



NAME:

FORM:

Letter from the Head

What an exciting term this has been! We are so fortunate to have our wonderful new building and for the girls to have such an amazing purpose-built learning environment. The girls are responding well to the improved opportunities for learning, particularly to those which facilitate independent learning. The staff and I are totally committed to helping them to achieve at the highest possible levels. Our formal opening on 6th April was an opportunity for so many of the people who have been involved in the project to join with us and the girls to celebrate the things that are good and positive about Challney High School for Girls. We were entertained by the Japanese drummers, served delicious food by the Hospitality group and welcomed by prefects, School Council and Year 10 students who have been part of the project from the beginning.

Amidst the excitement, this has been a term for business. Year 11 exams are fast approaching and girls have been busy completing assignments and preparing for their revision sessions. We wish them luck and hope they are able to use the holiday for thorough and effective preparation and study. After the holiday all girls will be encouraged to support the Year 11s and to keep the building a quiet and studious place.

In common with other Luton schools, the price of a school meal -meal deal- will rise to £1.85 after the holiday. After some reluctance girls are now choosing healthier options from the range of menus provided in the dining room. Snacks and selections of food not in the meal deal will cost more and may exceed £1.85. Each day there is a meat and dessert meal deal, a vegetarian and dessert meal, and a pasta with drink or fruit meal deal so girls do have considerable choice.

I know many families have experienced difficulty with transport. We are working closely

with the Borough on this. There are many challenges and I would urge you all to avoid the most congested areas if at all possible. We want to build good relationships with our neighbouring community who do not yet know us well. Poor parking and blocking of roads is guaranteed to upset both drivers and residents and makes the roads themselves more dangerous for the girls and others. Our local PSCO is available to help whilst we all try to find a solution. I have contacted the bus company but as yet have no news for you.

I look forward to working with you and your daughter in the summer term. Many parents have already had the opportunity to visit the school and we hope to extend another invitation to parents during the term. Come and see the amazing school where your daughter studies!



Inside This Issue

- 2 Fundraising Week
- 3 National Science Week
- 6 Morocco 2012
- 8 Ski Trip to Bulgaria
- 10 BBC School News Report

Ode to Challney High School for Girls (Stoneygate Road),

The time has come, you're simply too old,
Riddled with disease and covered in mould.
Yes, we've had many a laugh
But you're just too naff -
Battered and bruised
From being abused.
You creak and groan as I step on you,
Held together as you are by splodges of glue.

Yet you're simply divine,
Old school of mine,
From your exotic smells to your hourly bells!
I see the packing boxes all about
And I absolutely want to shout.
I realize now, I'm going to miss you,
I think I really need a tissue.
You're the best building ever -
I'm going to remember you forever!
Victoria Amoda 9M

The New Building

As everyone is aware, we have moved to a more spacious, safe building. As well as being clean, neat and tidy, this has had a positive effect on pupils.

The school is easy to get around which means more pupils arrive more punctually to lessons. Students have seen how neat and tidy the school is and, of course, want to keep it that way. I hope that, as you have read this article, you realise how lucky and privileged we are to be educated in this wonderful new building.

Saira Javed 7H

Attendance Raffle

As you will be aware, we hold an attendance raffle each half term for the girls who are the top attenders in 'The Premiership' and for those who have been promoted by improving their attendance. Last half term's winners were:

Fabrielle Popoola 7X

Alicia Brown 8A

Aneela Nasir 9O

Tatenda Mushure 10A

Rafaqat Shah 11E

Reading Assistants



Challney High School
for Girls

Respect. Opportunity. Achievement

Year 9 students who are strong readers have been offered the opportunity to assist less confident readers in years 7 and 8. Thankfully, the majority of students in year 9 have been very enthusiastic about this. In fact, never before have we had so many pupils wishing to become reading assistants. All applicants were interviewed and asked to read an extract from a book. The competition was very fierce. I am sure that the students who were provisionally selected are fervently grateful. However, as their selection will not be confirmed until the beginning of year 10, I wish them all the best of luck in their final selection.

Nasim Khan 9I

Fundraising Week

There was a different feel to our Fundraising Week this year. Perhaps this was because it was organised to take place a little later in the year than usual, running from 21st – 25th March, so as to allow us more time to settle in to our new building.

