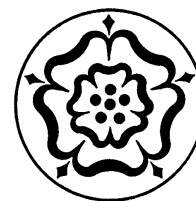


Newsletter



VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

I was very privileged to be invited to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust International Network conference in Cape Town earlier this week. I hope that this will result in a partnership with a South African school. I will write more about this next week but would like to share a Xhosa saying (Xhosa is one of the official languages in South Africa) *Umuntu Ungumuntu Ngabantu* - this means *A person is a person because of other people* and the meaning we can take from this is that if YOU want to achieve what YOU want to achieve, you should help other people achieve what THEY want to achieve. This has been often quoted by Nelson Mandela and is a great rule for us all to live our lives by.

AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED WORK

I saw some fabulous work before half term and this week. The following girls have been rewarded with Awards for Distinguished Work: Adelaide Osborn and Nia Thomas (7L) for history essays on the Romans, Charlotte Fraser (7N) for her outstanding English essay, Jemma Christy, Kayalveli Sivakanthan (9N) Seren Thomas, Hannah Hewitt and Sophie Fraser (all 9L) for great work in History. Well done to all of you!

TEACHING AWARDS

Miss Darch has been nominated by a grateful pupil for her outstanding and inspirational teaching. Nominations close on 1 March for this year's awards, but please keep on nominating staff who make a difference as there is no better way to say thank you and new nominations will be taken forward for the 2011 awards. The website is www.teachingawards.com

PARENTS' UNIFORM CONSULTATION

If you haven't responded yet please do so - the closing date is Monday. If you haven't received an email, please contact the school office who can provide a hard copy or email link.

FREE TICKETS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Artsdepot are promoting a free ticket

scheme for young people under 26. A Night Less Ordinary is an Arts Council England scheme in association with Metro, which entitles anyone under the age of 26 to claim free tickets to theatre, dance, music and spoken word performances at Artsdepot. Simply select a performance from the qualifying events list on the Artsdepot website and call Box Office to book. Please visit www.artsdepot.co.uk for further details or call 020 8369 5454.

ATTENDANCE

Year Group Attendance 3rd Sept 2009 - 12th Feb 2010

Year Group	% attendance
Year 7	95.59%
Year 8	94.29%
Year 9	93.70%
Year 10	92.78%
Year 11	94.22%

Form groups with the best attendance 3rd Sept 2009 - 12th Feb 2010

Form Group	% attendance
7P	96.60%
8R	95.03%
9L	95.82%
10L	95.12%
11L	95.55%

The whole school attendance for the 1st half of the spring term was **94.12%**. Congratulations to **7P** for having the best attendance in the school for the first half of the school year. Congratulations also to **8R** for taking the lead in year 8. I would like to congratulate the **Year 11s** who have achieved an excellent level of attendance this year. It is very important that this is maintained for the next few weeks in order to secure the best possible results in the summer examinations. All students will have re-

ceived their attendance certificate this week. Please share your attendance rate with your parents/carers. Please also ensure that you set yourself an attendance target for the next half term in order to make an improvement on your current attendance rate. *Ms Griffith*

YEAR 10 STUDENT OF THE MONTH—JANUARY
10L Sarah Sullivan for excellent attendance and consistent hard work.

10M Alex Dairo for hard work, particularly in History and Science

10N Georgie Fielden for consistent excellence across subjects and for being a thoughtful member of the form.

10P Lianne Steele for excellent attendance and continued hard work in all subjects.

10Q Leena Bantoo for excellent attendance, punctuality and motivation in subjects.

10R Abigail Betts for consistent hard work, effort and attitude.

10S Naomi Rhodes for being friendly, hardworking, caring, thoughtful and considerate towards the rest of the form.

MUSIC NEWS

Our trip to the theatre by Lizzie Putt & Charm Durkin 8L.

On the trip to the theatre production Sweet Charity on 11th Feb we all had lots of fun.

As you know from the last newsletter last week Kate Golledge the director of the production came to visit us and give us the main plot of the story. Luckily we got a tour of the theatre (The Menier Chocolate Factory) and got to see backstage. This was a lot smaller than you would have expected and was packed with costumes and props. The orchestra was very small and each person had to play two or more instruments.

The lead role was played by ex-Eastenders and theatre star Tamzin Outhwaite who had not been on stage for twelve years but you would not have know this as she was so good! After the production some people said it was even better than the West End production of WICKED.

There was brilliant singing and dancing and we all enjoyed it a lot.

