

Chauncy Christmas

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2013

This is our first paperless newsletter, taking up no space at all in the bottom of your child's bag. Parents will receive the newsletter by email and you may also find it on our Facebook page or via Twitter. The Facebook account is fascinating and received 2,372 hits last week. Steve Walton posts photos of school trips and events to the obvious delight of parents and students alike. Embracing the Facebook concept has its drawbacks as I eavesdrop the lives of X Factor fanatics, pictures of babies and cats and the occasional violent explosions by our "friends" angered by their friends, traffic problems or football teams.

2013 has been a momentous year for us. We are full on first preferences for September 2014 and I have lost count of the families, sadly, been turned away in older year groups. An exciting governors meeting in November agreed that having 1024 students was just about right for a school where staff, students and parents knew and trusted each other. The new History & Maths building, opening in January marks our last formal building for a while. Exam results fell nationally in 2013 but ours rose to record highs. Our Ofsted Parentview ranking may well be the best in the country and I am delighted that so many of you seem to read my moderate blogs. We have great plans ahead to support students in the new exam regime and parents can expect a school wide focus on improving writing in 2014.

Dennis O'Sullivan (Headteacher)



Can we please remind parents, that our preferred method of payment for lunches, trips, music fees and in fact, anything you need to pay the school for, is online via Wisepay, which is accessed from the school website by clicking on the Wisepay box on the homepage. We will send out username and password reminders in the new year, but if you require your details sooner, please contact accounts@chauncy.org.uk. The school cannot take responsibility for cash brought into school. By topping up your son/daughter's lunch account online, you can ensure they are using the money for a healthy lunch and you can keep an eye on what your son/daughter is eating. We would like to advise parents that from the start of the Spring Term, any change required (up to the value of £5.00) from payments made in cash, will be transferred to your son/daughter's lunch account. This will reduce the amount of cash we have to hold on site. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The Finance Office



Art Department News

This half term has been a busy one for the Art Department here at Chauncy. Year 11's have been hard at work preparing for their mock exams and Years 10, 12 and 13 are in the middle of coursework projects, developing some excellent ideas for what we hope will be a very impressive show in the summer term.

Our creative Art Technician Melina, prepared an exhibition of evening class work in the gallery which proved to be very successful. The artists sold several pieces, prints, paintings and ceramics to raise money for the Alex Barton fund for treatment. The evening was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and artists. Evening classes run every Tuesday evening from 6pm until 9pm at a cost of £56 a term, if you are interested in joining please contact Jo Hammond via email, jo.hammond@chauncy.org.uk.

Students have been out and about on a number of trips including a visit to London with Miss Garratt and Miss Stuart where they toured several galleries and collected some valuable primary imagery for their studies in photography, art and textiles. Students particularly enjoyed the 'Candy' show where viewers were encouraged to eat the exhibits!

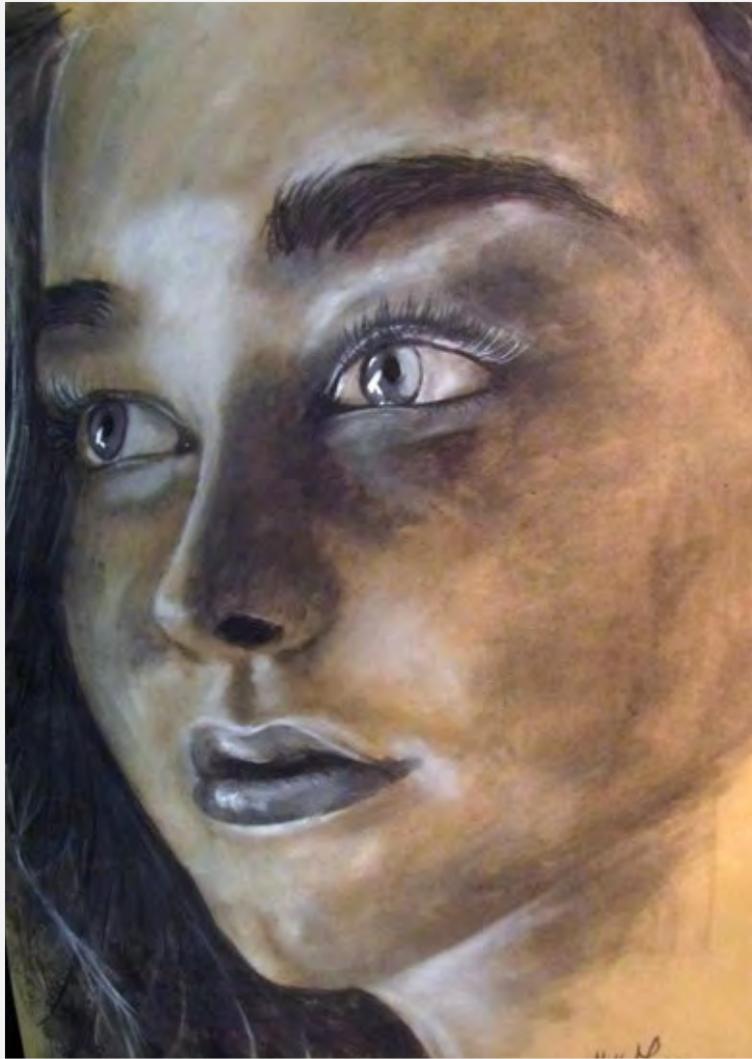
BTEC Art and Design students in Year 13 have been working collaboratively with the Year 11 dance students in order to create moving backdrops for a performance entitled 'Someone Else's Shoes' which will take place in the gallery in January.

