

Christ's College Finchley



Newsletter

July 2010

Term Dates:

Autumn Term 2010

Thurs 2 Sept (INSET)

Fri 3Sept-Fri 22 Oct

Half Term: 25-29 Oct

Mon 1 Nov-Fri 17Dec

Spring Term 2011

Tues 4 Jan-Fri 18 Feb

Half Term: 21-25 Feb

Mon 28 Feb (INSET)

Tues 1 Mar-Fri 8 Apl

Easter Bank Holiday

22—25 April 2011

Summer Term 2011

Tues 26 Apl (INSET)

Wed 27 Apl-Fri 27 May

May Day—2 May

Half Term:

30 May-3 June

Mon 6 Jne-Wed 20 Jly

Start of Autumn Term arrangements:

Fri 3 Sept

Yr 7— 9.45am-2.45pm

Yrs 8-11—1.30-3.30pm

Yr 12- 8.45am-12.20pm

Yr 13- 1.30 pm start

Once again this has been an exceptionally busy period!

Roof: Many of you will have seen the publicity about our roof that the PFA has managed to garner in the local press. Coming directly on the heels of the Government's cancellation of the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme this has special poignancy. As you may know we were due a partial rebuild and refurbishment as part of this project. It is not yet clear where this leaves us. I have written to parents separately about this issue. Please see my letter on the website.

New security arrangements: In this age of heightened concern about the safeguarding of our students we have undertaken a review of our site to see how we can improve their safety and security. With its long driveway, numerous access points and pathways through to the Junior/Infant Schools it is a particularly difficult site to secure without making it a fortress! Over the Summer period we hope to have installed some electronic gates and controls upon the four main access points into the inner site. This will inevitably impact upon the way in which visitors and traffic are controlled. I will write to you with more details of how this will affect you in the new school year.

Staffing changes: Leaving us this year through retirement are two colleagues who have given superb service to the school:

Mrs Alice O'Reilly, Head of Modern Languages, brings a ten year career at Christ's College Finchley to a close this summer. She has led her department supremely well during that time. She is replaced by Ms L Parkes. Ms Parkes is the former Head of Modern Languages at Friern Barnet County School.

Mr Stuart Baines, Special Educational Needs Teacher, has also worked here at Christ's College Finchley for ten years during which time he has supported countless young people with their learning. He is replaced by Ms G Berwald.

We thank both colleagues for their fantastic commitment over a long period of time and wish them a happy, long and peaceful retirement.

Also leaving us will be:

Mr Craig Farnsworth—ICT Department. Mr Farnsworth's contract with us comes to an end. We wish him every success for the future.

Mr George Panayiotou—Geography/Art Departments is moving to a position at St Michael's Catholic Grammar School.

Other staff changes: I am delighted to tell you that Ms K Wade has been appointed to the position of Deputy Head-teacher. Ms Wade was formerly one of

our Assistant Heads and prior to that Head of History. She will lead the Curriculum and Teaching and Learning strands.

Mr M Kneller has been promoted from Senior Teacher to Assistant Headteacher to replace her.

Mr L Rich joins our Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher. Mr Rich was formerly Faculty Leader at Q E Girls School.

Ms C Barnett has been promoted to the Head of Sixth Form post.

Ms U Kreuzberg is moving from the position of Cover Supervisor to train as a teacher in our Modern Languages Department. She is replaced by Ms S Gratton.

Ms L Sawtell and Ms E Menelaou join us as Learning Mentors. Ms A Teifi joins us as part-time teacher of Art. Ms A Babanini joins us as a Classroom Assistant.

Congratulations to Ms A Antoniou on very successfully completing her training as a teacher with our History Department. Ms Antoniou will be remaining with us next term in a part time capacity.

Mrs Jakes (Head of Business Studies) has very recently given birth to a baby daughter and is presently on maternity leave. Her replacement is Ms D Patel. Ms Patel is an experienced Head of Department from a school outside the Local Authority.

Joining us as Midday Supervisors are:

Mr M Sainsbury, Mrs N Kalva, Mrs D Goldsmith, Mrs L Yepifanova and Mrs S Glick.

Ms Z Pittaway is due to be married over the Summer holiday. We offer her our congratulations! She will return next term as Mrs Sykes.

Four members of staff, Messrs Goldsmith, Kneller, Nalewajko and Tucker, celebrate an important milestone at the end of term. All four have completed 30 years service at Christ's College Finchley! Congratulations to them.

Lastly, I should like to pay tribute to Mrs Lynda Khatir. Lynda has worked in our Special Needs Department supporting young learners and staff over a period of fifteen years. She has been a wonderful and very popular colleague. Sadly, in the last few years Lynda has been battling a debilitating illness and has regrettably decided to stop work and concentrate upon improving her health. The entire staff send her every good wish for the future.

