

CHAUNCY NEWS

July 2013

We started this academic year taking legal action against the government over the theft of 22 of our students' GCSE results. The court ruled that the students had been treated unfairly but not illegally, so that's alright then. Our teachers responded to the change in GCSEs marking by asking the young people to work even harder and smarter in the pursuit of what I call passport grades. And the students responded brilliantly: extra hours, weekends, additional exams and 100% trust in their teachers. Watch out for great results in August.

Ofsted came and said that, "parent support for the school is overwhelming" and we are so proud of that. Student behaviour is "outstanding" and "impeccable" with one boy saying, "Why would we misbehave?" We have staff leaving and new ones joining. I will see less of my daughter as she takes up a head of department job and less of my music ally Ben Rice who has been promoted to a University Technology College in Elstree. Carol Allison leaves us after 9 years of never missing Film Club, Jo Hussey is leaving Food Tech. Best of luck to Kasia Cook and Janice Mayo who are off to train as teachers. Suzie Depreli will be teaching music at Sele and Katy Tunnard starts a new life on the east coast. Thanks to all of them for what they have contributed and welcome to the new 12.

The new Maths building will open in December and the Music Block will be ready in January. I have a 5 year plan for a sports hall which I will submit this week. We had 421 students when I came here and will hit 1,000 in September. This does mean that we are overfull and I have had to turn down applications in Years 9-11. As I start the next 20 years as Headteacher I want to thank the staff, the students and the families of Ware who have made Chauncy School, "an inspiring and exciting place to be."

Dennis O'Sullivan



6th Form Induction

The first week of July proved to be a busy week in Sixth Form. Year 11 came back for 3 days to have a taste of what life will be like when they start Year 12 in September. They were joined by around 15 applicants from other schools who are keen to continue their studies at Chauncy. The highlight of the week was the bouncy castle challenge organised by the PE Department who were ably assisted by our new 6th Form ambassadors. This was followed by a welcome barbecue on the field in the sunshine.

MegaDrive

After a break of a couple of years we welcomed the emergency services and trading standards back to talk to our new drivers and would-be drivers about road safety through a series of workshops. The day ended with a reconstruction of an actual accident on the front playground. With lights flashing and sirens blaring, the fire service and police arrive on the scene closely followed by the ambulance service. Year 12 students who attended described the day as eye opening, shocking, and informative but still fun!

YOUNG CHEF

In March we held a cook off at Chauncy for the students that wished to enter the Young Chef competition held at Hanbury Manor and organised by Ware Rotary. The cook off was thrilling and Alice Manyere was selected to go through to the competition. She spent 5 hours working in the professional kitchens at Hanbury Manor preparing a main meal and dessert for 4 people. All the competitors food looked and tasted fabulous and Alice was given third place by the judges. Well done to her and thank you to the Ware Rotary for organising the competition.



Chauncy Rocks

Friday night saw what must have been one of the largest celebrations of music in the county this year. Some 150 students took part in the annual Chauncy Rocks event, ranging from 11 to 18 year-olds. One band also included some of the teachers and Governors in, what has become, a tradition for the school. The emphasis is on enjoyment and inclusion - everyone who wants to take part is encouraged to do so;

there

were 45 different acts on stage in the four and a half hour show from solo singers to jazz quartets to dance routines to rock bands. Around four hundred parents, family, friends and members of the local community attended this festival of music. What's more, is that for many of the performers, it was their second concert of the day; as part of Chauncy School's Community Day activities, a concert was held for the Over 60s Club in the afternoon.



Music Department

This term has seen a number of successes in the Music Department. Over 50 students have passed exams for either ABRSM, Trinity or Rock School. Included in these results is a Diploma in Jazz Performance gained by Ollie Copeland. This university-level qualification is a fantastic achievement and the first that we have seen at this level at Chauncy. With such an outstanding track record of music exam successes driven by our team of peripatetic teachers, we are now starting to collate data in school to help demonstrate our collective achievement. Exams at Grade 6 and above attract UCAS tariff points which will help in our students' applications to university, irrespective of whether they choose music or not. I would be grateful if copies of mark sheets or certificates could be handed in (or bring the originals for us to copy) so that we can get the full picture of what our students have accomplished. Our peripatetic team is being expanded in September to include Paul Sylvester who will be teaching trumpet and trombone. A taster session will be happening in September, but if anyone would like to start lessons in brass or any other instrument, please e-mail me for further information. We have a large intake for those wanting instrumental lessons from September already. As we look forward to the new music block being open in January, the department continues to grow and enjoy the huge success of our students in all that they do.