SCHOOL ORCHARD

We will be planting the new school orchard next Friday 5th March after school in the school grounds. Everyone is welcome to come and there will be refreshments available. We are planting

apple trees, and either plums or pears- students choose which! If you want to vote between plums or pears, please see Louise or Nadine to tell us your choice. Hope to see you there!

BOOK REVIEW

Hello girls. I hope that you had a restful half term and that it wasn't too short! Last week I managed to read two books, one of which I want to recommend to you this week because I thought it was highly interesting; it is called 'Open Secret' and is the autobiography of Stella Rimmington, who was the Director- General of MI5. What makes this autobiography so interesting is, of course, the insight that it provides into her job within MI5 and operations she has dealt with and been part of; it also includes a reflection upon the 9/11 attack, and hearing a perspective of the event from someone who has been closely related with the issue of terrorism is worth reading about. Rimmington also discusses the hardships that accompany being involved in the secret service, and tells the reader how she had to combine being a single mother with her job. If you're interested in the riveting Alex Rider series or any aspect of MI5 at all it is definitely worth picking up.

Delphi May SF02

MALAGA 2010

Before half term a group of girls from Years 9, 10, 11 12 and 13 went off to Malaga, Spain where they would spend four days experiencing some of the best Spanish culture. I think everyone would agree that the fun started as soon as we boarded the coach, with attempts at singing in Spanish on the way to Gatwick! Some of the activities that we did whilst out there were visiting a Contemporary Arts and a Picasso museum, visiting the Cathedral, tea tasting, venturing into the main shopping streets and, (the best one!) making the most of the sun on the beach- all of this amongst watching the teachers do a dance off and keeping them awake! Luckily the Spanish boys didn't bother us too much, but Miss Fernandez was always there to act as a bodyguard!

Despite being very tired coming back after a long journey, it was a fantastic trip and we have to thank Mrs Levy, Miss Fisher and Miss Fernandez for taking us away and putting up with us rowdy girls. *Delphi May SF02*

BELGIUM REPORT

The First World War was the largest conflict the world had ever seen up until that time. Tragically, the 1914-1918 "war to end all wars" would be followed scarcely 20 years later by the even more widespread and destructive Second World War. The First World War came about due to political tensions and complex military alliances in Europe at the time. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the summer 1914 resulted in an international crisis that brought Europe into war. By August, the fighting had begun. This bloody four-year conflict would see Britain (and her empire which included Canada), France and Russia lining up against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Day 1:

The journey was long and I slept half the time. When I was awake I read "Ways To Life" and no I wasn't trying to find ways to live forever, I was reading it because it was quite interesting, then I played games on my friend's ipod and listened to music.

Anyway the first cemetery we went to had a few gravestones that were a mixture of British and German soldiers. Each gravestone had their private number, rank, name, regiment and the date of their death. If the families wanted an inscription on their relatives gravestone i.e. "ever present in my thoughts a devoted wife" then they would have to pay a few pennies.

The coach driver introduced N.G. Chavasse to us who is still remembered today for his extreme bravery. He was a doctor who used to treat patients in "No Man's Land" and for that he received two Victoria Crosses. A Victoria Cross is an award that is given for extreme bravery and courage. He died at the age of 31 on 4th August 1917. His gravestone had roses planted near it to represent a touch of England. As you may know the conditions in the trenches were very drastic and unthinkable. Soldiers had to deal with many problems such as shell-shock, trench foot and lice. And they used to get rid off them by squeezing them between their finger and thumb but the downside of this was that some the soldiers got infested and were often called "lousy" by other soldiers. The next cemetery we went to was "Tyne Cot" and the British soldiers nick named the area "tyne cot" after the little cottages on the Tyne side of Newcastle.

The crusaders sword dominated the cemetery. Most of the gravestones were designed by famous architects such as Lutyens. At the end of each row there were numbers to help the visitors instead of going around in circles. There are fewer German cemeteries because the Belgians thought that they should have little space since they started the war. The Germans chose oak trees around their cemetery to show strength. The gravestones were flat, hard and had more up to 20 people in each grave. There weren't any flowers or decorations, so it was more sombre and depressing.

There was a common gravestone that had 25,000 people buried under it which was quite disturbing if you imagined how they were buried.

