



Challney News



Science

October 2007

The Head says

The school year is now well underway. The Year 7 girls are very much a part of us now and Year 11 are beginning, just beginning to see the need to be fully prepared for the exams and the deadlines which lie ahead! I hope you find the following pages of interest: they do give a fair representation of the great variety of events and activities that have taken place. The activities planned by the Culture Club and the Challney Girls' News committee are amongst the most exciting as they are both completely new ventures which are coming to fruition as a result of the girls' efforts. We look forward to the outcomes.

You may be aware of national changes to the secondary curriculum which will be introduced from September 2008. As a result of this, the government is due to ratify a decision to allocate an additional training day during January to July 2008. We are unable to confirm the date as yet but it will most likely be between January 7th and February half-term. As soon as plans are finalized I will write to let you know. Whilst the time for preparation is short, we are determined to construct a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which will meet the girls' needs now and in the future.

A final, repeated plea to those of you who pick your daughters up by car. Please do not drive on to the site: we are trying very hard to maintain a safe environment for pedestrians. Thank you in advance of your co-operation. I hope you all enjoy the half-term break with your families.

M. Arthur



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Year 7 Bag Project

As part of their Design and Technology curriculum, Year 7 pupils were given a design brief to design a bag which would hold and carry two tins of baked beans across the dining room. First, girls were put into groups of four in which they shared ideas and made a prototype bag using newspaper. Their homework involved designing and making another prototype bag. Some were very creative and well made and a selection put on display.

The second lesson involved the groups choosing the best parts from their prototypes to make a final bag, using only sugar paper and metallic card. Miss Arthur and Mr Mackenzie were invited to judge the outcome of each group's work. All teams worked very hard on the project and the winning teams showed excellent design and making skills. Many thanks to the staff who made it all happen.

National Anti-Bullying Week Survey

Every November, through Anti-Bullying Week, the Anti-Bullying Alliance shine a light on bullying, sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities.

Tackling bullying matters deeply to children, young people and their families. Anti-Bullying Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of bullying across the country and to promote and celebrate the good practice that is taking place in our school and those throughout England with regard to tackling bullying.

Challney High School for Girls is a school defined and inspired by the principles of Respect, Opportunity and Achievement. We pride ourselves in striving to create a bully-free environment in which all pupils can be happy, flourish and learn.

Please ask to complete one of our anti-bullying survey sheets next time you visit the school.



Drayton Manor

The gym was buzzing with excitement. Once the teacher had told us to line up we all ran up towards the coaches. This was where our journey began!

Once we entered Drayton Manor we split up and the fun began!

The weather started off fine and we were enjoying ourselves on the rides when it suddenly began pouring with rain – very heavily! We had to stay inside while it was raining, then we met up with the teachers to register. The weather got better throughout the day. We went on more of the great rides then had lunch, yum, yum. Finally it was time to spend, spend. We played some arcade games and bought some sweets and souvenirs and last but definitely not least had candy floss!

The time came to go back to the coach. The sun (finally) came out and we were boiling. The day had ended and we were tired and our legs had started to ache.

Hafsa Alam, Sanaa Hafeez and Iffra Rashid, 8S

Poetry

Last year's Year 7 wrote some 'Recipe Poems', one of which is printed below. The best ones were put on display for New Intake Evening to show parents the kind of things the pupils do.

Recipe for a Perfect Day

Begin with a packet full of sunshine

This will make the mixture bright

Add a teaspoon of fresh air

And an ounce of life, mixed with singing birds

Next stir in white feathery clouds

or a blue sky in order to make

the atmosphere beautiful

Bake for 20 minutes

And serve with a dash of happiness.

Shari Latchmansingh

Destined for Success?

DESTINY (currently Year 10 students) worked really hard last year to ensure that their SATs results were as high as possible. We would like to thank all families and staff for the support they gave the girls.

KS3 results in English improved with over 80% of students gaining a level 5 or above. Maths and Science improved with over 70% of students gaining a level 5 or above and a higher than expected number of girls gaining level 6 and 7 and, in the case of maths, level 8.

