



Challney News



May 2008

NAME:

FORM:

Letter from the Head

It is indeed a privilege to be able to begin this issue of Challney News. The efforts of the girls in raising money for others are amazing. I would like to thank all girls who have contributed this year – and every member of their families who has supported, encouraged and donated. The grand total is close to a week's dinners for every girl in the school! Congratulations! Thank you! The involvement of the girls themselves in choosing the charity we will support or in identifying the events, such as Race for Life and Luton Carnival, in which we will participate is a valuable part of their growing up and encourages them to become responsible and reliable citizens. Your support of your daughters is important to them at a personal level but also helps them to flourish and to grow. Thank you.

Since I last wrote in Challney News we have been saddened by the death of Mrs Orton who was a much loved colleague and teacher at the school. She had been ill for some time but her loss is no less acute because of that. On the day we shared our sadness, girls and staff supported each other, showing again the strength of our school community. Mrs Orton was a caring, sympathetic teacher who believed in the girls and worked with them to encourage them to achieve at the highest possible level. She will have been known to many of you and will be missed by present and past pupils.

At the risk of repeating myself once too often, I must ask those of you who collect or drop off your daughters by car to park outside the school site.

This term we have had vehicle damage to two cars coming on site to pick-up girls, vehicle damage to staff cars as a result of unauthorised access to the site during the day and unknown adults accessing the car park. In our continuing efforts to keep



girls safe a barrier will be installed preventing unauthorised access to the part of the car park where girls may be crossing to leave the site or to access their lessons. All girls should leave the site by the pedestrian gates and not by the double gates at the front of the site which should be used only by vehicles on official business.

As we approach half-term we are reminded that the majority of our work for this year is behind us. Year 9 are waiting for their SATs results and Year 11 are studying hard having already completed some exams. We cannot afford to 'wind down', as the second half of the summer term allows girls to lay good foundations for the coming year. Consultation Day on 26th June provides a good opportunity for you to discuss your daughters' progress towards their targets and to set new ones for next year. I look forward to seeing you in school that day. Next year we will have to do things differently as the DCSF will not allow closure days for consultation with parents. I hope you and your daughters enjoy the holiday – apart from Year 11 of course who will be studying hard!

Miss Arthur

Inside This Issue

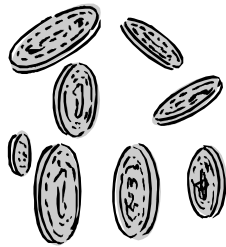
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Fundraising Record

We might have expected it sooner or later because our girls are so generous and every year they strive to do their very best for those less fortunate than themselves. However, it was not so much that they broke their fundraising record that was so amazing but that they smashed it. When the final pennies had been counted, we found that this year the girls had raised a grand total of £3,130.06 for our chosen charity, The Down's Syndrome Association, more than they had ever raised before during Fundraising Week.

This was all the more remarkable when we consider that also this year the girls had spontaneously responded to the tragic news from Bangladesh in October and raised a further £1,120.46 for the cyclone appeal.

In total, therefore, the girls have already raised a remarkable £4,250.52 this year for charity. Their altruism should make us feel humble.



Fundraising Celebrations

On the final day of last term, Thursday 19th March, we celebrated our fundraising achievements for the year in the usual way by staging our annual Gift Day assemblies. This is the occasion when we hand over a cheque for the total amount we have raised during our Fundraising Week to representatives of our chosen charity for the year.

This year we were delighted to welcome Lisa Howes and Victoria Clark from The Down's Syndrome Association. Mrs Howes thanked us for all our efforts and has since sent us a certificate to show us how much the Association appreciated our generosity in raising so much money in support of their cause.

The day was made all the more special on account of some excellent musical and singing performances by our pupils in addition to some impressive readings in each of the assemblies. These pupils were particularly brave as some performed in front of their own parents who had been invited to join our celebrations. We would like to extend our thanks to all those parents who took the opportunity to join us.



Parent Programme 2008-9

We would like to thank all parents who have attended our Monday Information Evenings and Friday Coffee Mornings during the course of this year. Not only has your attendance been very much appreciated, but so too has your feedback.

