



A Specialist Humanities College

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 85

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NEWS ON THE LANGUAGES FRONT

French Homework Club is available for Years 7, 8 & 9 at lunchtime on Mondays in Languages 2 .

There is also a Spanish Club for Year 7 students which takes place at lunchtime on Blue Tuesdays in Languages 1.

Ms I Simpson
Head of MFL



IMPORTANT!

**PLEASE NOTE THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE
'INTO THE SIXTH' OPEN EVENING**

THIS IS NOW BEING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER

NEWS FROM MRS McLINTOCK

Farewell

Sadly, we are saying farewell to Mrs Janet Campbell, Business Manager, who is leaving us during November. Mrs Campbell originally trained as a Science teacher but joined us here at John Colet in 1999 as Receptionist. Mrs Campbell moved into the financial operation of the school being promoted to Business Manager and member of the School's Senior Leadership Team in 2008. As a school, we run a very "tight ship" financially and Mrs Campbell has been pivotal in this, meaning that every possible penny has been spent to good effect to benefit our students in the classroom. We all wish Mrs Campbell well as she now spends more time with her family.

Welcome

Mr Mike Boyle will be joining us on 14 November as Business Manager and member of the Senior Leadership Team. Mr Boyle's previous position was as the Business Manager of an Academy in London.

Assistance with the Cost of School Trips

Did you know that if you are entitled to Free School Meals then certain school trips are free as well?

The form at the back of this newsletter gives the Free School Meal eligibility criteria.

If you think that you are eligible for Free School Meals but are not currently in receipt of them then please complete the form at the back of this newsletter and return it to the School Office for the attention of Mrs McLintock. You do not need to provide any evidence other than your National Insurance number (NI). From your NI number, we are then able to see if you are eligible or not and will get back to you.

School Trips Insurance

As an Academy, we now have our own school trips insurance rather than the BCC one. A copy of the policy is available on the parents/policies section of the website.

.....cont'd



Policy Updates

We have recently updated the following policies:

- Admissions;
- Charging and remissions;
- Compliments, complaints and resolution;
- Drugs;
- Medical care;
- Search and Confiscation;
- Use of reasonable force and restraint

Copies of these policies are available in the parents section of the school website.

I would like to thank all of those parents who, over the last year, have volunteered to look at the drafts of policies and have then given us extremely valuable feedback. For information to our new parents, we email out asking for parental volunteers when we need a policy reviewed. There are no meetings involved as we do it all through email. Please keep an eye on your emails as it is an easy way to get involved in the school without a time or cost commitment.

Cars on the School Site



I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation since we have started using the barriers to the school car parks; we have had significantly less issues in the car parks.



As there has been less traffic on the campus, the end of the school day has been much better. There have not been as many cars on the school site as over 1000 students leave, which is so much safer for everyone.

However, as always, there are still some drivers who have a complete disregard for the safety of other people's children. Our turning circle is one way and is marked as such. At the end of the school day for about 10 minutes, the buses sometimes block the way out. Instead of waiting, some drivers are going the wrong way around the turning circle. This is extremely dangerous as the students crossing the road are not expecting a car to be coming the wrong way. What is also sad is that the driver's own child is in the car watching this happen – an example of a parent not being a good role model for their child. I have taken to standing in the middle of the turning circle to stop this happening which may seem extreme but has been sadly necessary! Anyone who has to come onto the campus at the end of the school day should do so realising that they may have to wait to leave.

Little Acorns Kindergarten, at the top of the campus by the Sports Hall, has been having problems with parents parking in their car park, which they shouldn't be using. When challenged, some parents have been confrontational with the Kindergarten staff. We are not sure who these parents are but again, they are not setting a good example to their children. Would parents please avoid the Little Acorns Car Park.

When we have parents evenings during the school year, the barriers will be up in the main school car park from about 3.50pm so that parking is available to parents. However, I would ask that no one double parks as it is always difficult to find the driver.

Christine McLintock

REQUESTS FROM THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Technology are looking for:
donations of wool for Textiles
and



donations of paper, card, wood, plastic or metal
for Resistant Materials and Graphics.

Volunteers are still needed to support in the Technology classrooms. If you are interested please e mail Mrs Johnston in the first instance.

mjohnston@johncolet.co.uk



Barnardo's Support 4 Parents

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?

