



NAME:

FORM:

Letter from the Head

What an eventful year this has been! We are, as I say so often, very, very privileged to have this amazing building in which to work and learn. It is a measure of the quality of the design that a large part of us thinks 'we have always been here!' That said, girls and staff have worked incredibly hard to make the move a success and to provide the opportunities we normally associate with a 'normal' school year. Elsewhere in this issue of Challney News you can read of the girls' amazing generosity, of the great successes of so many sports' teams, of the vast range of activities on offer and of the many extra-curricular opportunities available to the girls. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and for so often going 'above and beyond' what can reasonably be expected.

I would like to express particular thanks to Mr Justin, Mrs Farley and Miss Plews who have given so many years of dedicated service to Challney High School for Girls. Challney is a very special community and these members of staff have helped and encouraged a huge number of girls during their time here. We will miss them all, but wish them success in the new challenges which lie ahead. We hope they all enjoy some well deserved rest and relaxation. I would like to pay particular tribute to Miss Plews whose dedication, vision and persistence played such a vital role during the whole designing and building process which brought us to our brand new school.

I look forward to continuing to work with you next year for the girls' benefit and I look forward to welcoming year 7 and year 10 back to school on Tuesday 6th September and years 8, 9 and 11 on Wednesday 7th September. Year 11 will of course be in school for their Consultation Day appointment with their families on Tuesday 6th September.

I hope you all enjoy the summer and enjoy the time you spend together with your families.



Year 11 Leavers at their Gala at the Auction House

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Positive thoughts

We have all recently had to make a huge change in our daily routine by moving to our brand new school. Years 7s are convinced that this is a positive change and that we should all be looking to the future as we have many more good experiences to come. After all the hard work and effort that has gone into the new building, seeing the amazing results has made it all worthwhile.

Some of the main changes, including heart spaces, cameras, signs and the new café, have clearly had a positive influence on students. The new cashless catering system has solved the problem of lost dinner money and proves an effective method for storing and protecting students' money. The new menus encourage students to lead a healthy lifestyle by following a healthy balanced diet. We are also all delighted with the new clubs and facilities offered by the Youth Zone.

Khadeeja Hussain 7H

Gift Day



Proud pupils present money raised during Fundraising aWeek to Hina Suleman of The Citizens Foundation

This year we held our Gift Day towards the end of May, a few weeks later than we normally would. As usual, however, we enjoyed a series of assemblies during which a representative of our chosen charity for the year was presented with a cheque for the amount that we had raised during Fundraising Week. Here is a poem, written by one of our pupils, especially for the occasion:

*When we raised this money did you ever think,
What our work would do for others in one single
blink?*

*When you raised this money was there ever a
thought,*

Because of this they'll finally get taught?

*It will change the things in their life,
And everything they do.*

*But if you really think this over,
It's because of us and especially you.*

*Some of the children in this world,
Would give so very much.*

*The tiniest bit of success,
One little touch.*

*Some children in this world
Do not get as much as me and you.
Wait until you look on the impact,
What it will do.*

*Some of the children in this world,
Are trying so hard to run.
Now you know they can go that little further,
Further than what's already done.*

*That's why we're raising money
To fill all their hands which are bare.
Now you have heard this poem,
I hope that you are aware.*

Humaria Ali 7E

Chemistry at Work

Fifteen Year 7 students from set 7S4 attended Chemistry at Work Day on 15th June at Milton Keynes Discovery Centre. Students attended eight presentations given by members of the scientific community, including one on police forensics and the use of fingerprints and DNA to identify criminals. Professor John Nicholson explained the effects of poisons and described the crimes of famous poisoners. Terry Westwood, a hypnotherapist, explained the fright or flight syndrome and how stress can be bad for you in exams. The importance of bees and beekeeping was described by Mike Bensley. Did you know that bees can be trained to detect diseases and cancer in people? One of the most exciting parts of the day was the event on rocketry given by Dr Don Andrews. He has worked on the Beagle 2 expedition to Mars and is now involved with the Rosetta project that is sending a probe to land on a