In the evaluations that you completed you very clearly told us that you found the Information Evenings to have been useful. Over the whole year, 73% of sessions were judged by you to be "very useful", 26% were judged "quite useful" and only 1% was judged "not useful".

It was very encouraging to hear that a growing number of parents are seeing the benefits of these evenings and would like to attend in the future. Of those who returned a completed questionnaire to us, only 20% had attended an Information Evening during 2007-8 yet 68% said they would be interested in attending next year. We very much look forward to welcoming you.

We also asked you on which day of the week you would prefer the Information Evenings to take place. There was no single day which was significantly more popular than any other and so we have decided to change where possible to Wednesdays next year to help those who this year have found Mondays difficult.

Having considered all the feedback which you have given us, we already have an outline

programme for next year which we hope will meet with your approval.

Parent Information Evenings 2008-9

2008-9	Year	Title
September	Y10	Study Skills
October	Y7	How to Succeed in Y7
	Y10	Coursework
	Y11	How to prepare for GCSE
	All	New Intake Evening
November	Y10	IT in Y10 to support GCSE
December	Y8	How to Succeed in Y8
January	Y7	IT in Y7
	Y9	Preparation for KS3 SATs/ KS4 Options
	Y9	IT in Y9 to support KS3 SATs
February	Y8	IT in Y8
March	Y11	IT in Year Y11 to support GCSE

Race For Life

A new departure for our school this year has been the decision to enter the all-female Luton Race for Life organised by Cancer Research UK and once again the initiative has come from the pupils themselves. As long ago as last June, almost 12 months ago, our pupils who attend the Culture Club chose to enter the Race for Life in 2008.

In truth, we were not sure how popular this event would be amongst our girls but we need not have doubted their commitment. No fewer than 28 pupils along with six staff have so far signed up to walk, jog or run the five kilometre course through Stockwood Park on Sunday 22nd June.

The race itself will begin at 11.00 am although runners are asked to arrive by 10.00 am so that they have time to take part in the warm-up exercises. A big crowd of spectators is expected so please feel very welcome to come along and offer support. Should one of our pupils approach you with a sponsorship form, please encourage her by being as generous as you can. All money raised will go to Cancer Research UK.

Extra Training For Staff

On Saturday 12th April we were pleased to provide the venue for a teacher training day organised by the Muslim Education Forum for school staff from all across Luton. A number of our staff attended who have told us that this was a very useful and enjoyable event.

No Stereotyping Here!

On Friday 14th March Years 9 and 10 were treated to two special presentations in the Main Hall, one by Khayaal Theatre Group and the other by Ulfah Arts. Aimed at consolidating and developing community cohesion, both performances tackled a number of sensitive issues head on, including the importance of avoiding prejudice and stereotyping.

This was a high profile event. The performances, which were supported by the Muslim Education Forum and Luton Borough Council, were attended by some very important guests including a number of council dignitaries and Luton's very own Lord Bill McKenzie.

The presentations were well received by our girls who were very alive to the messages that came through them. Afterwards Huriyah Quadri, 10Y wrote, "I now know that when you work together regardless of race or religion you always get a fantastic result."

With maturity such as this, it is not surprising that two of the three prizes awarded across the whole town to pupils providing the most constructive feedback were awarded to pupils from our school. Both Huriyah and Nalisha Chambers, 10E, found themselves to be proud winners of £25 cash prizes.

Applied Science

Our Applied Science students, as part of their course, make visits to and receive visits from scientists working at Rothamsted Research Station. These trips and lectures give the pupils an insight into 'what real scientists do'.

Open Forum

Sadly the Challney Girls High School Association received no questions from parents or carers by the deadline of Wednesday 14th May and so the Open Forum, scheduled for Wednesday 4th June, has been postponed. The idea of the Association seemed like a very good one. Their hope was to provide parents and carers with the opportunity to ask questions which they might not normally get the chance to ask about the school of a panel of representatives which was to include our Headteacher, Miss Arthur.

The Association will meet again after the holiday to decide upon the next steps to be taken. Meanwhile, if you would like to let us know your thoughts about the concept of an Open Forum, please contact Alan Palmer, Assistant Headteacher, at the school.

