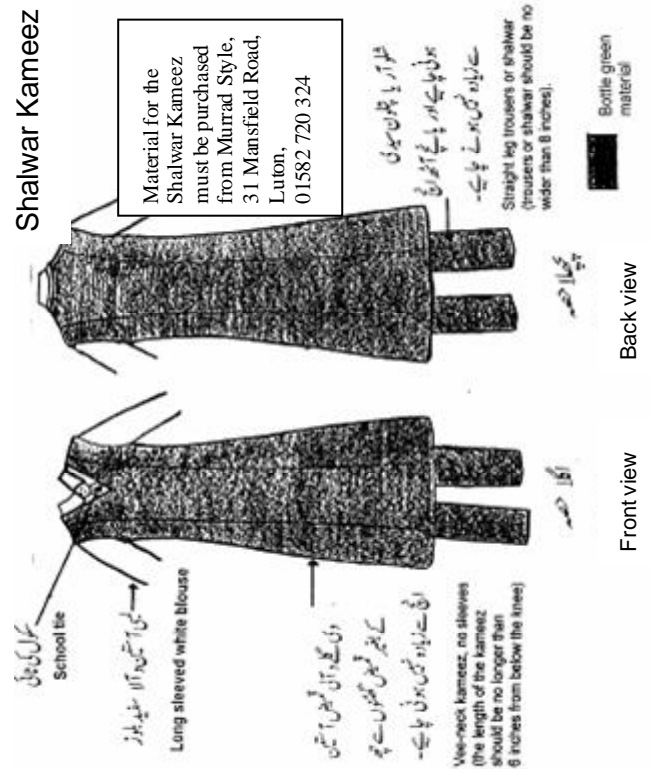
Jewellery

The following may be worn:

one plain ring, one pair of stud earrings, one wristwatch, one bracelet or necklace of religious significance (worn out of sight).



Shalwar Kameez



No alternative style or material is permitted.

Regent's Park Mosque

Last month a group of Year 10 girls went on a trip to Regent's Park Mosque, London. It was a very inspiring trip which was both educational and enjoyable.

We saw beautiful pictures of the Quran and visited both the prayer rooms and the library. We not only learned the basic meanings of some Arabic words but went in to greater depth by learning their linguistic meaning and also much about the Five Pillars of Islam. We also saw some beautiful calligraphy as well as the minaret and dome of the mosque.

A group of girls who wished to pray the Lular prayers did so in the women's prayer section in the upper part of the mosque. However, before the prayers started, the girls, who included Iqra, Farah, Hafsa, Rahisar, Aamna, Ambreen and Uzma, had to undertake a special washing procedure (Wudu) before they prayed.

Later we ate in a cafeteria within the mosque and then visited the gift shop which sold a variety of jaw-dropping art pieces along with other religious items.

Overall, it was a very interesting trip. The girls enjoyed themselves thoroughly and learned some important key points about Islam.

Iqra Bhatti, 10R

School Council

To become a School Councillor is an honorable achievement, not so much because it looks good on a C.V, but because you get the chance to present innovative ideas collected from your fellow students. You have the privilege of representing their voice and, above all, you get to make a difference!

At Challney, we have a structured system to get messages from pupils to their School Councillors. First, suggestions and comments are passed from students to their form captains and vice-captains, who are the Year Council representatives. They then discuss them and pass the best suggestions to their School Council representatives, who then have a School Council meeting in the Whitbread Room at which they discuss which suggestions are most practical. The selected ideas are then treated like a project and responsibilities are delegated. Finally, once all School Council members have completed their tasks, an initial suggestion thought up by a student, who probably never

thought it would ever come true, becomes a reality!

One project recently agreed upon is the creation of culture-themed canvases to decorate the school building, which we will later be able to take with us to the new school when we move.

As School Councillors, with the help of Mrs Duk, Mr Collinson, Miss Arthur, and of course our Heads of Year and KSLOs, we try to achieve the best for our school.

Finally, I would like to remind all pupils that all School Councillors are always happy to hear any suggestions and comments, so please feel free to approach us whenever you see us around.

Hafsah Awan, Headgirl.

Race for Life

For the second consecutive year Challney High School for Girls was represented by a team of staff and pupils at Luton's Annual Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK. The five kilometre run in Stockwood Park was completed by over 3,000 runners on a glorious Sunday morning. Once we have full details of the amount of sponsorship money raised for this most deserving cause we shall publish details.

New Year 7

Again this year transition arrangements which we made with our primary feeder schools have proven to be very successful. The buddies currently in Year 7 have been fantastic with the present Year 6 pupils and have made a great start in their new roles. Consultation Evening was very well attended by Year 6 pupils and their parents and carers and a good evening was had by all. We look forward to the new pupils joining us in September.