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comet. Najiba Fatima was lucky to be chosen to launch a small rocket in the grounds of the centre. Students were also able to meet Bruce, a Shire horse, who is now eight years old. Many students will remember him from his previous visit to Challney a few years ago. He is now fully grown and weighs 1.5 tons! His owner explained how Bruce is scared of butterflies and that his favourite food is jam sandwiches. Shire horses used to be widely used on the land before tractors but now they are sadly an endangered breed of horse. During the middle ages, horses like Bruce would take knights into battle. Whether any were scared of butterflies, I don't know.

Happily, Bruce was able to visit Challney again on 13th July. Here are some comments about his visit made by some of our students: *'I liked the horse best, he is cute and nice. I learnt that if you drink too much water you can die.'* - Komal Farooq 7E

'I liked the horse best because he was nice to stroke. I learnt that lipstick is made from crude oil.' - Najiba Fatima 7P

'I liked the rocket best because it was exciting. I learnt that every horse is afraid of something.' - Sadia Sultana 7E

'I liked the hydrogen fuel cell demo as it was interesting. I learnt that lead and mercury are poisonous.' - Farah Khan



Bruce, the Shire horse

The Lemonade Challenge

Our final two Science outreach visits this term were to Dallow Primary and Beechwood Primary Schools. This involved taking practical equipment to teach practical Science.

The sessions began with seeing whether an egg floats or sinks in water. The year 6 students were then asked how could we make an egg float? Discussion was prompted by the knowledge that people don't sink but float in Jordan's Dead Sea.

Salt (sodium chloride) was then added to our water sample. Once the excess salt had settled, the egg was clearly seen to float! At this moment, density was discussed leading to the following question: "Can we tell the difference between normal lemonade and diet lemonade without tasting it?"

The hydrometer was introduced to show how the gravity of a liquid is measured through its density. Year 6 then made their own hydrometers using a boiling tube, graph paper and sand. They then measured 30ml of lemonade in a 100ml measuring cylinder and placed their hydrometer in the measuring cylinder. They predicted that the normal lemonade would have a greater density than diet lemonade and that therefore the hydrometer would float higher in the measuring cylinder.

In conclusion, with only a few exceptions most pupils identified correctly the difference between normal and diet lemonade, thus proving you don't always have to taste things to get the right answer!



Day Trip to France

On Friday 24th June I was really excited because it was the day of the French trip. We

had to wake early, before 4.45am, and we were on the coach for 5.10am. We sat on it for three hours while we travelled to Folkestone and then from



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Folkestone into the Eurotunnel. It was hard to believe that the coach was inside a train and that we were underground with the sea on top of us.

When we reached France we went first to the historic town of Boulogne-sur-Mer. Miss Skallecki told us to meet her by the library in half an hour. Organised into groups, first we went to the market with our spending money. Afterwards we went to the old quarter of Boulogne and then to the beach which was about half an hour away. We ate our lunch as soon as we arrived at the beach because we were so hungry! I sat next to



my class-mate, Fatima, as she was my partner on the trip. After lunch we went onto the sand. It was so deep - about 1500

feet deep! Fatima and I collected some shells as souvenirs to take home. When we had finished at the beach we went to the hypermarket which was a very big mall, a little bit like the shopping centre in Luton. I bought a t-shirt for my baby brother but we didn't stay too long there as we still had to travel home.

We left France at 4.30pm, returning through the Eurotunnel. Throughout the day we had been answering quiz sheets. Mrs Skalecki collected them to see who the winner would be. It was me and so I received a prize. We had a good journey home and arrived back at school at 9pm where our parents met us. We were tired but had really enjoyed our day trip to France.

Neya Iqbal 7H

Science Success

At the end of May, four year 8 pupils took part in the Salters' Festival of Science at the University of Bedfordshire. The pupils competed against 10 other schools from the local counties to take part in two chemistry challenges in the laboratory.