Turning Japanese

After an absence of several years, Challney High School for Girls will again be represented at the Luton Carnival which is to take place on Monday 26th May in and around Wardown Park and the town centre. Our pupils themselves have chosen the theme of "Japan" for our entry to the carnival procession. In preparation, they have spent the last four Mondays working hard after school at a series of two-hour workshops. Led by Victoria Ralph, a professional designer appointed to help us by Luton Borough Council, they have produced some beautiful traditional Japanese costumes which will undoubtedly catch the eye in the parade.

In addition, Mr Power and the girls will be playing tunes on the Japanese drums – all this on the back of a decorated 7.5 tonne lorry! Do come along to offer us a cheer and a wave. We have been given ninth position in the procession out of more than 70 entries and so will be very near the front.



Preparing costumes for the Luton Carnival



"A wonderful and admirable teacher like Mrs Orton is really hard to find"



Applied Scientists visiting Brooms Barn Agricultural Station



Mrs Peacock's plaque

School Chef of the Year

School dinners aren't what they used to be: they are getting better and better! Now Mrs Peacock, our Junior Dining Room Catering Manager, has shown just how good school dinners are becoming by winning the Local Authority Catering Association's regional Chef of the Year Award for the Eastern Region for 2008.

Competing against the very best school chefs from across Luton, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Mrs Peacock proved what a winner she is and scooped this year's plaque.

Ever-modest, Mrs Peacock told us, "I was surprised to win. I just wanted to enjoy the day. The standards were very high and there was only 0.7 of a mark between first and second place."

Her task was to design and produce a nutritionally balanced meal comprising a main course and a dessert yet with a budget of only 90p per head to spend. Naming her original main course creation "Seaside Special", she delighted the judges with a platter of salmon fingers served with vegetable couscous in a tomato coulis and roasted vegetables presented in a gem lettuce leaf boat. For dessert, Mrs Peacock whisked up her very own treat of "Berry Berry Nice", a summer fruit mousse with a berry compôt which she served with pumpkin biscuits.

"I was pleased for myself, the school and the company I work for, Luton Borough Council" added Mrs Peacock. "I am now looking forward to the national finals in June to be held in Birmingham against chefs from the whole of the United Kingdom. We will even get to stay overnight."



MEAP Award: Delighted girls with their certificates recognising their participation and achievement.



Fitting a costume for the Luton Carnival



Tribute to Mrs Orton

A wonderful and admirable teacher like Mrs Orton is really hard to find,
 It was good to have a teacher like her to help you make up your mind.
 She guided you at the beginning and gave the end the very best finish,
 The memory of Mrs Orton will never, ever diminish.
 She always saw the very best in people and was always completely wise,
 She wasn't a teacher who could ever hate or even really despise.
 Mrs Orton made you explore your very full potential,
 To see us happy and involved, to her was absolutely essential.
 She may be gone, but she will always stay deep within our hearts,
 Smiling down on us to see that we are all fulfilling our parts.
 Fulfilling our dreams would make her ever so proud,
 Never think of her as lost, but just newly and happily found.

Ifzana Begum, 10T

English Classes for Parents and Carers

We are delighted to tell you that we have finally managed to secure funding through Luton Borough Council and the Learning Skills Council to set up classes in spoken English for our parents and carers. At the time of going to press, we were planning to begin these in either the last week before half term or in the first week after the holidays. Everyone who has expressed an interest in attending will be contacted by the school to inform them of the start date and time. Anyone else who is interested in attending similar classes in the future should contact Mrs Akhtar, our Home-School Liaison Officer, at the school, to let us know.

Please Acknowledge Us!

Thank you to all parents and carers who returned the acknowledgement slip to say that they had received their March copy of the Challney News. It is good to know that so many of you are enjoying our newsletter. It is worrying, however, that a large number of parents have not been able to return the acknowledgement slip as this might mean that you have not even received your copy. This would be a great pity as it means that you will have missed a lot of important information about life at Challney. You will also have missed out on the opportunity to let us know your views in a questionnaire which we included about future events for parents and carers.

You will find an acknowledgement slip included again on the back page of this issue of the Challney News. Please make every effort to sign it and return it to us via your daughter before the end of term.

Thank you for your support.

