

A Specialist Humanities College

# NEWSLETTER



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## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

### Welcomes

At our first full school assembly of the new school year, I was pleased to be able to welcome back all students. I was also delighted to welcome the new Yr. 7 students to John Colet and all of those students who are new to the school in other year groups. I do hope that they all have a successful time at John Colet.

We have also welcomed new staff to the school.

Mr Allen, Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Koumi, MFL Teacher

Mrs Amir, ICT Teacher

Miss Macbeth, Learning Support Assistant

Mr Bevan, Maths Teacher

Mrs March, Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Burrows, Cover Supervisor

Mrs Norris, Head of Science

Miss Collyer, Cleaner

Mrs North, Learning Support Assistant

Miss Crowell, Geography teacher

Mr Price, Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Drammeh, Finance Manager

Miss Richardson, Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Ellershaw, English teacher

Mr Simpson, RE Teacher

Mrs Emmerson, Learning Support Assistant

Mr Stewart, Learning Support Assistant

Mr Hussain, Science Teacher

Mrs Bond will be Head of Year 8 during Mrs Fanchi's maternity leave. Miss Sadler (English) is now known as Mrs Griffin.

### Exam results

We had an excellent set of results this summer and all of the students involved in external exams must be congratulated on their performance. A lot of hard work from the students, staff and parents goes into the success.

In Year 13, there was a 98% pass rate with nearly 40% of the grades at A\*-B. The top performances were by **Stuart Creed** with A\* in Maths and Physics, A in Product Design and B in Further Maths; **Sam Walker** with A\* in Travel and Tourism, A in Business Studies and B in Geography; **Georgia Brennan** with an A in Business Studies and Travel and Tourism and B in Sociology; **Lee Fitzgerald** with an A in Maths and Physics and B in Biology.

In Year 12, the top performances were by **Will Gurton** with an A in RE and PE and B in Sociology; **Alice McDonagh** with A in Communication Studies, and B in Business Studies, ICT and Sociology.

Congratulations to **Franco Wong** in Year 12 who achieved 100% in his Maths modules.

In the GCSEs, the 5+ A\*-C grades including English and Maths was 56%; 5 A\*-C not including English and Maths was 71%, which was up on last year. Students also achieved higher grades with, on average, each student being one grade higher in four subjects than the previous year. All students completed Year 11 with 5 GCSE grades including English and Maths.





### News from the Head cont'd

Our top performing students were:

- Aby Alford with 13 GCSEs with 12 at A/A\*
- Jonathan Farrell with 11 GCSEs with 8 at A/A\*
- Will Segrave with 12 GCSEs with 7 at A/A\*
- Amber Dale with 12 GCSEs with 9 at A/A\*
- Josh A Smith and Alice Fortune with 12 GCSEs with 8 at A/A\*

Congratulations to the following students in Year 11 who got 100% in modules: Hannah Pickford (French); Katie Donkin (French); Faisal Khan (Additional Science); Josh Davies (Additional Science); Kashif Malik (Additional Science); Cameron Lambie (Additional Science); Rebecca Page (Additional Science); Josh Ellis (Additional Science); Tom Record (Additional Science); Tom Bicknell (Additional Science); Daniel Evans (Additional Science); Abi Harris (Additional Science); Josh Lockyer (Additional Science); Anam Hanif (Additional Science); Jack Power (Additional Science); Abi Alford (Physics, Chemistry and Humanities); Will Segrave (Physics); Amber Dale (Physics and RE); Megan Jackson (Physics); Ellen Blackburn (Humanities); Gemma Seabrook (History); Jonathan Farrell (History).

Year 10 students also took a variety of modules upon which they will be building this year. Congratulations must go to the following students who achieved 100% in a module: Ryan Brooks (Science and Geography); Harry Craker (Science); Ramsay Elmilik (Science); Joseph Glue (Science); Isabelle Hooper (Science); Ryan Murray (Science); Jack Rootes (Science); Jenna Sandford (Science); Niamh Brady (Geography); Robert Hazard (History).

### School Strategy

On 1 August 2011, we became an Academy and so John Colet School is now independent of the Local Authority. We will be looking carefully this year at how we want to use this freedom for the benefit of the students.

This year, we will be looking at how we communicate both within and external to the school and will be looking for parental input on various aspects.

Our main focus will still be on raising achievement for all students. We are also looking at our post-16 offer and are very pleased to be working with The Grange school this year on Sixth Form provision so that we can offer more choices to our students.