Sarah Ampah- Wilson 8A commented that, "The experiments were fun and exciting" and Bethany

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Cook 8D added, "It was brilliant because it challenged us and we learnt a lot".



The year 8 winners

In the morning the pupils came second in the Salters' Challenge in which they had to solve a crime. In the afternoon they went one better, coming first in the University Challenge in which they had to design an experiment on their own – succeeding in record breaking time! The pupils won individual prizes as well as prizes for the school. They all had a great time, met new people and learnt lots about chemistry.

Visit to Weald of Kent



On Friday 17th June, 13 girls from year 7 were chosen to visit Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge. It was a very different school to ours because pupils have to pass a test to get a place in it. The day was a great opportunity to visit their school knowing they had already visited us.

The journey was fantastic. We drove the teachers crazy through the amount of our noise, chatting, shouting and singing of songs and nursery rhymes.

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When we reached their school we received a warm welcome. They escorted us to their library where we had some refreshments and met other Weald girls after which we went on a tour around their big three-floor building. Before lunch we shared our thoughts about what we would like to be in the future. Many of our girls were jealous that their school had slush machines, ice cream in the summer and a variety of fizzy drinks. During lunch we realised the style of their meals was very posh compared to ours and that they ate their fish and chips wrapped in recyclable paper. In the last five minutes of lunch a sixth form teacher asked us if we would like to see the sixth form room, which was very kind of her. So we did, and it was very nice.

Soon afterwards we started another group activity. Each table was given a collage to make with a different title, such as who you will be, school yesterday, school today and school tomorrow. We only had 50 minutes to make two copies, one for us and one for Weald of Kent. The 50 minutes went very quickly so soon we were saying our goodbyes and were setting off on the noisy journey back to Challney. Of course, it was no different to our journey there, so I'm sure all the teachers would have gone home with a headache.

Harmanpreet Kaur 7E

School Sports Day



Earlier this month, we staged our annual School Sports Day. It was an occasion enjoyed by the whole school as these two articles, penned by our pupils, make abundantly clear.

'Our sports day was absolutely amazing. As we marched down to the field with our fellow classmates and form tutor, Mrs Menon, we confidently predicted that we would excel in this year's competition. On a bright, sunny day, our form was allocated seating near the school which was fortunately in the shade. The atmosphere was electric and the whole school was buzzing with

excitement as each class displayed the banner that it had made. Our form did very well and our biggest achievement was when one of our classmates gained third place in the 1500 metres race. The occasion ended with very happy girls and proud teachers and I think everyone was impressed with the organisation of the event. This year's Sports Day really met all our expectations.'

Harrissa Khan 9I



'Each from group was allocated a different sports personality, such as Amir Khan, David Beckham or Seb Coe. Our form was allocated Andy Murray, so we made banners and masks and chanted his name. It would have been fortunate if he had reached the Wimbledon final this year and even won but at least he showed great sportsmanship, which we emulated on Sports Day.'



My favourite events were the Hurdles and the 1500m. I enjoyed the day very much as it was a chance to represent my class, have fun and enjoy the sunny weather. Given the heat of the day, the drinks stall was a very clever idea.'

Fatima Ihsan 9C

True Leadership

Sports Leaders is a fantastic opportunity that was first offered to us back in our days at the old school.



My friends and I attended after-school sessions every Monday to gain our qualification with the help of lovely Miss Lewis. We have all learnt lots of new things and experienced an insight into the lives of sports leaders and PE teachers. After looking at the roles of officials, fair play and many more topics, we had the chance to lead younger children, both during a netball festival and at the summer festival.

Being a good sports leader takes dedication and drive. You need to enjoy coaching, umpiring, generally helping and, of course, sport itself. This award has made me realise how fun it is working in this sector of leadership and has reinforced our confidence, leadership skills and knowledge of what it takes to carry out and plan sporting activities. If you want to try something innovative and discover the fun in sports leadership, then this is the thing to go for. I'd like to say thank you to everyone for making my Monday after-school sessions such a beneficial and enjoyable experience.