Art club continues to be well attended with Miss Sinfield working with KS3 students to produce a whole host of exciting and more developed work. Students produced an excellent set of decorations for this year's Christmas tree for Dickensian Evening in Ware as well as screen printed cards for their families.

Ceramics continues to be popular among the students and staff here at Chauncy, with some excellent pieces being made in response to Henry Moore with Miss Courtney in Year 8 as well as some alternative offerings in the Christmas Decorations staff workshop, very modern!

Students in Year 9 are currently considering their subject options for Year 10 and we hope to convince many of them to study one of the art subjects. The year group will all take part in a 'Creative Careers' day where they will be able to work with a practicing artist and produce a finished piece as part of a collaborative project. For example Miss Collins will be creating fake wounds and demonstrating stage make-up techniques. This will take place on the 17th January and the next newsletter will feature images of the results!

Mrs Jo Hammond



Year 10 Coursework by Holly Manser



Baubles made by
Year 7 Art Club



Year 9 Ceramics by
Luisa Rennie

Dance News

A group of Year 10 students have been delighting audiences with their festive dance performances as part of a recent tour to local Primary Schools. One piece has also been chosen to showcase to staff and students as part of the annual Chauncy Christmas Revue show.

The students involved are, Rosa Alcantara, Jenna Buckle, April Cull, Eva Harrell, Shannon McNamara, Alexandra Morley, Hannah Ogunyemi, Megan Parlow and Danielle Sibthorpe.

Miss Kerrianna Lester

Year Seven Basketball

The year 7 Basketball team have made an excellent start to the District League. Wins against St Mary's, Sele, Sheredes, Goffs, Turnford and John Warner mean that we have a very good chance of winning the district. With 2 games to go it looks as though it will be extremely tight between us and Simon Balle for the title.

Year Nine Basketball

The year 9 Basketball team kick started their County League campaign after two disappointing results left them in need of a precious win. The visitors on this occasion were the county champions from the previous year St Columbus' College. The away team, normally used to playing in a sports hall seemed sluggish to start as Chauncy dominated the early exchanges scoring four unanswered baskets in the first two minutes. Dominance continued for the rest of the first quarter with Chauncy heading into the first interval 17-8 ahead.

In the second quarter Columbus' rallied as all good champions do and started to earn themselves a foothold in the game however, consistent scoring from Alex Emmerson and Danish Khan meant that Chauncy were able to ride the storm getting to half time with the scores level at 27-27.

The third quarter continued with a lot of open, end to end basketball with both teams playing extremely good balls and working hard to present themselves clear opportunities. In the last minute of the quarter Chauncy re-established their lead finishing 47-43 ahead.

With the prize scalp of the current champions in sight and an enthusiastic home support Chauncy pulled away from Columbus'. Danish Khan, Lewis King and Alex Emmerson began to score at will and Chauncy began to ease further ahead. Columbus were clearly rattled and never really recovered. Chauncy came away winners with a fantastic 70-57 final score.

The boys will look to build on this fantastic win in the New Year with games against Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin Boys School, Parmiters & Cavendish still to come.

Mr Fabian Smith



Diary

20th END OF TERM - 1.30 pm

January

6th Spring Term Begins
20th Year 11 Reviews Home
21st Year 11 Parents' Evening

February

4th Year 7 Reviews Home
6th Year 7 Parents' Evening
7th Inset Day—Staff Conference
8th Staff Conference
11th Year 9 Reviews Home
17th Half Term
25th Year 9 Parents' Evening

March

4th Careers Day—whole school
10th Year 8 Reviews Home
11th Year 8 Parents' Evening
14th Mock Interview Day
17th Year 10 Reviews Home
19th Year 10 Parents' Evening
27th Years 12/13 Reviews Home

April

4th END OF TERM 1.30 pm
22nd Summer Term Begins

May

5th May Bank Holiday
22nd Year 9 Reviews, Achievement
Assembly (Date to be confirmed)
26th Half Term