### Uniform

Girls' uniform continues to be causing us problems. Some girls are coming to school in skirts which are not at all suitable and look like the girl is going clubbing. The skirts are tight, short, ride up so that backsides are visible and sometimes have splits up the sides. In short, these skirts and their wearers look a mess!

The students have been told to get suitable skirts. I have told all of the girls in an assembly that this term I will be monitoring girls and the appropriateness of their uniform. We may have to look at banning skirts and bringing in regulation trousers for the girls if they are not able to address the issues for themselves.

### GCSEs and Years 9, 10 and 11

In the summer, the Government announced a change in the way that GCSEs will be assessed.

#### For Year 9

Modular GCSEs have been abolished and this will affect Year 9. It will now not be possible to sit module exams during the course and to resit them. The external written exams must now all be taken in the sitting where the final GCSE grade is being requested, which in most cases will be the end of Year 11. Controlled Assessments and coursework will still happen throughout the course but the marks will be submitted at the time when the external written papers are being done. At this stage, we are being told that syllabi are not being changed, just the way that the external assessment takes place.

#### For Years 10 and 11

These year groups will continue with modular GCSEs and be able to sit modules during the course. However, only one resit of each module is possible and there are rules as to when certain modules must be sat which the teachers are having to consider when entering students for modules.

**Mrs C McLintock**

## 'Taking Care' through the Summer



Hello, I'm Trevor Shurmer, the fairly new Facilities Manager having joined the school site team in early May this year. Having taken a few weeks to look at the school, the Summer break offered the opportunity to work on a number of areas that needed attention such as redecoration of corridors, some classrooms and a lot of external woodwork. The school had a deep clean so that it was ready for the new school year. Work has continued on the Lecture Theatre roof, given the leak it suffered earlier in the year and we hope to have it back in operation soon.

Sadly on the first morning of the Summer holidays, the site team arrived at school and were greeted by a scene of devastation at the swimming pool. Over the weekend, vandals had smashed their way in and thrown every item of pool equipment into the pool. A picnic bench had also been taken from the nearby garden area and thrown into the pool. Then, in a callous action designed to cause maximum damage a pole had been used to "spear" the pool liner. The pool had to be emptied, relined, refilled and rebalanced which took over 6 weeks. The Wendover Swimming Association had to cancel all of its planned Summer activities which meant that young people in Wendover lost out. Happily, the pool is now back in action.

The Police are actively involved in trying to catch the vandals. Although the insurance company will meet most of the £30,000 cost, we have had to use some of the school's budget to cover the cost. The effect on the staff and wider community who use the pool was devastating; this was far from a victimless crime. The team recovered from the disappointment of the vandalism and have all contributed to making the school look impressive for the first day of term. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank each of them for their hard work.

**T Shurmer - Facilities Manager**

## Key Stage 3 Focus Week 2011

On the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 we had a very successful Focus Week for Years 7, 8 and 9. This is a curriculum initiative that involves themes from the New National Curriculum for KS3. These themes are taught in cross-curricular subject groups to develop strong links between subjects and enrich the curriculum.

The normal timetable was suspended and students were based in different areas of the school in order to complete a variety of activities. Examples of these included Healthy Lifestyles; Technology and the Media, Creativity and Critical Thinking – Mars Project, Global Dimension and Sustainable Development – visit to Whipsnade Zoo, Identity and Cultural Diversity- visit to Neasden Mandir, Culture and Heritage – Normandy visit for Year 7 students.

Identity and Cultural Diversity - Bollywood Experience; Creativity and Critical Thinking – visit to the Imperial War Museum, Global dimension and Sustainable Development, Healthy Lifestyles, Enterprise for Year 8 students.

Heroes and Villains, Healthy Lifestyles, Orienteering, visit to the Science and Technology Museum in London and a 'Who dunnit?' Murder, mystery and suspense day for Year 9 students.

Almost without exception students rated the week as excellent to good in the evaluation sheets they completed after the event. Examples of the learning that took place – "I liked filming with the cameras and editing it. It was fun making a movie." Mars Project – "I liked the presentations at the end, also Art was fun." Healthy Lifestyles – "karate and street dance". Zoo trip – "seeing the sea-lion show". Normandy visit – "Bayeux Tapestry was one of my favourite days", "visiting the American Cemetery and walking on the Pegasus Bridge". "It was all brilliant".

"I liked the puzzles in the Hall"; "science experiments in the Blitz day"; "I enjoyed Bollywood dances"; "I liked the trenches at the Imperial War Museum"; "working with people as a team"; "Zumba !"