Sabeera Dar 9P

Luton Schools Athletics Championships

The day of the championships, July 8th, started early for the girls and it was also very wet - usual British weather. A group of approximately 35 pupils from all years boarded a bus bound for Stockwood Park Athletics track to compete against all high schools in Luton. The day did not start particularly well: there was no problem with the girls' performance but we had a constant battle against the elements that disrupted the flow of the day. However, not once did the girls grumble; rather they continued to show their determination to do well.

From the start of the day, the girls demonstrated they were going to be tough to beat with noticeable performances from Zhane Quashie 10M, who came first in the Long Jump and second in the 300m, Nickesha Hutchinson 11R, second in the 100m, and Rachel Diggle 10Y, who stormed to victory in the 1500m. In the Shot Putt we showed our strength with Samar Hamani 7O

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and Sara Khan 8I both coming second in their age group.

As the day progressed, not only did the weather improve but so, too, did Challney's performance with the majority of our girls finishing in the top four. There were noticeable performances from Smaira Kauser 11P, second in the Discus, Kelly Helsop 10A, second in the Hurdles, Anna Burton 10Y, second in the High Jump, and again Zhane Quashie, second in the 200m. One of the most exciting parts of the day was the relays with Challney reaching the final in all three age groups.

The year 7s performed exceptionally well considering some last minute changes to the team and came in a creditable seventh place. The year 8/9 relay team were put under pressure to the line with Tolu Akinmokun 9P managing to hold off the opposition to obtain a bronze medal. The year 10/11 team, which had shown its pure strength and speed earlier on in the heats, later stormed round to an easy gold in the final.

A big "well done" should go to all the girls that took part as it was their effort and determination that helped us to finish in a fantastic third place overall out of all the competing schools. Congratulations!

County Basketball

On Saturday 7th May some friends and I had a fantastic opportunity to go to the county basketball trials for a team selection. Fortunately for us, we had our head of PE, Miss Orr, to take us there. At the trials there were eight girls from Luton. It was very daunting and made us extremely nervous but we showed our talent and this got all four Challney girls into the Bedfordshire team. We were all ecstatic! The following Saturday we had our first tournament which was another great experience. Sadly we didn't win but came out of it as twenty five fighters and a newly formed team.

Shenia Jouavel 9P

Fencing

After a large number of pupils had persistently requested the introduction of fencing clubs at Challney, the sports council listened to their ideas

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and finally introduced the sport into the after-school curriculum. Happily, students from across different years attended the first session, and all agreed that they had thoroughly enjoyed the activity. During the course of the lesson, the girls learned basic skills and took part in competitive fencing matches. One of the participants, Aleesah Miah 9C reported -

'I wasn't planning on going to fencing but my friends, Ika and Harriette, advised me to give it a go. It was really fun. We learnt how to fight so that I felt like a musketeer! It was an amazing experience and I am really looking forward to going again.'

Fencing is a unique and exciting sport and we are fortunate enough to be able to provide this opportunity to all students. It is always great when everyone is willing to try something new.

Ika Chowdry 9C

Culture Club News



This has been a very successful, eventful and busy term for both pupils and staff. Father's Day was celebrated by making cards and photo frames. We also

looked at the history of the royal family and celebrated the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton as well as the 90th birthday of Prince Philip.

Pupils and staff read poems from different cultures and listened to an array of classical and contemporary music which has increased their cultural awareness of the diversity in the communities.



We have had fun making summer hats decorating them with handmade flowers, ribbons and lace. This coincided with Ladies Day at Ascot so we were able to look at the wonderful hats worn on the day.

Projects we are working on at the moment include making octopuses out of wool, making paper

puppets, and looking at toys that children played with in the past.

These projects will continue into the Autumn Term. We will also be working towards and getting ready to participate in the London 2012 Olympic celebrations in Luton.

Thank you to all pupils for your enthusiasm and participation; we look forward to seeing you all next year. Thank you also to Mrs Sharma, Mrs Daved, Ms Soames, Mrs Wallbank and Mrs Davey for all their hard work and enthusiasm this term.