Of course, the day to day arrangements were rather different, too. For example, year groups were encouraged to hold events within their own heart space rather than in the Hall and food sales were held in the open air on the terrace outside the dining room. We owe a special thank you to all parents who helped by baking cakes and biscuits following the healthy recipes that we had posted on the school website.



Fortunately, we were blessed all week long with gorgeous weather. Mr Blaal, who volunteered to be the target for the "Wet sponge the teacher" event, was especially grateful for the warm sunshine.

As every year, the biggest crowds were drawn to a series of talent and fashion shows, staged in the Hall. Their success is attributable to the efforts of many people but Miss Menni, in particular, deserves our admiration for her determination to ensure that these performances went ahead.

Challney News

The whole week was rounded off with a non-uniform day, enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. We all made a donation of £1 in advance to the Fundraising Week coffers, which rose to £2 for those who kept “forgetting” to pay until the day itself.

Altogether we managed to raise a very impressive total of £3233.13. As every year, this money will be sent to the charity chosen by our pupils’ own School Council which this year is to be The Citizens Foundation. This is a charity that focuses upon building schools in the most deprived areas of Pakistan so that children who would not otherwise receive a formal education are provided with an opportunity to go to school. In the aftermath of the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, we all feel that the School Council has once again made a very caring and appropriate choice.



THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION

Book Sale

There were many activities going on during Fundraising Week, including cake sales, bring and buy sales and much more. Miss Harlock, our librarian, and the year 7 Book Club members held a book sale, with prices starting from 50p. To advertise the event, we made posters and displayed them on the noticeboards. We also asked if students could donate books so we could sell them and raise even more money for charity.

Neya Iqbal 7H

Children in Need

Dear Miss Arthur,

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £689.90 to the BBC Children in Need Appeal. Every year we are humbled by the generosity and creativity of our supporters in raising money for thousands of disadvantaged children and young people right here in the UK. Whether you have



shown your spots to raise lots, or found some other ways to raise money for BBC Children in Need, we hope you had fun!

Once again many thanks from the Pudsey team and on behalf of all the children we help to support. We just couldn’t continue our work without you!

Best Wishes,
Alice Buckley.

National Science Week

Three of our students attended the Luton Astronomical Society meeting on 27th

January at the University of Bedfordshire Putteridgebury Campus to celebrate National Science Week. They made a major contribution by delivering a series of presentations.



First, Sharmin Akther 9L presented a detailed power point on the solar system, introducing some very surprising facts. Kinza Javaid 10O then discussed the Big Bang theory, presenting three supporting pieces of evidence, which she afterwards compared with the Creationist theory. Finally, Husna Tahir 10O delivered a very confident presentation on the life cycle of stars, demonstrating a good understanding of her subject. Their power points have been put on the MLE for you to see, should you chose.

Our three students then answered questions from the audience and were invited to attend the next meeting on 16th March.

Further presentations were given by regular members of the society on topics such as ‘The night sky in January and February’. There was also a video presentation of what it would be like to travel close to the speed of light. Sharmin enjoyed the occasion so much that she has written her own account of the meeting:

We were given an opportunity to increase our knowledge of star collations, the whereabouts of stars, and ways in which they can be used to help us, for example in orientation. We heard many other fascinating facts which made me think, ‘Do I really know anything about astronomy at all?’ This question and many more were answered at the event.



4

However, the evening was not just to answer our questions but also to inform us as to whether we owe everything to the stars.

The event started with guest speakers presenting on a subject about astrology that they found interesting. I was the youngest and eager to go first. I decided on making a presentation about the solar system and what it consists of. It was delivered very effectively, informing the audience about different planets, moons, comets and asteroids in the solar system.

The second presentation, about the Big Bang theory and delivered by Kinza Javaid, was also very high in quality. The last presentation by a guest speaker was by Husna Tahir. Her presentation was delivered in a confident manner explaining the different types of stars, how they are made and how long they live. Did you ever wonder what black holes, white stars and dwarf stars are? This presentation answered all of these questions.

The next four presentations were made by regular members, including Tony Tucker. These were very engrossing as there were so many new things to learn from them.

The evening ended with our questions for the astronomers and an opportunity to discuss any queries or doubts we had. On behalf of Challney High School for Girls, I would like to thank all the people who attended, Tony Tucker for running this event and Mr Mackenzie for organising our visit. It was an amazing event and will benefit all of us for years to come.