"I enjoyed dodgeball, ultimate frisbee and orienteering"; "filming the news report"; "karate"; "who dunnit – finger prints, collecting evidence and working it out, this was interesting, also testing blood and vomit"; Heroes and Villains – Hancock";

When asked on how the activities could be improved in the evaluation, a Year 7 student wrote "maybe have more exciting things like a visit to a theme park, but overall focus week has definitely been one of the highlights of the year." Other students wrote "nothing, it was amazing".

I could list many more positive comments about the week, but the good news is that we will be repeating and developing these experiences for next year.

**Jan Firbank - Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning.**



## The Chick Project 2011

During the Summer term, the Science Department welcomed the arrival of 10 chicken eggs. The eggs were kept in an incubator to keep them warm and to allow them to hopefully hatch. Over the first few days we watched the eggs rocking and cracking in the incubator. Finally, during the second night, our first chicks hatched. Over the next 48 hours all but one egg hatched and we had 9 little chicks to care for. With the help of our Year 8 Gifted and Talented Students we observed and cared for the chicks until they were re-homed at the end of the second week. It was a very successful project and we had a lot of visitors coming to see our fluffy friends.

### **Miss K Harling**

In the chick project we had 9 chicks which we had to weigh, clean, and observe their behaviour. We cleaned them out a lot as they used to get very mucky. Once cleaned, we would weigh the chicks and clean their feet. After that we would let them run about on the table and observe how they behaved.

I enjoyed the project because it was interesting to watch the way the chicks behaved in different places. It was also cool to hold them.

If we did the project again I think that we should be able to keep the chicks for longer and look at the way they behave more. I also think we should keep a diary for them.

What I learned from this was how the chicks hatched, the stages their wings developed and how they reacted to things and to each other.

### **Richard Atkinson 8C**

In the chick project we did experiments to see what the chicks liked, disliked and hated (like food). I enjoyed handling the chicks and looking after them. You could come at lunch-time or after school to help out. We learnt what the range of weight is for the chicks and how much weight they gain day by day.

What I think we could add to the chick project is to keep the chicks for a bit longer to do more observations and to see if the chicks have a consistency in the results for how much weight they put on each day. We could also see if the food they liked changed as they grew older.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of doing the chick project and helping out in the Science Department.

### **Amy Twomey 8C**

In the Chick project we had to investigate how chicks behave. We started with 10 eggs and 9 of them hatched. We then weighed the chicks and looked at the foods they both preferred and hated. We also learnt how to clean and look after the chicks.

I enjoyed this project as it was very practical and enjoyable. It helped me to understand how the chicks adapted to the environment. I would certainly do this again.

### **Alex Hayes 9B**

The chick project was about observing the growth, behaviour and eating habits of the chicks.

I learnt that chicks grow extraordinarily quickly and that chicks like some weird foods like toast, egg and lettuce! I liked holding the chicks and some of them even fell asleep in my hand!

### **Ismael Zaman 8B**



As eggs day 1



Hatching



All our fluffy little chicks



All grown up 3 months later

## PAMELA RELPH WINS WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD MEDAL

Congratulations to Pamela Relph, an ex-student of John Colet School, who, after just eight months in the sport, has won a Gold medal at the World Rowing Championship in Bled, Slovenia.

The Weston Turville athlete was rowing in the bow seat of the GB Legs Trunks and Arms Mixed Coxed Four (LTAM4) crew that led from start-to-finish of the 1Km course, capturing the Gold medal in a time of 3:27.10, nearly five seconds ahead of runners-up Canada.

The victory culminated a dramatic year for Pamela who suffers from a debilitating form of arthritis, restricting movement in her lower limbs and wrists. In the summer of 2010 she was forced to leave the Army due to the severe progression of her illness. However, her sister Monica - a member of the GB able-bodied rowing team - introduced her to the sport where she immediately impressed the national coaches with her strength and mental determination.

"I have always been very sporty and was determined my illness was not going to hold me back in my life" commented Pamela. "I needed a focus and a goal after I left the Army and I can't thank my sister enough for the doors she has helped to open for me in Rowing, not to mention all of the coaching sessions we did together, working on my technique."

The British crew were one of the favourites for the a medal in the Adaptive event, going into the competition, following their win in the Munich World Cup regatta in the Spring, however key rivals Canada missed those races, and were very much an unknown quantity coming into the World championships.