Town Sports

Challney took a fantastic group of athletes from Years 7 to 11 to the Town Championships on Friday 10th July. After many weeks of training the girls were excited that the day had finally arrived. The team looked extremely smart in their new athletics vests. Everyone performed very well, with the team overall finishing fifth out of the twelve schools competing. However, a special mention has to be made of some of the athletes who finished in podium places. Tereze Gaile threw a massive 24.5 metres to annihilate the competition in the intermediate girls javelin and

there was victory for Antonia Christopher in the shot. Sisia Magaya was runner up in the high jump and the 4 x 100m relay team of Sisia, Merissa Frederick, Shanice Gillon and Leyah Maddix was just beaten into second place. There was also considerable success by our younger athletes with Nickesha Hutchinson finishing as runner up in the junior girls high jump and Natasha Choudhury and Sharna Thomas finishing third in the javelin and shot respectively. A mention also has to be made about our Year 10 helpers who played an essential role in the smooth running of the day, helping with the officiating of events and the passing of information. They did Challney proud!

Sports Day

Sports Day was held on 30th June and 1st July this year using a very different format to previous years due to the building work on the school field. Amazingly, the weather was good to us and all events went ahead as planned, a year group at a time. A new addition this year was the introduction of a dance mat competition.

Well done to everyone who competed and especially those Form Captains who organised their teams.

The results were:

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
1 st	O	H	P	I
2 nd	P	N	R	B
3 rd	L	A	E	O
4 th	M	Y	M	N
5 th	Y	M	S	R
6 th	C	O	O	A
7 th	I	R	I	W

Year 7 Netball

On 5th March 2009, 9 year 7 pupils took part in the Bedfordshire County Netball Tournament held at the Bunyan Centre in Bedford. This is a prestigious countywide tournament with 14 teams entering from across Bedfordshire. The day had a difficult start as Challney had to play 3 games back to back without a rest in between. However, this was not a problem for the girls, as they work very well as a team and help and encourage each other whenever the going gets tough - this is what a real team is about, after all. In fact they got off to a good start by winning their first game against Denbigh High (5-1). In the second game, the only game lost during the rounds of the tournament, they were defeated (4-3) by Parkfields School.

Challney then went on to win games against Dame Alice B team (8-1), Arnold Middle (6-5) and Icknield (2- 1), before finally drawing with Robert Bloomfield (3-3). This success gave enough points to qualify for the semi-final against Holywell, a team they had not played before. Even now they were not phased, going on to win (6-4) and to qualify for the final. Challney has never before reached the final in this tournament! In the final, they met Parkfields, a team, of course, that they had previously played in the rounds. Once more, however, they could not beat Parkfields. They lost the final (9-1), although the score certainly does not reflect how well they performed in the game. Throughout the tournament the girls played outstandingly well and were a real credit to themselves, to their parents and to Challney High School for Girls. They have created history by reaching the final of the Bedfordshire County Netball Tournament and next year we are hoping they create more history by actually winning the tournament. Congratulations, ladies!

Dance Show 2009

Wow! After the success of the Dance Show last year, there was no question that there would be another in 2009. However, we were determined that this year's show would be even bigger and better. Preparations started from early September with huge interest from all years. Every Friday lunch hour, girls gave up their time to come down to the gym and to choreograph their dances. However, there was one question on everyone's mind: which dance would we perform for the finale? Well, one pupil came up with the brilliant idea of performing "Thriller". This, of course, was Maya Greenidge, 10N who had lots of ideas about how we could choreograph and perform this somewhat difficult dance. She was definitely up for the challenge, sacrificing her own time to take charge and teach all the pupils involved in the show. Those of you who attended the show know that "Thriller" turned out to be a huge success. Well done, Maya!

Obviously "Thriller" was not the only dance in the show. There was a variety of dances, from street and Irish to 50s swing and Bangra, performed by some very talented performers. With over 200 family members and friends coming to support the show, it has to be said that it was a massive success and thanks go out to all

the pupils involved for their hard work and commitment. Well done, girls. We hope the dance show in 2010 will be just as successful this year, if not even more so. We will see.....

Tournament Success

Through qualifying from the pool leagues, the Year 7, 8 and 10 rounders teams all made it to their respective town final. Four schools competed in each final. Challney Girls completely outshone all opposition and were successful in taking first place in all three. All girls were a credit to the school and everyone played their heart out. This success is in addition to the success of the Year 11 rounders team which had already won their own town tournament before leaving us in May. Well done to all of you for putting Challney well and truly on the PE achievement map!