Refurbishment of the school piano



When we left the old building in Stoneygate Road, we were so lucky to be able to start a new school with new computers, new desks and chairs, new whiteboards, and some amazing new instruments in the music department. Yet we also brought with us something that looked so fragile that if we moved it much it might even have fallen off its legs! Of course, we are referring to that old grand piano in the assembly hall that had suffered coffee, tea, dust and moths for many, many years. Indeed, this seven-foot monster will next year be celebrating its 100-year anniversary, so it seems understandable, then, that it would need rather a lot of TLC. Rather than replacing this Blüthner piano with a new model costing £70,000, Miss Eliot offered her experience of reconditioning pianos to try to repair the dilapidated instrument. Her work is now almost complete. All that is left is to make the exterior of the piano (including a few missing white keys) look good again. Then it'll be ready to stand on its own three feet for the next 100 years and perhaps be hoping that it won't be punished with any more tea, coffee, dust or moths!

Race for Life 2011



... and just a few of our runners at this year's Race for Life in Stockwood Park

Arrivals and departures

Sadly, we must say farewell to the following staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term: Miss Plews, Deputy Head Teacher; Mr Justin, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and Learning Support; Mrs Farley, Joint Subject Leader in Art; Mrs Ahmed, part-time teacher of Mathematics; Miss Rotchell, Teaching Assistant in Learning Support; Mr Ryan, Science Technician; Mrs Rashid, Receptionist. We wish them all well for the future.

We would like to welcome the following staff to our school: Miss Darr, Deputy Headteacher; Ms M Hamilton, part-time teacher of Health and Social Care; Mrs Carter, part-time teacher of Design Technology; Mrs Tangri, part-time teacher of Science; Mrs Scholes, Modern Foreign Languages teacher; Mrs Wild, Design Technology Technician; Mrs Stalin, Teaching Assistant in Learning Support; Mrs Durbridge, Teaching Assistant in Behaviour Support. We hope they have a happy and successful time with us.

Miss Plews

It is always sad when we have to say goodbye to any member of our school community but this term we have an especially difficult task of saying farewell to one of our longest serving and most treasured members of staff, Miss Plews. Having joined the school in September 1975, she became Deputy Headteacher in March 1992, a post which she has held with distinction ever since.

It is testimony to how highly she is valued that her colleagues were recently overheard to make the following comments about her in the staffroom during the course of a single lunch time:

- She has made an indelible mark on the school.
- She is always so friendly and welcoming
- She is dedicated, humorous and compassionate
- She has such a strong sense of purpose
- She epitomises everything that is good about the school
- She has been integral to the design of the new school building and this will be her lasting legacy

Farewell, Miss Plews, and thank you.

Autumn Term Diary 2011

- Mon 5th Sept – Staff training day**
- Tues 6th Sept – Y11 Consultation Day; Y7 and Y10 return**
- Wed 7th Sept – Y8 and Y9 return**
- Thurs 8th Sept – Y10 Information Evening**
- Fri 9th Sept – Y10 Coffee Morning**
- Thurs 15th Sept – Y7 Information Evening**
- Friday 16th Sept – Y7 Coffee Morning**
- Thurs 22nd Sept – Y11 Information Evening**
- Fri 23rd Sept – Y11 Coffee Morning**
- Thurs 29th Sept - Y8 Information Evening**
- Friday 30th Sept – y8 Coffee Morning**
- Thurs 6th Oct – Y9 ICT Information Evening**
- Fri 6th Oct – Y9 Coffee Morning**
- Thurs 13th Oct – Y6 New Intake Day**
- Thurs 20th Oct – Consultation Day**
- Fri 21st Oct – Staff training Day**
- Mon 24th to Fri 28th Oct – Half term holiday**
- Thurs 10th Nov – Awards Evening**
- Thurs 24th Nov – Y10 Information Evening**
- Fri 16th Dec – End of Term**