"We knew we were flying in training and our heat and semi-final (in Bled) showed that we meant business, but Canada were the reigning World Champions and we couldn't get carried away with ourselves"

"It was a question of executing our race plan in the final, which was to get out hard and fast and pressurise the rest of the field. Once we had achieved that, we didn't want to let up - there was no question of us easing down as we wanted to make a big psychological point to everyone ahead of the Paralympics next year" said a jubilant Pamela.

The win not only ensures the boat qualifies for the Paralympic regatta at Dorney Lake next September, but that Great Britain go into the event as red-hot favourites for the Gold medal.

Pamela Relph is sponsored by Yes! Concept Ltd.

For further information contact Peter Bell on 07931 703386 or see <http://www.yesconcept.co.uk/rowing-sponsorships>



## Primary Liaison

### Teddy Bears' Picnic



On August 10<sup>th</sup> five Year 9 students gave up a day of their Summer holidays to help The Wendover Rotary Club with their Teddy Bears' Picnic, which was held at the Cricket Club in Wendover. Tabby Taberer, Taylor Proverbs, Emily Trott, Hannah Gillet and Kaja Vijayanathan set up and ran the **Children's Tombola, Name the Teddy, Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar, Paint a Pebble** and **Colour a Teddy** between them. They arrived at 12.30pm to arrange their stalls and organise themselves and stayed until 4.30pm to make sure that everything was cleared up.

The girls really enjoyed themselves and made it a fun day for all the children who had brought along their teddies for a picnic. Wendover Rotary members were very grateful for their help as once again, John Colet students displayed confidence, responsibility and maturity.

**Mrs J Caplan**

## World Challenge Fundraiser Walk

For world challenge we need to fundraise a total of £2000 in order to cover the costs of the trip. In order to do this we set about doing a 50 mile sponsored walk along the Ridgeway which spread across a couple of days.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July we left early morning at 8.00 to get to our start point Uffington Castle, a large Iron Age hillfort, where we walked alongside Mrs Cobley and Mr Brand for 13 miles. Morale was high with it being our first day and the weather was brilliant. We had a 10 minute lunch break and continued until we reached our target. The fort was interesting and the views at every point were stunning.

Each day we seemed to either lose someone due to injury or gain people or dogs who were joining in, so for some it was their first day whilst for others it was their second. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> was the worst day weather wise, it chucked it down non-stop for most of the day. We were joined by Mr Date in the place of Mrs Cobley, who had decided jeans were the best option for this miserable day, later to find it wasn't a good idea but it made us all laugh! Today was the day where Didcot power station came into our sights and it didn't leave until the final day when we walked a further 14 miles.

By the third day everybody was feeling tired and blisters were beginning to emerge so regular sugar boosts were needed of Kendal Mint Cake to keep us all going. We decided that we were going to push through this day so that, instead of finishing at Princes Risborough on the final day, we would walk on a further 5 miles back to the Clock Tower so doing a total of 55 miles.

The final day lifted spirits, we knew the end was in sight but our legs and hips were all aching and we had a few hills to overcome in Princes Risborough. It was another 14 mile day but each day we were that little closer to home and the drives home got shorter and shorter. We made it back to Coombe Hill where the rain looked imminent but we pressed on, almost running to the Clock Tower at the end - at which point it began to rain! We had completed it, raising hundreds of pounds in the process; 55 miles across four days.

Lauren Hall 13D

## Technology Department News

Firstly congratulations to all students who achieved a GCSE, AS or A2 in Technology this academic year. Well done!

Technology is a very important subject at John Colet School. At KS3 we teach skills which will undoubtedly be useful in later life, as well as giving a good basis on which some students will develop as they pursue Technology as an option.

We are always looking for extra assistance in the classroom, so if you think you could spare a morning to help in a volunteer capacity, we would be pleased to make contact. Your services would of course be subject to a CRB check and availability in the department. Please contact [mjohnston@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:mjohnston@johncolet.co.uk) or write a letter for the attention of Mrs M Johnston Design and Technology department. Thank you

Students benefit greatly from school visits and seeing manufacture in action. Due to stringent Health and Safety regulations these visits have become increasingly difficult to organise. Therefore we wondered if there was anybody who could come in to school and demonstrate their particular skill. If you think you are able to offer this as a service please contact the above. Thank you.

**Mrs M Johnston - Head of Technology**





## SSCO NEWS

### SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP

The School Sports Partnership is in place and gearing up for an exciting Olympic Year despite the funding cuts announced last year. With the support of The Youth Sport Trust we are determined to maintain as much as possible of the new initiatives that are now embedded into our school sport programme.