Now that you have moved into Year 10, we would like to wish you all continued success with your studies. We hope you live up to your year group name and build on this success in two years' time. We are sure future year groups at Challney will look up to you as an outstanding year group because it was truly your Destiny to achieve such results.

Year 11 GCSE Success

We were delighted with the examination results obtained by our outgoing group of Year 11 pupils. Over half of the year group (52%) obtained 5+ A*-C grades. This is the most important target for our pupils as it means that they are able to go on to study AS Level courses at Luton 6th Form College (LUVIC). All degree courses at university expect pupils to have 5+A*-C GCSEs as well as the level 3 qualifications that they complete at LUVIC. We were also very pleased that 98% of the year group obtained at least one GCSE qualification.

There were a few outstanding performances, notable Sehrish Baloch (9.5 A* 1A) and Soumaya Tidjani (8.5 A*). Other very good performers were Nera Ahmetagic (4.5A*, 4A), Rahima Begum (2A*, 5A), Kazmeen Farooq (1A*, 6A), Farah Gulfraz (3.5 A*1A) and Manisha Purba (2A* 4A). We look forward to congratulating them formally at our Awards Evening in November.

Our target for 2008 is for 55% of the year group to achieve 5+ A*-C grades.

Parents/Carers: Please sign this slip and return it to your daughter's form teacher to indicate that you have received this issue of the Challney News.

Daughter's name and form:

Signature:

Children's Book Week

The 1st – 5th October was Children's Book Week which we celebrated in the Library and throughout the school. Monday was International School Library Day which we marked by filling the main notice board in the library with bookmarks showing our favourite books and why we liked them. On Tuesday, amid much excitement, the Scholastic Book Sale arrived. In a change from previous years, we held this in the library not in the main hall. This allowed the students to browse and buy books at break and lunchtime as well as during English lessons. Tuesday also saw the start of the reading treasure hunt. The students needed to ask members of staff what their favourite book was and put the details on a treasure hunt form. All entries completed by Friday lunch time were entered into a prize draw.

Thursday was National Poetry Day and this year the theme was Dreams. The girls were invited to write a poem and the best one would win a prize.

Throughout the week the Year 7s worked on library information leaflets. The winning leaflet from each English set will be put on display on Open Evening in the Library.

On Friday the girls handed in their completed treasure hunt forms and Mrs Sharma drew the lucky name out of a hat. The winner was Sabia Shafiq who chose a book from the book sale as her prize. The winning poem has not yet been chosen but the lucky winner will also get a prize from the book sale.

Thank you to all the students and members of staff that helped during book week especially with the book sale.



Pupils: Please tick your choice of name for the new Girls' Magazine. Bring the slip into school and put it in the box in the Junior Dining Room or Library.

Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spark	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasure	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sparkle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fusion 4U	<input type="checkbox"/>

Published poet

Nusrath Shan wrote this poem last year when she was at Dallow Primary School. The poem was published in a book called Young Writers – Little Laureates, Eastern Counties. Well done, Nusrath. We look forward to reading more of your poetry.

What Is The Rainbow?

A rainbow is an arched door,
 leading to holy Heaven.
 A rainbow is a multi-coloured door,
 leading to a shimmering golden pit.
 A rainbow is a river shimmering,
 bringing happiness to everyone.
 A rainbow is a magnificent place,
 where mystical and magical fairies hang out.
 A rainbow is a marvellous swimming pool,
 waiting to be swum in.
 A rainbow is a mystical, magical place,
 waiting to be seen.
 A rainbow is a glamorous place,
 where you can peacefully relax, with no one
 annoying you.
 A rainbow is a glorious place,
 which you can hide in, never wanting to be
 found.
 A rainbow is a patch of multi-coloured colour,
 waiting to be found.
 A rainbow is a place where you can
 bring smiles to every face.

Nusrath Shan

Lunchtime Drop In

The Learning Mentors run a drop-in games club on Friday lunchtimes in the Whitbread Room. All girls are welcome to come along and play board games, do homework and chat with friends.