Neil Pennock

Industrial Cadets

On Wednesday 10th July, twelve of our Year 9 students qualified as Industrial Cadets after completing a ten week project about making our school more energy efficient. The Industrial Cadets scheme is a new initiative, similar to the well established Duke of Edinburgh award but geared towards Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). It is designed to inspire young people, and encourage them to consider careers in industries such as pharmaceuticals and motor vehicle engineering. The two groups from Chauncy had very different approaches to the course. One group established an "Eco-Council" that plan to monitor the use of energy in our school, and run campaigns to use energy more wisely in the future. The other group put together a convincing proposal to ask the school to install water heaters that rely on natural materials, rather than by burning gas. Whatever the approach, the aim was the same - save energy, save money, help save the environment. The culmination of the course was a celebration day held at GlaxoSmithKline world headquarters in London. The students presented their ideas to a renowned panel of judges, and their peers from 16 other schools from around the country. The students did themselves, and the school, proud. The judges said that their presentations were the most confident, clear and detailed out of any of the other schools presenting. The end result was that each of the students were awarded their status as Industrial Cadets, as well as receiving a STEM leadership award. As a measure of how well they have done, it is worth mentioning that our students are amongst the first in the country to receive this prestigious award.

Congratulations to them all - It is well deserved, and will look great on University and Apprenticeship applications in the future! Our Industrial Cadets are: Rosa Alcantara, Oliver Childs, Paige Carrington-Coles, Lauren Elvidge, Josh Lawrence, Kate Lewis, Sam McCreery, Megan Parlow, George Reeves-Williams, Chloe Rogers, Charlie Smith, Jenny MacDonald.

Starlight Express

On the 25th April a group of students from the gifted and talented drama group went to see Starlight Express at the Milton Keynes theatre. When we first arrived Miss Ferris had a surprise for us as she had arranged for us to go backstage and it was a fantastic sight to look out from the stage to see the empty audience. We got to meet the cast and see all the heavy costumes that they have to wear during the show. Starlight Express is a multimedia performance using 3D effects which made it exhilarating and unique to watch. The actors moved around the stage on rollerskates and when we spoke to actors in the interval they informed us that none of them had rollerskating experience prior to the show which was incredible. The costumes were really heavy, but on the stage they lit up and looked beautiful. By Samantha Burgess Year 10 and Coral Munro Year 9



The Globe

English and Drama gifted and talented trip to The Globe By Hollie Pennell Year 8.

On Tuesday 4th June a selected group of gifted and talented students in English or drama were invited on a trip to see Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. It was an interesting and fun trip. We had a guided tour around the theatre and the guide was great and very informative. After lunch we took part in a drama workshop which was based on the play 'The Tempest' as this is what we will be studying in English next year. It was great and I now know some things about the play, that as I knew nothing about before the trip!! I really enjoyed the day.

Diary

July

19th End of Term (1.35 pm)

September

2nd, Inset Day

3rd, Years 7 and 12 only

4th Whole school return

October

28th Half Term

December

20th END OF TERM Christmas Holiday

January

6th New Term

February

17th Half Term

April

4th END OF TERM Easter Holiday

May

5th May Bank Holiday

26th Half Term

July

18th END OF TERM

SPORTS

Athletics

Beck Grover - On the 8th June Beck competed in the Hertfordshire schools' country track and field championship for 800m. He already won the club county championships the previous weekend. Beck was looking to be selected for the English schools' championships so needed to run the entry time of 2 minutes 6 seconds.

He performed an excellent run and made the selection time and is now the county champion in both schools and clubs. He holds the school record for 800m with his time of 2.06.0.