Day 2:

Today we had to wake up at 6:30am but I woke up at 6:00 because I don't like being rushed when I'm having my shower. Our first visit was "Vimy Ridge" which was the Canadian memorial. It was built by the Canadian authorities. In 1914, Canada was part of the British Empire. This meant that once Britain declared war, Canada also was automatically at war. The First World War opened with great enthusiasm and patriotism on the part of the Canadians, with tens of thousands rushing to join the military in the first months of the conflict so they would not miss the action. They need not have worried. The war would grind on for more than four years, killing more than 10,000,000 people in fighting that would be revolutionized by the high-explosive shells, powerful machine guns, poison gas, submarines and war planes. This battle of Vimy Ridge would be the first time all four divisions of the Canadian corps worked together as one formation. The planning and preparations for the battle were extensive. The Canadians were trained rigorously for months, with models of the trench system being built and the soldiers drilled on what they were to do. Extensive "mining" operations were undertaken in which the allies dug tunnels beneath the German lines and set huge explosives to be detonated when the time for the attack come. We then went to the trenches. These were reconstructed trenches in hard concrete, so it wasn't like the real muddy and displeasing trenches that the soldiers fought in.

Near the concrete trenches there was an information centre and toilets. The information centre was very informative and fascinating. After the visit we ate our lunch on the coach then the driver took us to a near by café called Tommy's in which we bought fizzy drinks and chips. After we fed ourselves, we went to the "Lochinger Crater", it is a huge hole that was left after it blew up in 1916 and vibration was so big that the prime minister felt it in Downing Street. Just before our last visit we had to walk through a field bombarded with mud to understand the pain and pressure a soldier had to go through. Facing the horrors of war, the soldiers had to overcome their fear and anxiety. They could escape into madness more often than not; however, they won the daily struggle to maintain their mental balance & survive. For a second I felt so much sympathy for them and thought of the consequences I would have to go through as a soldier. We finally visited "The last post" at the Menin Gate in Ypres. This has been happening ever since the 1920s and 4 men with bugles played it.

Day 3:

Today we had a little lay in since it was our last day but I still woke up at around 7 because we had to wake up at 7:30. Today our first stop was "Essex Farm" the coach man told us about John McCrae. John was a doctor as well as a poet. He wrote his well known "In Flanders Field". He used to treat patients in "No Man's Land" as well as from the front line. Unfortunately John did not make it until 1918, as he died on 3rd March 1918. But he is still remembered to day as a brave hero. Since today was our last day Mr. Rich agreed that we go shopping but only for 1 hour and 15 minutes which was fairly nice since this was a history trip. When we went to the shops we received a free taste of chocolate buttons and we were well known since we came from QEGS. We bought so much chocolate for the family back home that we could barely carry them.

So I recommend that you go on the Belgium trip when you are in year 9 because firstly you gain a lot more knowledge and the past will no longer be a mystery and secondly, you get three chocolate plus if you are lucky you might even watch some films on the coach. But make sure you bring extra

clothes because you never know what might happen. In conclusion I would like to thank Mr. Rich for organizing the trip and Ms Tomkins for helping me with this report. *By Naima Mohamed 9N*

SHAPING THE BARNET CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2010/11—2012/13

All organisations in Barnet that work with children and young people are writing a 3 year plan called the 'Barnet Children and Young People Plan'. It says what their priorities are and how they will be achieved.

Throughout this week and over the next week I've been conducting small focus groups throughout years 7-12 to find out what you think about health in Barnet. I have been asking:

- ◆ What would help young people in Barnet to be healthier?
- ◆ What would encourage you to do more exercise?
- ◆ Do young people in Barnet need more help and advice (e.g. sexual health, alcohol, smoking etc.) What type of health advice is needed?
- ◆ What would make you happier?

Even if you're not involved in one of these focus groups you can still give me your views and opinions on the topic, your answer will help inform the plan. Also feel free to come and talk to me about any other issues you have about Barnet as it's my responsibility as this school's Barnet Youth Band Representative to make your voice heard. *Kitty Goodwin SF03*

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Well done to 9N for raising £140 for the Haiti Disaster Appeal. Thank you to all the Year 9's who supported this. *Mrs Ayodele*

DIARY DATES

- 1-5 Mar. Y12 Geog. Field Trip
- 2 Mar. Y7 Time4Us—Friendships and Anti-Bullying
- 3 Mar. Y11 Revision Evening
- 8 Mar. Y9 Options Evening 6-8pm
- 9 Mar. QEGSA Committee Meeting
- 25 Mar Y10 Parents' Evening 4.30-7pm
- 26 Mar. QEGSA Quiz Evening