Welcome...

to the newest addition to the Challney Family.

At last we have a thriving baby peachick. After the disappointments of the last couple of years, in which we lost all of the babies, it is great to see that mum has successfully managed to rear one from this year's brood of three. We hope that this new chick will continue to thrive.

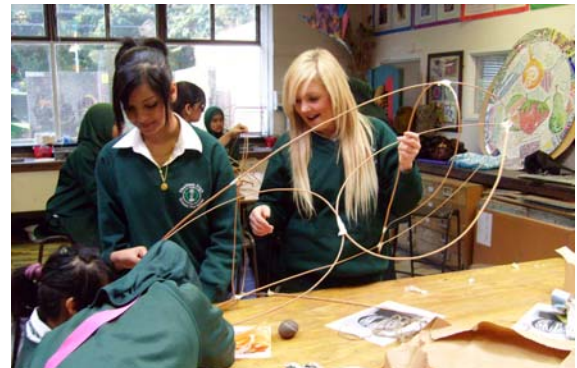
The girls really enjoy seeing mum and baby and they are a constant source of pleasure and enquiry. Welcome!



Year 7 are proud designers



The lunchtime drop-in with the Learning Mentors



Sculpture in the making during a Year 11 Art lesson



Mrs Dunville took this photo of the new chick



The hard work of the girls' editorial committee after their first two weeks working together. See the school website for the full size version and for future editorial committee publications.

Sabreena in Romania

During the summer holiday I went on a mission trip to Romania for a charity. I went with 13 other people from different parts of the world. We fed homeless children in the city, visited a mountain castle, erected fences and did some digging. It was a great experience.

Sabreena Nazir, 10S

New girls' magazine

You will remember from the last Challney News published just before the summer holidays that we have been planning a new magazine to be written and created by our pupils for our pupils. As we went to print in July, we had been overwhelmed by the volume of excellent letters of application from girls who wished to serve on the editorial committee and we were on the point of interviewing them to ensure that we selected the very best applicants.

What a tough job we had! Mrs Dunville and Mr Palmer listened attentively to all the girls who had been enthusiastic enough to apply and who were dedicated enough to give up their lunch break to be interviewed. After long and considered reflection, the following girls were appointed to the editorial committee:

Shamina Akhtar 9W, Ferhana Khan 9B, Huriya Qadri 10Y, Zakia Abdullah 10D, Ramona Saigol 11H, Rachna Sharma 11C

The quality of the applicants, however, was so high that we quickly realised that there was a tremendous amount of talent amongst the girls who had not made it onto the committee.

Recognising also the huge amount of work that would need to be done to produce the girls' magazine, we decided to appoint girls to year-based sub-committees to support the main editorial committee. These girls are:

Year 9: Sunniea Ahmed 9N; Salma Bashir 9O
Year 10: Saera Sharif 10Y, Jaspreet Phull 10Y, Hira Asif 10Y

Year 11: Raisa Rafiq 11C, Taiba Sultan 11C, Ismah Akhtar 11S, Naiya Jaward 11S, Farah Sheikh 11S

We are keen to ensure that all year groups are represented on the editorial committee and so after half term we will be advertising for applicants from Year 7, who did not get a chance to apply in June because they were still

at their primary schools, and from Year 8 who were too shy to apply last time around.

Meanwhile, please see the centre pages of this edition of the Challney News which shows the work of the editorial committee so far. Pupils are being asked to vote on a name for their magazine. There are boxes both in the Library and in the Junior Dining Room for all pupils to make suggestions for the name and make other contributions to the first girls' magazine which will be published in December.

Many congratulations to all members of the editorial committee and the sub-committees upon their appointment and their work to date. We look forward to their first full publication.

The editorial committee meets every Monday lunchtime with Mrs Dunville in Room 34.