Another fortunate opportunity for girls at Challney to extend their knowledge is that the presentations by our pupils have now been added to students shared/ resources on the MLE under 'National astronomy event' in the science folder.

Hope this benefits you.

Sharmin Akther 9L

Faith in Harmony



Dear Miss Arthur,

I am writing to say thank you for releasing your students to attend the recent Faith in Harmony Conference. We had about 75 students from across Luton schools plus 18 sixth form volunteers. It was a great day.

Challney News

Your pupils were exemplary and a great credit to your school. We had a number of visitors popping in during the day and they remarked on the excellent way students interacted with each other and participated fully and maturely in all the sessions. They were also great fun!

We received lots of lovely comments in the pupil evaluations. Here are just a few:

“The conference exceeded my expectations, I had a great time.”

“I learnt to respect every religion as if it was my own.”

“I learned that if we all come together as a community we achieve more.”

“I have met lots of different people from different cultures and backgrounds.”

“I learnt that we can come together and make positive change if we are open-minded.”

“I learnt that we should respect each other, no matter the difference, the stereotypes or the things that divide us.”

Once again, thanks for helping to make the conference a success.

Yours Sincerely,

Fleur Musonda

Deputy Headteacher

Cardinal Newman Catholic School.

Holocaust Memorial Service




HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY

Dear Miss Arthur,

On behalf of the Holocaust Memorial Day Event planning group, I would like to thank the pupils from your school who participated in this special event on the 27th January 2011. Everyone was very appreciative that your young people took time and effort not only to attend but also to participate. They were a credit both to your school and themselves.

Regards,

Ann Loeffler

Principal Councillor Services Officer

Chief Executive's Dept

Luton Borough Council.

Poetry Live Review

65 year 11 students went on the annual Poetry Live trip to the Dominion Theatre in central London on Friday 4th February. We really enjoyed ourselves. We loved seeing and hearing the very poets whose work we study in class. The chief examiner for English gave us lots of advice for the exams and the poets themselves gave guidance, too.

We heard a range of poets, including Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker, Gillian Clark and Daljit Nagra, recite their poems. They then talked about how they felt about them and explained their inspiration for their work. I particularly enjoyed listening to Simon Armitage, as he is a powerful, charismatic performer. Many thanks to Ms. Allen and all the other teachers who assisted us, giving us the opportunity to learn something new.

Anum Hussain 11P

UKMT 2011



On 25th March, Amna Tariq 9I, Rumana Hussain 9C, Isra Dar 9O and I travelled to Caroline Chisholm School in Northampton to compete in the UKMT challenge. After some warm up exercises, we took part in solving some complex maths puzzles and later split into pairs to play a maths relay game. Normally, when most of us think of maths, we don't imagine it to be exciting, but this time it was. We ran around the hall, completing puzzles and earning points for our team. Everyone was enthusiastic and took part in all the activities. During the day we had lunch outside (the campus is huge) and met many new people. The event was lots of fun and at the same time very beneficial. It couldn't have happened without the help of the staff. Thank you for the opportunity!

Sabeera Dar 9P

Tough Technology Tournament

John Halstead, the Luton and Bedfordshire Rotary Technology Tournament organizer, described this year's tournament as being a tough one and our girls as a credit to the school.

The tournament took place on Friday 4th March in Stopsley Baptist Church Hall. The girls, in two

teams, had to design and construct a device to pick up an object with a magnet and return it to its starting position. Their designs were marked before they then demonstrated their working model. The girls' teamwork was excellent and, although they did not win a prize, their ability to work as a team was especially commented on by one of the judges.

Overall the experience was an excellent one and one that the girls are already looking forward to next year. The team members were:

Isra Dar 9O, Sharmin Akther 9L, Husna Shah 9O, Sabeera Dar 9P, Sehar Ahmad 9P, Rebecca Hill 9M, Amna Tariq 9I and Abby Pender 9M.



Science Outreach

During February and March, a mix of year 6 boys and girls from Dallow Primary visited us for a series of three after-school Science Outreach sessions. They were the first visitors to use our new "state of the art" laboratories.

The first session involved using metal salts in a Bunsen flame then observing the change.

The second session looked at exothermic and endothermic reactions. This involved demonstrations using hydrogen peroxide and manganese oxide. The reaction evolved plenty of oxygen. Heat generated made the plastic bottle shrink! Later the students carried out their own investigation into identifying other chemical reactions as either exothermic or endothermic. They mixed chemicals together then used a thermometer to record the temperature change.