At a local school level our sports clubs and activities have been published and students have opportunities for sport at every lunchtime and after school. Parentally funded activities are understandably becoming more common and we have 2 starting this year, Table Tennis on Tuesday afternoons and Dodgeball on Friday afternoons.

At this time of year we encourage non-swimmers to take the plunge and join us for intensive swimming lessons on Tuesday lunch times which, once they can swim (and it doesn't take long!) enables students to make the most of their swimming lessons on the curriculum.

School teams are being organised for the terms fixtures: the Football is underway, Netball starts next week and Badminton will also start soon. Students who wish to represent the school should attend the relevant club as soon as possible.

The Youth Sport Trust is determined to ensure that young people experience 'quality PE and school sport' and there is still some funding around in the form of national investment from the government and The National Lottery. They are very focussed on 'The School Games' which will provide more opportunities for competition for school children at all levels and will culminate in another National School Games which was held in Sheffield last year. This is all linked to the values and legacy of the Olympics and we have been promised opportunities to visit Olympic venues, before the games take place, in a 'Special School Engagement Programme' organised by The Youth Sport Trust. We would love to get involved with this at John Colet, so watch this space!

We are also planning an Olympic Celebration Event this year for the benefit of our students and also for those of our Primary Schools, which will form part of our active Primary Liaison Programme. This will also include opportunities to link Music and Dance between our family of schools.

If you have any questions regarding clubs and/or competition at John Colet, please do get in touch!

### **S Whitehouse**

**SSCo, [swwhitehouse@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:swwhitehouse@johncolet.co.uk)**

### **REMINDER re YEAR 11 Prom**

**Please see below the contents of a recent letter distributed to Year 11 pupils via the register.**

During Year 11 you may be aware that we hold a Prom for the students. We are writing to Year 11 parents/carers to let you know our policy for how students become eligible to take part in this event.

The Year 11 Prom will be in May 2012. In order to be able to attend, a student must not have had a fixed term exclusion (of any length) during Year 11. We will be focusing on behaviour and/or attitude, along with punctuality and appropriate school uniform. Students who give us cause for concern in any of these areas will be closely monitored and parents will be written to in December to let them know the situation. Unless there is an improvement in these areas they may be placed onto a reserve list for tickets to the Prom.

The students really enjoy the Prom but participation is not an automatic entitlement for Year 11 students rather it is something which they have to earn.

**Mr M Davies/Head of Year 11**



**Mrs J Goodes/Prom Organiser**



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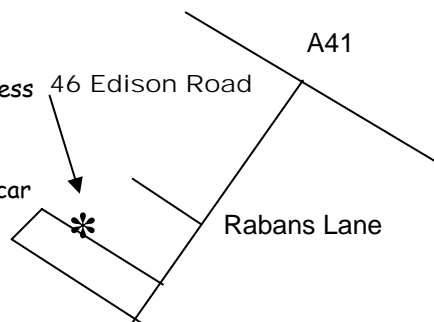
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**HOLIDAY DATES**

**AUTUMN TERM 2011**

**October 1/2 term:** School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 21 October** and re-opens on morning of **Monday 31 October**.

**Christmas Holiday:** School closes at **12.10 p.m. on Friday 16 December**

**SPRING TERM 2012**

School re-opens on morning of **Wednesday 4 January 2012**

**February 1/2 term:** School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 10 February** and re-opens on morning of **Monday 20 February**.

**Easter Holiday:** School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 30 March**.

**SUMMER TERM 2012**

School re-opens on morning of **Monday 16 April**.

**May 1/2 term:** School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 1 June** and re-opens on morning of **Monday 11 June**.

**Summer Holiday:** School closes at **12.10 p.m. on Friday 20th July**.

**INSET DAYS :** Recommended in-service training days for teachers: Tuesday 3 January 2012; Monday 23 July 2012 (plus one more, still to be decided) Easter 2012: 06 - 09 April 2012 Early May Bank Holiday: 7 May 2012 Spring Bank Holiday: 4 June 2012 + 5 June 2012 (additional bank holiday for Queen's Diamond Jubilee)

If you have a business or an event you would like to advertise in the John Colet Newsletter we would be delighted to help. We ask for a small fee of £5.00 per advertisement which is paid into the John Colet School Fund and used to help purchase much needed equipment for the school. If you are interested in this facility please contact the school office on 01296 623348 or E Mail: [office@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:office@johncolet.co.uk)