The Culture Club

Another exciting development this year has been the introduction of the Culture Club which was set up in response to the wishes of girls to recognise and celebrate the many and varied cultures of our pupils across the school. The Culture Club is open to all pupils. We would particularly welcome ideas for celebrations from girls from ethnic groups whose culture is so far not represented in the programme below. The Culture Club meets every Tuesday lunchtime in the Drama Studio and all are welcome.

Following a series of meetings towards the end of last term, to which all pupils were invited, the Culture Club proposed a number of events that it would like to celebrate this academic year.

Celebrations 2007-8

October	Black History Month Eid-ul-Fitr
November	Divali
December	Christmas Eid-ul-Adha
January	Islamic New Year
February	Chinese New Year
March	Holi Spring Festival
April	Easter
May	Luton Carnival
June	Race for Life

October events:

Black History Month and Eid-ul-Fitr

During September, all efforts of the Culture Club were channelled into planning Eid and Black History Month celebrations. Displays went up all around school and a number of events were scheduled:

Mon 15 th October	Non-uniform day and
Wed 17 th October	Asian food and music day
Wed 31 st October	Eid Party
	African Caribbean food and
Fri 2 nd November	music day
	Black History Month inter-
Sat 10 th November	school quiz and
Fri 7 th December	African Caribbean Evening
	African Caribbean Awards
	Evening
	Trip to London, Sugar and
	Slavery exhibition

Non-uniform Day

On non-uniform day, all pupils were encouraged to wear clothes that reflected their cultural heritage. As you are well aware, our girls are unfailingly generous in fundraising for charity. From time to time, however, they have asked to raise money for ourselves. On this occasion, therefore, pupils were asked to contribute £1 towards the school awards and rewards kitty. This money will be used to fund awards and rewards in the future when we would like to recognise the girls' achievements. After much fundraising for others over many years, we are finally raising money for ourselves!

Asian Food & Music Day

Being the first day back in school after Eid, on 15th October the whole school celebrated in style with food and music. Both school canteens prepared a special buffet lunch of Asian food and, to help create a special atmosphere, Asian music was played in both dining rooms. A special thank you is due to the catering staff for their noble efforts and to the girls and their parents and carers who kindly provided some wonderful recipes and some excellent CDs.

Eid Party

Eid celebrations continued on Wednesday 17th October. Girls danced the early evening away to some of their favourite sounds while once again enjoying a feast of Asian food. This time the food itself was generously donated by parents and carers. Fittingly at this time of year, all who attended the event contributed £1 towards Muslim Aid.

African Caribbean Food and Music Day

To mark the last day of Black History Month, both Kitchen Managers have again agreed to put on a special feast. On Wednesday 31st October there will be an array of African and Caribbean food on offer in both dining rooms at lunchtime, set to a background of African and Caribbean music. If you have a favourite recipe which you would like to be made available on this day, or music which you feel would add to the occasion, it is not too late. Bring a copy of your recipe or your CD in to school and pass to Mr Palmer.

Diwali

Already our thoughts are turning towards planning for Diwali which we will celebrate in November!

Black History Inter-school Quiz

On the afternoon of Friday 2nd November, Luton Local Authority will be staging an inter-school quiz at the *e-learningcentre@luton* on Sundon Road, next door to Lealands High School. Open to all Luton secondary schools, we will be represented by two teams of four, one from Year 9 and the other from Year 11. We already have two healthy squads keen to participate from which to choose.

Year 9 squad:

Zawditu Lewis 9I, Lara Osho 9I
Reah Hurley 9N, Yasmin Saddler 9N
Tamara Addo 9N, Claudine Burke 9O

Year 11 squad:

Yasheka White 11C, Codie Hackshaw 11C
Shuvet Auguste 11H, Suraya de Cordova 11H
Nadine Williams 11G. Good luck to both teams.
May you represent the school well!

African Caribbean Evening

On the evening of Friday 2nd November the school will host an African Caribbean Evening, with the theme of Young, Gifted and Black, to mark the end of Black History Month. This will be an evening of dance, drama, poetry and music which will celebrate the achievements and talents of black people worldwide and within the school. Food, prepared by generous parent volunteers to whom we are thankful, will be available on the night. The event will be free, although small donations will be accepted towards costs.