The third session involved identifying everyday solutions as either acid, alkali or neutral. Ruth Kirkup, who is in charge of year 6 pupils and Senior Teacher at Dallow Primary, had warned us, "The enthusiasm for attending the sessions at Challney is overwhelming. We have over 90 students who want to attend!"

Since then, Beechwood Primary have also attended their three sessions and, after Easter, Foxdell will begin theirs, too.



The school website is now back online!

Due to some technical issues with the move to our new school, the website had been unavailable for a while. Now, we are glad to say it is back online and can be found on:

www.challneygirls.luton.sch.uk

Pupils can use the quick link to our MLE (Managed Learning Environment). You can even check out how well our year 8 reporters did on BBC School Report day.

Morocco 2012



We are in the process of planning an expedition to Morocco in north Africa to take place during the Easter holidays of 2012, a full year from now. We are very excited as this will be the very first trip in the history of our school to venture outside Europe.

The plan is to fly directly from home town Luton to exotic Marrakech. After an evening exploring the city's souks and enjoying the entertainment of snake charmers, story tellers, dancers and more in the historic central square of Djemaa el-Fna, we will head for the mountains for a four-day trek. This will be followed by four days of community work, quite possibly in an underprivileged, rural school, before we return to the hustle and bustle of Marrakech for a final celebratory evening meal and a well-earned hotel bed.

The trip is open to all pupils currently in years 7, 8 and 9. If you would like your daughter to take part, please attend a parents' evening at the school on Tuesday 17th May



A Marrakechi snake charmer

Challney News

starting at 7.00pm or contact Mr Palmer at the school on 571427.

Maths Leaders Reach Out



Maths Leaders at Parklands Middle School

Earlier this term, Mr Moses and the Maths Leaders visited Parkfields Middle School in Toddington to present the Liverpool FunMaths Roadshow to their year 6 pupils. These pupils loved it so much that we have been asked to go back soon to present to their year 8. Before this, however, we have been booked to go to two primary schools, The Meads and Warden Hill.



Proud Maths Leaders show their certificates

The Maths Leaders have also started going into assemblies to advertise the new Maths Club they are setting up for pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 which will start after Easter. If you would like more information about the Maths Club or the Maths Leader programme, ask Mr Moses or one of the following girls: Aneesah Rehman 10H, Latifa Abdillahi 10R, Rufia Khanom 10H, Retha Khan 10H, Reema Ahmed 10O, Imani Miah 10H, Abigail Stephenson 10A and Lara Abushanap 10A.

Challney News

On Guard!

This term has been a very exciting one for the girls at Challney with the introduction of three new clubs, Fencing, Self-Defence and Boxercise. The clubs were set up following student feedback expressing a wish for an opportunity to experience some new activities.

Many will have seen the Government's 'Change for Life' campaign on the television. As part of this campaign, every school in the country has been offered free equipment and funding to start a new club in their school, aimed at getting pupils to be more active. There were many sports to choose from including handball, badminton, boccia, table tennis, volleyball and wheelchair basketball. Our school chose fencing. It has proved a very popular choice with nearly 50 pupils already accessing the club.



The PE department and pupils have been keen to start self-defence classes due to the many practical benefits that they would bring to everyday life. In fact, they have proved to be so popular that years 10 and 11 pupils have even asked for self-defence to form one of their PE lesson options.

Boxercise, too, was introduced a few weeks ago and has proved as popular as self-defence. In this, pupils develop their spatial awareness and coordination, as well as key skills in protecting themselves. The sessions are run by Luton's Boxing Development Officer. They are fun, high energy sessions that are aimed at all ages.



Pupils enjoying a boxercise session

After the Easter break we will be starting the summer sports calendar. The activities will be: cricket, rounders, tennis, softball and athletics. The days and times of the above programme will be published after the holidays.

As part of the Gifted and Talented programme, Active Luton will be running training sessions at Stockwood Park. Teachers will select the pupils through their performance at the extra-curricular club. Training session dates are:

- 3rd, 10th May
- 7th, 14th, 28th June
- 5th July

The best performers will be selected to represent Luton Schools at the Town Championships on 8th July.

How to Cheat at Mind-reading

Several schools across Luton, including pupils from our years 7, 8 and 9, enjoyed Rob Eastaway's lecture on 1st February. He used several maths-related theories to solve everyday problems. He used probability, the audience's birthdays, some very good card tricks, and the magic number 9.