PFA Appeal: In September the PFA will launch its appeal. The aim is to have one identified project annually which will benefit all students. More information will be coming to you directly from the PFA. This year the appeal is for the School Library. Basic refurbishment (flooring and redecoration) is being done over this Summer holiday, but the PFA hope to raise funds to further equip and enhance the area. Please could I urge you to support this appeal. It will benefit your child!

Access to school network by computer: We are increasingly reliant upon parents being able to access information over the internet from home. Pretty much every month new ideas are coming forward for items/information that can be made available to you in this way. The problem of course is knowing the proportion (or actual) parents/families that cannot access the websites we have. With assessments and reports now being totally electronic this is a fundamental issue! We will very shortly send you a text to query this and would be grateful for your prompt response!

The Echo: The latest publication to go on-line is the student newspaper "The Echo". I do hope you are enjoying reading this. We are trying to channel all of the student related news and activities to this publication rather than my newsletter. Please encourage your son or daughter to tell us of their achievements outside school so that we may include them. Congratulations to Ms Tudor and her team of student journalists.

Summer Works Programme:

As usual we are going to get a lot of work done to the building over the summer break:

- Deep cleaning!
- Refurbishment of some floors and ceilings
- Redecoration of certain corridor areas
- Redecoration and re-flooring of the Library
- Siting of a further unit to assist with Inclusion
- Re-modelling of part of PE changing/store areas to provide a fitness area
- New desks and computers in the large Art room
- Refurbishment of the Medical Room and toilet
- Gardens near entrance being improved
- Repairs to air conditioning units in two rooms
- Some general repairs around external site areas

My thanks in advance to Ms Clark and her Facilities Management Team for seeing all this through to conclusion. We will have a cleaner, brighter building to return to in September as a result.

The Academies Programme: I have had a few enquiries about how this may affect us and of course parents will have seen/heard all the publicity. All schools will eventually have access to the programme. Our Governing Body is taking a cautious and sensible approach to finding out how this may benefit/impact upon the school. They are also considering very carefully how other changes in the local pattern of schools may affect us in the future, and are keen to think strategically about what may or may not be best for our school and its students. Governors feel they need more hard facts from the Department for Education before trying to reach a conclusion. Please rest assured they intend to fully consult parents, staff and other stakeholders.

School Uniform: The summer break is a good time to re-stock the school uniform wardrobe! Without your support, our efforts to ensure that students are tidy and well presented is an uphill struggle.

To remind you, the uniform is:

White shirt, school tie,
dark navy blazer with badge,
dark grey or black trousers,
black shoes (not trainers) with black laces,
navy 'V' neck pullover (optional).

Please could I also remind you that:

Hairstyles are to be sensible—no ridges, patterns etc. Eyebrows must not be shaved or cut into. Earrings and jewellery must not be worn. Hoodies are banned—including in the Sixth Form. Coloured laces (the latest fad) are not permitted.

All of our uniform is readily available from the major supermarkets and other outlets. Please could I urge you to ensure that your son leaves the house each day with smart/correct uniform. I strongly appeal for your help with this.

Community Languages: Hendon School has community language classes every Saturday morning. Whitefield School has ESOL (English) lessons for parents whose first language is not English.

Please phone the school for further information and speak to Mrs Pahlman, EMA Co-ordinator.

Anti-Bullying Campaign: Forty Year 12 anti-bullying ambassadors visited 16 local junior schools last Friday to give a presentation on how to cope with bullying. This campaign was targeted at Year 6

pupils and involved them taking part in a quiz and an anti-bullying poster competition. Congratulations to the Year 12 students who took part in this initiative.

LSE—Year 9 Ace Days: All of Year 9 have now visited the LSE and have become aware of the advantages of further education. They have taken part in an employability skills workshop to help them compete in an increasingly tough economic job market.

Year 12 University visits: Year 12 students are presently visiting universities before they make their choices next term. Several students have been attending taster sessions/workshops at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Annual Art Exhibition: This year's stunning annual Art Show showcased the considerable talents of our A level and GCSE Art and Photography students. Many parents, governors, students and staff who attended were impressed by the diversity and originality of the art on display.

For the first time this year a film produced by students in Years 7 to 11 on the 2012 Olympics was shown. The Arts Council funded initiative through Creative Partnerships enabled the students to explore creativity in the curriculum across the school. Our thanks go to Mr Kendall, Mr Higgins, Miss Barnett and Mrs Gardiner for organising this event.

Exam Results: Very best wishes to all those waiting nervously for examination results.

19th Aug—A Level results will be published 10.00 am-12.00 noon. AS Level results will be published 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm.

24th August (Tuesday) - GCSE results will be published.—10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

6th Form enrolment: in Dining Hall:
Tues 24th August—10.30 am to 1.00 pm
Weds 25th August— 10.00 am to 12.00 noon
Tues 31st August— 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

I should like to take this opportunity to wish all students (and everyone else connected with the school) and their families a lovely, sunny, summer break. I look forward to welcoming you back to the school community in September.

Gary Tucker— Headteacher