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

Girls Football



Year 7 girls football team. - Finalists in the district cup. After a successful season they faced Turnford in the finals of the district cup. The girls fought hard but couldn't keep up with the Turnford team and lost the match in the last half of the game.

Nicky Morris Athletics Challenge Winners

A fantastic day with athletes from year 7 to year 13 competing from schools across Hertfordshire at Wodson Park. Year 7 girls athletics team - 1st place

Grace Gentry, Becky Hart, Gemma Dwyer, Catrina Boyd, Deana Conteh, Alice Parkins, Libby Hockney, Fay Bishop and Amelia Hall.

Year 8&9 girls team - 1st Place.

Megan Whichelow, Sekani Lyons, Alex Morley, Ellie Beckett, Seran Turner, Paige Law, Eloise Bishop, Jenna Becket and Charlotte Isaac.

Overall place including senior team 1st place!

Senior team was;

Olivia Harry, Emma Wilson, Jess McCreery, Sammy Jo Wren, Lexi Eaves, Morgan Ward, Sophie Casserly, Megan Bishop, Annie Clarke.

Art Department



Chauncy School Art Department has been celebrating its creative successes in The Gallery this week at the annual end of year exhibition. Students, parents and staff attended the opening night of 'Futures', featuring artwork from all Year 13 and a number of Year 12 students. On display was a wide variety of multi-disciplinary work produced as responses to A-Level and Btec course briefs.

Two students were awarded special prizes to recognise their efforts and fantastic achievement over the past two years, Ciara Sullivan and Casey Bartlett, the Art Department wish them and all the other students moving on this year every success for their future.

The exhibition continues to be on display into the new term for those who wish to visit the school and view it.

Battlefields Tour

In June 70 students and staff travelled to the Battlefields of the First World War in Ypres and on the Somme. We visited key sites such as the impressive memorial at Vimy Ridge commemorating the Canadian's killed during the war. While in Ypres students had the opportunity to walk through the trenches at Sanctuary Wood. Remembrance is a key part of the trip and on our second evening George Reeves-Williams, Jack Funnell and Katie Finch laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the Menin Gate. This was an incredibly moving and memorable experience for all involved.

On our third day we travelled down to the Somme battlefields. This gave students the chance to see the landscape of the harrowing battles of 1916. At Thiepval, the memorial to the 72,000 missing soldiers, Lauren Elvidge, Holly Manser and Callum Scott laid a wreath. At Thiepval we were joined by one of the branches of the British Legion. The students spoke with veterans from other conflicts and shared their experience of the battlefields. For Callum it was very poignant as his Great Great Uncle is buried on the Somme. We visited the grave and held a small ceremony of remembrance. Our tour ended with a visit to Talbot House. This was a very special place for the soldiers, a chance to escape the horrors of the front. Izzy Hine played on the same piano and organ that soldiers 100 years ago had used. This was an incredibly memorable trip and plans are already underway for the next tour in 2014.



CAREERS

It has been an exceptionally busy period for Careers with National Apprenticeship and Careers Week having taken place and the successful launch of Careers on Twitter@chauncycareers and Facebook for up to date information for Open Days, University information and all Apprenticeship and School Leaver Programme information. To support these weeks, students have participated in various Careers Days a few of which are below.

Whole School - Careers Day

Year 7 enjoyed a carousel of activities based on scientific engineering tasks. Students were able to use their maths skills to find out how to build the tallest tower, they became creative by building their own bacteria models, mouldy mugs and marble mazes and their expert skills by designing different products by using k'nex. Some became Career Detectives and explored different career options using various skills including sentence forming, researching and charades.

Year 8 a day as an apprentice. Working in teams they had to find out their strengths for various company positions and hold formal meetings to discuss the day's plan. The Marketing Manager, Quality Control Manager and the Finance Officer attended workshops to establish what the job entails to help them produce products of good quality and eventually bringing their team and products to the hall and getting ready to pitch. As Sir Alan Sugar was unfortunately not available Mr Dennis O'Sullivan was keen to step in to do the hiring and firing. Products that were pitched to the panel included cup cakes, jewellery, cards and candles to name but a few. The final was between two teams and



eventually the Candle team were hired. Their prize is a trip to Disney Headquarters in London for an Enterprise Day. Students then held a bazaar to sell their products the next day. Well done to all Year 8 students who have raised money for charity.