Most of the 89 students that attended - from Challney Girls, Challney Boys, Barnfield, Lealands, Ashcroft and Icknield - stated that they would like to attend a maths lecture like this again. They awarded the whole event an average score of nearly 8 out of 10. The cards tricks and the magic number 9 were their favourite problems.



Rob Eastaway demonstrates another trick.

Luton Astronomical Society

Four year 9 Challney students and three parents attended the Luton

Astronomical Society meeting on

16th March. Students listened to a presentation by Professor Howe on, "Do we owe everything to the stars?"

The Professor briefly presented the evidence for the theory that elements are formed in stars by the process of atomic fusion. However most of the presentation focussed on the idea that the organic materials fundamental to the evolution of life are present in the gas cloud from which our sun and planets formed. The evidence for this is based on the ideas of chirality of organic molecule and polarisation of light. All organic molecules are left handed (chirality); it is thought that all right handed molecules were destroyed by the intense light produced in the gas cloud from which our star evolved. The left handed molecules survived due to the polarisation of this light. After the presentation the audience were able to discuss the topic further with the professor.

It had been hoped to view the stars afterwards using the society's telescopes but sadly a cloudy sky prevented any observation.



Ski trip to Bulgaria



During the February half term break a number of students from years 9, 10 and 11 visited Bulgaria on a ski trip. Here is Alliah's account:

The first day had to be the most confusing but adventurous day for everyone. Waking up was a drag but we were all excited about the day ahead and we put our tiredness aside. Breakfast was great, a buffet with all sorts. When we got to the allocated site we were all taught how to actually move up and down the baby slopes. While

Challney News

some succeeded, others failed miserably. Each day we would ski for two hours, then have a break for an hour. Lunch was great, mainly because everyone got to stuff themselves with a great amount of fries. When lunch was finished everyone would go back on the slopes for another two hours. It's fair to say that many of the girls were quite frightened at first but even towards the end of the first day we'd all learnt a lot and were excited about the next morning.

On the last evening we held an awards ceremony. As much fun as this was, it was also a very emotional time as we had to say goodbye to our instructors who we had grown very fond of. Almost everyone was awarded a gold standard certificate which was very impressive.

The last day itself was definitely the most emotional as none of us wanted to leave and we'd got used to the life style of lounging and skiing every day. To make our goodbyes less tormenting we toured around some of Bulgaria's finest places where we shopped, took a million pictures and ate at a 5- star hotel which, I must say, was totally fabulous.

As a ski group we'd like to thank Miss Dolan for being a bubbly and caring teacher but a friend to us all; also Miss Ponsonby for being there when we needed a mother figure around; and Mr O'Connor for making us laugh when we needed laughter and entertainment.

Alliah Wachekwa 11P

An interview with Nimra Chaudry:

(KS2 Maths Level 3; GCSE Maths Grade C November 2010)

A success story:

Have you always been good at maths?

No, I was really bad in year 7 and messed around quite a lot so didn't think I could get a grade C. I couldn't concentrate in Maths and found it hard and difficult to understand. It's easier than it looks once you understand.

Did you enjoy maths in junior school? I

didn't think it was important so I didn't pay attention. I didn't learn my times tables.

Did you enjoy maths in years 7 to 10? I

hated it in year 7. That's why I used to mess around.

Did your friends believe you could get a C in November? They told me I could get a C and

I would be alright and wouldn't fail. It gave me confidence. When I got my results they were happy and now they see me as the lucky one because I've got maths over and done with.

Did your family believe you could get a C in November? My Mum told me to take it in June as I would be better off if I got a higher mark in the June exam. Sidra thought I was going to fail so she was shocked when the results came out.

How did you learn enough to get a C and when did you start to work? In July we were told we could do a November entry and in August I started to use the Mathswatch CD. I followed the timetable that I was given and made notes in a book so I could go over them closer to the exam. I attended lunchtime and after school classes with Mrs Abdul-Karim. Towards the end I was on the Mathswatch CD for 1 to 2 hours every day learning all the C and D grade topics and then the B topics closer to the exam.

What advice would you give to Year 11s studying for maths in June? Work hard now because all the hard work will pay off.

What advice would you give to younger pupils? If you really don't like maths and want to get it over and done with, then work hard now to get a grade C. Year 7 pupils should concentrate on their maths now because maths is important.