Thrift Shop

As part of our commitment to protecting the environment, we have decided to set up a Thrift Shop in school which will sell used school uniform. All pupils are invited to donate school uniform which they have outgrown or, in the case of Year 11 leavers, uniform which they no longer need. Not only does this help avoid throwing good clothing away, which then has to be needlessly buried in a landfill site at further expense to the council tax payer, but it also enables us to offer good quality, used uniform to pupils at a very reduced price.

We have just started to accept donations of uniform from pupils. Once we have built up sufficient stock, we will notify you so that you can consider buying your daughter's uniform from the Thrift Shop.

Punctuality

In the last newsletter we informed you about our new system of sanctions for dealing with pupils who are late to school in the morning or late returning to lessons after lunch.

Most of the girls have responded very well but we felt that it was appropriate to remind you of the procedures so that you could continue to make sure that your daughter arrives on time.

You will see that as the number of 'lates' escalates sanctions go beyond detentions and you will be required to attend an interview in school. In addition your daughter may lose out on non-uniform and off-timetable days.

Morning/afternoon lates sanctions

When a pupil is late to school in the morning or late returning after lunch the following sanctions will apply. The number of am/pm lates are calculated on a termly basis.

3 lates	Half hour lunchtime detention with HOY
6 lates	One hour detention in the main hall
9 lates	One hour detention after school
12 lates	Parental interview and loss of non-uniform day privileges
15 lates	Permission to go on off-timetable day trip revoked

A letter will be sent to parents and carers every time a sanction is incurred and will be recorded on the pupil's permanent record.

Should your daughter be required to attend an appointment during school time we would appreciate advance notice. If you do not inform us in advance your daughter will be required to bring in a letter or appointment card when she returns. Until we have this, her absence will remain as unauthorised.

Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge

We are delighted to tell you that our Year 7 team 'Young and Proud', comprising Arooj Mansha, 7Y Ashka Parmar, 7O and Farea Butt, 7Y has successfully made it to the semi-final where they will be competing against teams from different counties.

The team has recently submitted their conceptual car with best possible specifications to the organizers of the event. They will run our car against cars received from other semi-finalists. We shall let you know in the next Challney News if our team made it to the final round that will take place at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire on Thursday 26th June 2008.

Maths Masterclass

Four girls attended this year's Luton Masterclass on Friday 25th April: Shazia Anwar, 10N Hira Asif, 10Y Joanne Bailey, 10D and Natalie Jones, 10D.

Before the competition started they were put into groups mixed with students from other schools. There were several activities in which they had to gain points. Hira did particularly well in the shape building, Shazia in the maths problems and Natalie was unbeaten at Nim.

There was a nail-biting play off at the end and Joanne helped her group win through in the final minutes to achieve Gold. Well done to all – they were a credit to the school.

Minority Ethnic Achievement Project (MEAP)

The school has been involved with the MEAP initiative over the past four years. The project has provided extra funding to develop ideas and resources. At the start of the project the focus was on developing strategies to improve speaking and listening skills within English lessons. The success of this led to the spreading of good practice across departments, and the English staff involved delivered whole school training sessions, which enabled staff to develop their classroom practice and helped girls to raise their achievement through independent learning.

As the project progressed the focus widened to look at other skills, such as Assessment for Learning (AfL), reading and thinking skills, and further training has taken place. The benefits of the initiative have been extensive, drawing together staff, students and parents through a shared learning focus. Thanks are due to Miss Morris for leading and developing practice in the classroom and to Mrs Tinch for her outstanding leadership of the whole project.



GCSE Art work by Abigail Grover, 11G



The new Senior Prefect team for 2008-9

Diary Dates 2008

Summer Term

Monday 26th May

Monday 2nd June

Thursday 26th June

Friday 27th June

Tuesday 2nd July

Thursday 17th July

Friday 18th July

Monday 21st July

Tuesday 22nd July

Thursday 21st August

Half Term week

Years 9 and 10 exams week

Consultation Day

Day Trip to France

Sports Day

Certificate Presentations

Chemistry at Work Day

Off Timetable Day

Term ends

GCSE Results in

To: Mr Palmer

I have received the May 2008 issue of Challney News.

Signed: Parent/Carer of

Pupil Form