June

2nd End of Year Exams begin

July

1st Year 7 Reviews, Achievement
Assembly
8th Year 8 Reviews—Achievement
Assembly
10th Year 6 Induction Day and
Parents' Evening
11th Chauncy Rocks, Community Day
16th Year 10 Reviews Home
18th END OF TERM, 1.35 pm

You can find all the latest
information at www.chauncy.org.uk



Chauncy at Christmas

DECEMBER

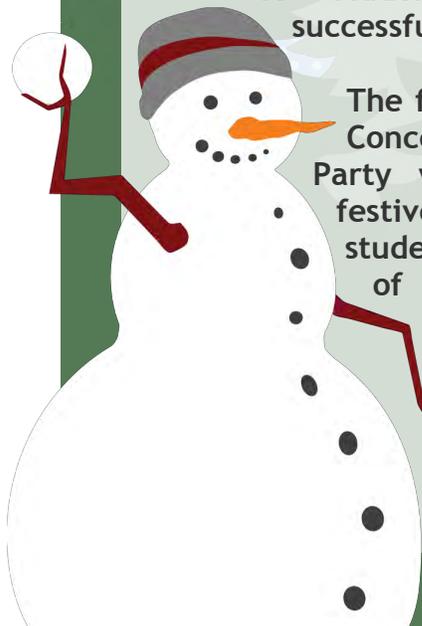
2013

Christmas always begins early at Chauncy School with a whole host of community activities planned in an enjoyable, if rather hectic December.

We started the seasonal festivities with our Christmas Party for St. Elizabeth's Special Educational Needs School in Sawbridgeworth, on Thursday 5th December. Over 40 Chauncy students planned, prepared and hosted a Christmas extravaganza that included a disco, a buffet, prizes, karaoke and a visit from Father Christmas. We have been running this Christmas party for over 35 years and each year it gets bigger and better thanks to the support and goodwill of our students.

On Thursday 5th we organised a mammoth day of Ice Skating at Van Hage, Ware. Over 600 students and staff took to the ice throughout the day and enjoyed delicious hot chocolate afterwards. Many thanks to Galleon Travel and Van Hage, Ware whose generous subsidy allowed us to get most of the student population out skating. We returned to Van Hage on the evening of Friday 13th December with Year 11, 12 and 13 students where enjoyed another successful skating session.

The following day we hosted the Age Concern Over 60s Club Christmas Party where 40 pensioners enjoyed festive food produced by our Year Ten students, an excellent performance of Christmas songs and carols performed by a whole host of talented Chauncy musicians from Year Seven to Year Thirteen.



The Over 60s club also enjoyed a game of prize bingo brilliantly compered by Year Eleven student Aaron 'two little ducks' Persico, a prize raffle and another visit from Santa.



Next up was Dickensian Evening where the school was well represented—singing Carols at Leaside Church and selling confectionary at a stall at the event. The Friends of Chauncy School raised over £200 but our Year Eleven Dragon's Apprentice Team who have been producing, marketing and selling their own brand of chocolate this term managed to sell over £300 of confectionary on the evening. Well done Sarah Slatford, Emma Wilson, Jessica McCreery, Jordan Scrogie, Lydia and Laila Shaban and Roisin Perry for their efforts with Ventura Chocolate so far.



On Monday 9th December we visited St. Mary's Church in Ware for our Year Seven Community Carol Service. The Church was full and parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were treated to some excellent performances from Chauncy musicians and had the Christmas story retold by our Year Seven students through readings and traditional carols. Many thanks once again to Reverend Derrick Peel and the staff at St. Mary's for hosting this event.

On Tuesday 10th December we celebrated the season with our Christmas Concert where 16 acts performed Christmas carols and songs alongside contemporary music, whilst the audience enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine.

Wednesday 11th saw the return of Orchard House Nursery who visit Chauncy each year for their Christmas Party. The infants loved our 25 foot Christmas tree and enjoyed the visit of Father Christmas, who by now was feeling the strain of all these guest appearances but stayed for photographs with the children and some of the mums!

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th saw the Dining Hall staff on 'Sprout Alert' as Mrs O'Neill and her team prepared a magnificent Christmas Lunch for the students and staff. The food was so well received it prompted one Year Seven boy to request Christmas lunch every day!

In the last week of term we are putting together our Staff Christmas Video, our Year Seven Christmas Karaoke Video and finally we have our End of Year Chauncy Christmas Revue which no doubt will be a huge success and a highlight of the school year.

Please check out our Chauncy Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChauncySchool>

for lots of photographs and further information about all of our Christmas events. We are also hoping to stream the Christmas Revue, Staff Christmas Video and the Year Seven Christmas Karaoke via Facebook and should be available from Friday 20th December 2013.

Steve Walton
(Deputy Headteacher)