Year 9's had an introductory day for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, orienteering around the Ware area following maps and having designated check points while the other half of the day was spent at Harlow Outdoor Centre taking part in activities such as high ropes, dragon boat racing, mountain boarding, archery and the climbing wall. All enjoyed a fantastic day even the staff had a go and it taught the students about team work and learning new skills. For images of the day's events, please visit the school website, A-Z and Careers KS3 and KS4.

Year 10 - Work Shadowing Week

Year 10's have just finished a successful Work Shadowing week. We had 99% of students attend placements in Ware and as far afield as France. Work Shadowing diaries were kept as a record of their experience which included office based positions, farming, police and banking. All students seemed to enjoy themselves and hopefully this will give an idea of a career path and encouragement to achieve this with option choices and hard work.



CAREERS, Continued

Year 11 - Mock Interview Day

150 Year 11's were off timetable for the day and invited to attend an interview with one of our 25 external volunteers who gave up their time and expertise from various local companies. Each student had to prepare a letter and curriculum vitae applying for positions such as a mechanics, beauticians and physical trainers to name but a few. Students attended their 20 minute interview wearing appropriate attire and all looked smart, nervous but very enthusiastic. Our volunteers each interviewed five students, asking them relevant questions and making the experience as informative as possible, to give each interviewee a realistic interpretation of how an interview will proceed when they move on from Chauncy for either further education, an apprenticeship or full time employment. Although the environment was to be as realistic as possible, in this case our mostly apprehensive students, were greeted with a warm welcome and made to feel relaxed by our expert interviewers with excellent oral and written feedback given at the end. As well as Mock Interview Day, Chauncy held a Carousel of Post 16 Career Talks for the Year 11 students to attend including the University of Hertfordshire on "Why go to University?" Chauncy wishes to thank all who participated and are grateful for all the positive comments they received.

Year 9 - Careers Carousel

All Year 9 students recently participated in a Careers Carousel where they each had an opportunity to meet four representatives of different careers and to spend five minutes discussing career options with each of them. There were 35 volunteers from areas including the police, banking, electrical, pharmaceutical, photography, graphic design, engineering, the construction industry, to name but a few, with a star guest which was a snake from Paradise Wildlife Park. With the help of Kudos, an online careers guidance and information program, the students had been able to select representatives of the careers they were most interested in to speak to on the day.

RAF MOT Day - 25th February 2013

Year 9's have taken part in our Annual RAF MOT Maths Challenge Day. Students took part in a Carousel of mathematical challenges including map reading, plans and elevations of military vehicles and bases, loading equipment in the most efficient way spatially and the maths of factorials and permutations in designing a security check schedule. Each maths group worked in teams of 6 to strategically solve the puzzles posed on them. Our thanks go out to our RAF volunteers for giving up their time to provide an enjoyable day for staff and pupils.

Year 12 Work Shadowing Week 3rd - 7th June To support the new criteria for students applying to University in 2014 to have participated in work experience within the field that they are interested in studying, students successfully raised to the challenge in the world of work in various occupations. This experience will help enrich their applications for University, coursework for various subjects and to help them with future decisions on their career paths after Year 13.

The Real Game - Year 8 - 9th July 2013

Students participated in The Real Game led by their Form Tutors. They enjoyed various activities including role play to help them with different careers and life skills. Firstly, they learnt about different careers and what path to take to reach their goal. Students were encouraged to realise how their school work, social life, work and community experiences contribute to the many opportunities open to them. Students examined their own aptitudes and interests and were able to test real-world decisions. The Real Game series empowers students to take their own future into their hands!



CAN YOU HELP? - IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH VARIOUS CAREER ACTIVITIES OR COME IN AND TALK TO STUDENTS PLEASE CONTACT KAREN GRAY THROUGH THE SCHOOL. karen.gray@chauncy.org.uk