School Partnership

I really enjoyed the day when the Weald of Kent School girls recently came to visit us from Tonbridge. They were kind and the day was fun. I am really looking forward to seeing my new friends again. Both schools made a time capsule to bury in the other school's grounds. The capsules will include information about our schools now and how we think they will be in 50 years' time.

Making friends from different schools is good for school partnership. I am looking forward to our next visit to the Weald of Kent School.

Maariyah Sharjil 7N



Luton Schools Year 3 & 4 Netball Competition



On 3rd March, Challney High School for Girls hosted the first ever Luton Schools Year 3 & 4 Netball Competition.

We volunteered to host and organise the event as part of our commitment to developing leadership opportunities for our pupils. Four outstanding candidates were selected to plan and deliver the format for the day. They were Tolu Akinmokon 9P, Shenia Jouavel 9P, Natalie Arigundiya 9I and Kiran Afsar 9L. Each did an excellent job and was a true professional. Although it was freezing cold, the leaders kept the six teams motivated and engaged for the whole afternoon. Their experience of organising this event will contribute towards their achieving the Young Netball Organisers Award.

Throughout this academic year, 23 pupils across Key Stages 3 and 4 are training to gain the nationally recognised and accredited award in Sports Leadership. This course uses PE as a tool to develop a pupil's ability to lead and communicate confidently to others. It is a fun, practical and engaging course in which the pupils are progressing well.

On 4th April, some of the leaders will undertake their first independent leadership challenge by running a primary school netball festival. Please wish them luck and we will report on the day's successes in the next issue of the Challney News.

Pitt Rivers Museum

Visit 

On Wednesday 16th February, year 10 GCSE Art students visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. They began their day with a fascinating talk from the University Art Curator. The girls were then given an opportunity to research, sketch and take photographs of a huge variety of artefacts from all over the world.

The Pitt Rivers museum is often compared to an Aladdin's cave with artefacts ranging from a massive totem pole from America, to African jewellery, to tiny shrunken heads. This was an excellent opportunity for the girls to fill their sketchbooks with drawings from first hand reference material. They will go on to use this research when they design and plan their own piece of art work based on world art.

The girls all really enjoyed this experience and, of course, thanked all the staff at the Museum for the help they had been given during the day.

Garden Club

From next term Garden Club will be up and running in our new gardens.



Any interested and enthusiastic girls should visit Mrs Aytoun in the Learning Mentor office to find out more information. Besides benefitting from a healthy lunch time outside, we also make termly outings to places of interest which in the past have always been thoroughly enjoyed.

Culture Club



This term Culture Club has been busy celebrating Chinese New Year by making lanterns and Chinese New Year cards. Pupils have enjoyed learning crafts such as knitting and crochet and have been making bookmarks and pom-poms. They have learnt about the history of Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday), St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day (Mothering Sunday), and have made cards and picture frames to mark these occasions. We have also introduced pupils to a range of music, including pan pipe music from Peru, Mozart and various orchestral music, to widen their cultural knowledge.

Culture Club was again involved in raising funds for Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March through the sale of red noses. Pupils were also allowed to wear red accessories for the day to show their support.

Events to look forward to in the coming term include poetry competitions and making Easter

Challney News

cards and bonnets. We will also be celebrating the themes of spring and summer.

Thank you to all pupils and staff for your participation.



BBC School News Report

On Thursday 24th March, the English Heart Space was transformed into a newsroom as 28 year 8 girls become journalists for the day. The BBC School News Report is an international project which gives young people the chance to experience life as a reporter. This year is the first time that our pupils have participated. In all, 30,000 pupils from across the nation took part in the project.

The girls had worked in preparation over a period of six weeks to put together news reports on a range of diverse subjects such as sport, girls and body image, and the BSF project. They learned how to conduct interviews, to video and edit film, and, most of all, how to work to a deadline. The general feeling from the girls was that the day was stressful but worthwhile.

Although not every report made it to the final edit, I would like to thank and congratulate all the girls on their hard work throughout the project and especially on the news day itself.

You can view the final 28 minute report, which includes both live and pre-recorded material, on www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport

Mini Sagas

Congratulations to all pupils who have been successful in the Young Writers' creative writing competition, 'Mini Sagas.' This involved writing a story that was no longer than fifty words - not the easiest of tasks. Their work will be published at the end of June and a copy of the book, 'Mini Sagas - Creative Capers Fiction from Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire', will be kept at the British Library as well as at other libraries across the UK and Republic of Ireland.