African Caribbean Awards Evening

The annual African Caribbean Awards Evening, organised by Luton Local Authority to celebrate achievements across the town, will be staged this year at Challney High School for Boys on the evening of Saturday 10th November. As usual, we have nominated pupils in all four academic categories which are open to our girls. These are:

- ✪ Outstanding academic achievement at Key Stage 3 – Nalisha Chambers
- ✪ Most improved pupil performance at Key Stage 3 – Moyosore (Lola) Olukoga
- ✪ Best GCSE results (female) – Jennifer Fripp
- ✪ Most improved pupil performance at Key Stage 4 – Hannah McDonald

Congratulations to all four girls! As we go to press we are hearing that new categories of awards in sport and music have been created for which we will also make nominations.

Trip to London, Sugar and Slavery Exhibition

As part of our whole school celebration of Black History Month, we are planning a school trip open to all our pupils to the brand new London, Sugary and Slavery exhibition at the *Museum in Docklands* in London on Friday 7th December 2007. The exhibition is being specially created to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade by Britain in 1807. Letters about this trip will be available very soon.

Year 10 Parents and Pupils' Evening

Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended our Parents and Pupils Evening on Monday 10th September. This was an important opportunity to bring parents and carers up to date with the study skills learnt by their daughters on the first day of term. The early evening event gave parents, carers and daughters the chance to work together to identify real life difficulties facing families during the course of a pressured school year and to find strategies to overcome these obstacles.

The feedback which we received at the end of the session was very positive. We look forward to seeing many more parents at similar events which have been scheduled throughout the year for all year groups. As we go to print, we are preparing to receive Year 7 parents and pupils on Monday 15th October and look forward to meeting with Year 9 parents and pupils on Monday 19th November. Please see the calendar opposite for more information and key dates.

Parent-Teacher Association

After a period of four years, a Parent-Teacher Association meeting was called at Challney on Monday 1st October. All parents who had previously expressed an interest in re-forming the association when asked at parents' evenings last year were invited and a profitable meeting resulted.

The meeting decided that the name for the old parent-teacher association, The Challney Girls' High School Association, should be kept. Everyone was agreed that school staff and parents should work more closely together and we all enjoyed the opportunity to talk about ways in which we might achieve this. The feeling was that more invitations should be sent to parents to attend a greater variety of events in school.

One positive suggestion was that there should be a slip for parents to complete and return to acknowledge receipt of the Challney News. Parents were very impressed with the quality of

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the Challney News but some were concerned that girls might not always take it home for parents to read. This half-term's edition of the Challney News, therefore, has a slip for you to sign and we would be grateful if you would complete and return it to your daughter's form tutor as soon as you receive your copy.

The next meeting of The Challney Girls' High School Association will be at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 14th November 2007 at the school in the Whitbread Room. Invitations will again be sent to all who have told us that they would be interested in attending. If you would be interested in attending but have not already let us know, please send a note to me via your daughter so that I can make sure we have enough cups of tea and biscuits. *Alan Palmer*

Term dates 2007-8

Autumn Term	
Mon. 21.10.07	Half term week
Thu. 1.11.07	Awards Evening
Wed. 7.11.07	Collection of GCSE Certificates and Art work returned – 4-5.30pm Parent-Teacher Assoc. 5.00 pm
Thu. 15.11.07	Consultation Day
Mon. 19.11.07	Year 9 Parents: 'Making the most of IT in Year 9'
Mon. 26.11.07	Year 11 Parents: 'How to help you daughter prepare for her GCSE exams and make her college application'. Year 11 Mock exams week
Mon. 3.12.07	Year 8 Parents: 'How to help your daughter in Year 8'
Mon. 10.12.07	Year 10 Parents: 'How to help you daughter meet her coursework requirements in Key Stage 4'
Fri. 14.12.07	Year 10 coffee morning
Mon. 17.12.07	Music performance
Spring Term	
Mon. 7.1.08	New term begins

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Eid Mubarak