Our Sports Council

Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully gained a place on Challney High School for Girls' first ever Sports Council.

- Year 7 – Shenja Jouavel, Sabeera Dar
Natasha Choudhry and Kiran Afsar
- Year 8 – Arooj Mansha and Anna Burton
- Year 9 – Farrah Batool and Ammara Hafiz
- Year 10 - Banita Sharma and Miriam Kimani

Meetings will start after Easter at which the girls will have the opportunity to have their voices heard and to reshape the future of PE and sport at our school. If you have any suggestions for improving PE and sport, let your year representatives know. If you don't speak up, you will not be heard!

Year 7 Girls County Basketball Finals

At Challney we have been extremely lucky this year as we have a group of pupils with a very promising future in the world of sport. We have a collection of Year 7 girls who are bursting with passion, enthusiasm and determination to give their all in any sport the Physical Education (PE) Department has to offer. Therefore it will not surprise you to learn that, at the mere mention of a basketball tournament, we had several pupils knocking at the PE office door wanting to compete for a place on the team.

After several practices, at lunchtimes and after school, a squad was selected to represent us in the Luton School Basketball Tournament. The tournament consisted of two pools with three teams in each pool. Convincing victories over

both Barnfield West Academy and Stopsley High School in the qualifying rounds sent us into the final against Cardinal Newman.

In the final our girls fought extremely hard and, from the very beginning, dominated the play. Our captain, Natasha Choudhry, terrorised the opposition with her electrifying speed and powerful lay ups. The girls were particularly strong at attacking but, as the game went on and they became tired, gaps started to appear in our defence. Unfortunately, Cardinal Newman found these gaps and scored two quick baskets on the break. Although we piled on the pressure, we could not convert this into baskets. We ended up losing the final by just one basket.

The girls were extremely disappointed about not winning the tournament but remembered that reaching the final was a great achievement in itself. Indeed, a week later we were informed that both Luton finalists had qualified for the county tournament in Bedford.

The county tournament was run as a league with the top two teams qualifying for the grand final. The girls always knew that the competition would be tougher, as all the top teams in the county would be there. However, they really wanted to set the record straight with Cardinal Newman. In our first game we played Mid-Beds winners, Arnold Middle, and lost 8-4. The second game was played against South Beds winners, Parkfields, which we won 7-5. Due to the mixture of results, there was still much to play for in the last match. Arnold were already in the final as they had not lost a single game but it was between Parkfields and us as to who would win the other place in the final. The girls desperately wanted to get to the final, yet wanted to beat Cardinal Newman even more!

At the half-time break in our final game everything was evenly matched and the score was 4-4. In the second half Newman scored early but the girls remained focused and walked away with the match, eventually winning 12-6, so earning that place in the Bedfordshire County final against Arnold.

In a nail-biting final, Arnold eventually came out on top, winning by just one basket. Although initially very disappointed, the girls quickly realised how much they had achieved in reaching a county final. The result has not deterred any of them, but has rather inspired them to continue to train hard in order to achieve gold next year!

Everybody in the team was a credit to themselves and Challney and it was a pleasure to take them out of school for the day. A special mention must go to the following pupils: Natasha Choudhry, a fantastic basketball player who captained the team in the Luton Schools Tournament but unfortunately was unwell for the County Tournament; Shenia Jouavel and Ika

Chowdhury, for captaining and vice-captaining the team at the county finals. These two responsible young ladies have leadership skills far beyond their age and will willingly take on any challenge that is presented to them. Finally we must mention Tolu Akinmokun. During the county finals she showed determination, a high level of practical ability and proved to be a role model for the rest of the team. Exceptional, Tolu!



The Year 7 Netball Team



Staff and pupils ready for The Race for Life

Ajha Miah's GCSE art work

Diary Dates 2009-10

Autumn Term

Autumn Term Thu 3 Sept 2009 → Thu 22 Oct 2009
Half Term: Week beginning 26 Oct.

Mon 2 Nov 2009 → Fri 18 Dec 2009

Thu. 3 Sep. Years 7 and 10 pupils return
Year 11 Parents Consultation
Fri 4 Sep. All Year Groups return
Tue 8 Sep. Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Tue 15 Sep. Year 7 Parents Information Evening
Fri 18 Sep. Year 7 Coffee Morning
Tue 29 Sep. Year 11 Parents Information Evening

Wed 7 Oct. Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Tue 13 Oct. Year 8 Parents Information Evening
Thu 15 Oct. New Intake Evening
Thu 22 Oct. Consultation Day
Thu 12 Nov. Awards Evening
Wed 25 Nov. Year 10 Parents Information Evening
Fri 27 Nov. Year 10 Coffee Morning