Staff departures and arrivals

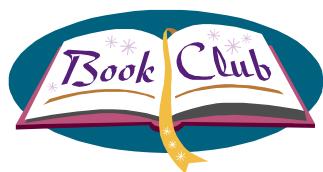
We would like to say thank you and farewell to Mrs Hamideh Kokabi, fitness suite supervisor, who left us at the end of the Autumn Term. Sadly, we also need to say goodbye to Dr Khan, teacher of science, who left us in February, along with Mrs Romessa Nawaz, teaching assistant, who left us in March, and Mr Dudley Matthews, technician, who will leave us at the end of April. We wish them all well for the future.

We welcome Ms Wendy Taylor who started with us in January as a teaching assistant in the Learning Support Department.

Challney Girls High School Association

Our parents and teachers association, the Challney Girls High School Association, has already met twice this year since we moved into the new building. The first meeting on Wednesday 19th January provided an excellent opportunity for a guided tour of the new school. Our parents were very impressed by what they saw and made a lot of very favourable comments.

We returned to business at our next meeting on Thursday 3rd March during which Mrs Shah, one of our parent members, reported on her work with Miss Harlock, our school librarian. We are



delighted to say that Book Club, set up to encourage wider reading amongst year 7 pupils, now meets regularly every

Wednesday in the library with Mrs Shah's support.

Plans were also made for parents to support our annual Fundraising Week. They were encouraged to bake cakes and biscuits at home with their daughters, using healthy recipes which had been posted on our school website. These were then sold in school to raise money for this year's chosen charity, The Citizens Foundation, which is dedicated to building schools in the most deprived areas of Pakistan.

The next meeting of the Challney Girls High School Association will be on Thursday 28th April

starting at 5.00pm. If you would like to be become involved, please contact Alan Palmer on 571427 any time before the meeting. Otherwise, if you just want to find out more about the CGHSA, you can read the minutes of our previous meetings on the school website:

www.challneygirls.luton.sch.uk/community/PTA

A New Look for Challney High School for Girls

The moment I arrived in front of the brand new school building, I could not take my eyes off it. Wow, it is beautiful. The different coloured windows, the grand library, the clean open space... I could not help but think about all the superb opportunities I would have in the new building. It would be a great start at Challney Girls. The improved facilities, which we can all take advantage of everything is so amazing! This is where we want to be, this is our bright future. Besides, the behaviour of all years has risen to an even better standard due to the CCTV cameras around the school, the new behaviour policy and of course the determination of the teachers.

Everything has definitely improved; school dinners, are much healthier. Although we may not like them, we know they are so much better for us. Everything has changed for the better. It is fabulous that the new school is ready for us all to use.

At Challney Girls we are all united, a diverse community, a team, a family who live by three words : respect, opportunity and achievement.

Labeeda Ahmed 7H

School.....

New school, new rules, new shoes, new tools, new building, new attitude, new books and looks, new windows, new floors, new carpets, new doors, new route, new recruits, new food, new mood, new prizes, new surprises, new hall, new sports hall, new detentions, need to pay more attention.

Mariam Riaz 7H

The Opening Ceremony



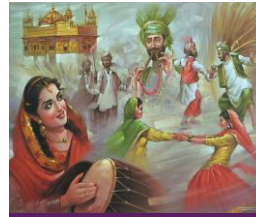
Students cutting the ribbon.



Pupils hard at work and play at our new school



Festival Dates



Vaisakhi (April 13th)



Pesach (April 19th)



St George's Day (April 23rd)



Easter (April 24th)



Wesak (May 17th)

Summer Term Diary Dates 2011

- Mon 25th April Bank Holiday
- Tue 26th April Training Day
- Fri 29th April Bank Holiday
- Mon 2nd May Bank Holiday
- Thur 5th May Y7 Consultation Evening
- Fri 13th May Y11 study leave begins
- Fri 20th May Gift Day assemblies

Mon 30th May - Fri 4th June- Half term

- Thur 16th June Y8 Consultation Evening
- Fri 24th June Day trip to France
- Wed 29th June Y6 Parents Evening
- Thur 30th June New Intake Day
- Tue 5th July School Sports Day
- Fri 8th July Town Sports Day