Being a parent is the most important job we will ever have but also the most difficult, with long hours, new challenges every day and no training. No wonder that sometimes parents could do with a helping hand. Barnardo's helps these families with young children by offering support from trained volunteers.

What will I do as a Volunteer?

Volunteers help in many different ways – they may help their family to begin to get out and make new friends at a local Children's Centre or Mother & Toddler group. The family may need help because of illness or disability or they may need support to help sort out financial problems, or get their children into better routines and encouraging good behaviour.

Why should I get involved?

Parenting is not easy for anyone but some families are faced with extra problems that make coping with day to day problems difficult. Your help and support can help a family to move forward and make changes so that life is a little better and less stressful for children and parents. This would also enable you to gain valuable experience if you are planning to take up a career working with children and families.

We will pay your expenses and provide full training and support.

Am I the right kind of person to enjoy this work?

If you are warm, supportive, reliable and non-judgemental and know what family life is like with young children, then you are the person we are looking for.

How many hours a week will I have to volunteer

Volunteers visit the family once a week for 2-3 hours for a time-limited period. This is following a 7 week initial training course of one morning a week. The project asks for at least one year's commitment.

How do I find out more?

Please either telephone 01494 568955 or email nina.coles@barnardos.org.uk or visit our website www.barnardos.org.uk



Message from Matron.

Please can I remind the parents of students who have asthma or allergies that they need to carry appropriate medication in their bags and also keep some stored in the medical room with the relevant forms (available to download from the parents section of the website).

Many people are now submitting requests for leave of absence. The forms are, again, available to download from the school website and show the criteria on which decisions about the authorisation are based. Please can I remind parents to check the Annual Schedule which gives the dates of proposed exams and controlled assessments? Students in Years 10 and 11 have a significant number of these.

Please remind students to bring with them a suitable refillable bottle of water each day and encourage them to refill at lunch and break times.

Unnamed lost property will be placed on a table at lunchtime on the last Wednesday of each month. Please note that named items are returned to students!

Maddie Jenkins

Announcing a new after school Food Club

COLET BAKES

This will take place after the October half term on a Tuesday evening 3 – 4.30pm in TE1 for Year 8 students only.

Places are limited so ensure you get an application form from Mrs Davies asap



You're Hired ! - 6th Form Apprentices

Earlier this year we established an innovative apprenticeship scheme with Tring based global business Grass Roots PLC. The aim was to offer an alternative to our Year 13 students who might prefer a professional apprenticeship as an alternative to university.

Selection events and assessment centres were held over the Summer holidays involving not just structured interviews but also activities which tested the drive, problem solving and team working capabilities of our students.

3 of our students performed outstandingly well in these events and as a result have been awarded apprenticeships starting this month. They will be taking up roles in areas as diverse as software development, operations management and digital marketing. Where appropriate they will also be sponsored to undertake degree level courses at local colleges and the Open University. The new apprentices will be part of a global business named by the Sunday Times as one of the "100 best companies to work for".

To help prepare students for this type of opportunity and the modern trend in employers' selection methods, we ran a full day mock assessment centre for Year 12 at the end of last term. I hope that many of them will benefit from this experience in their future applications to the whole range of employers and universities in the current tough economic climate.

We look forward to extending the scheme with Grass Roots later this year.

Mr Measures – Assistant Headteacher

Sixth Form News

We are already approaching half-term and it has been a busy time for the Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form now consists of 126 students, 55 in Year 13 and 71 in Year 12. For the Year 12 induction, the RAF came in and spent a morning doing various team building exercises. Emma Eastgate has kindly written an article about this event which I hope you find of interest.

The Sixth Form have voted on the charities that they wish to support this year; their local charity is the Cancer and Haematology Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, also locally known as 'The Wooden Spoon' and the national charity is 'Help for Heroes'.

On Friday 4 November, the Year 13s are keen to share some Hallowe'en fun with the lower school. They are going to turn the old Sixth Form common room into a spooky environment with a few games to play and cakes to buy. This is another form of fundraising and hopefully there will be a lot of fun for everyone.

On 17 and 18 October, most of Year 13 is on Work Experience. They have all found placements and will be work shadowing various people in different companies in the vicinity. Hopefully, they will find this both beneficial and enjoyable.

Year 13 are, at the moment, doing their UCAS applications and tutors, teachers, Head of Sixth Form and myself are all busy reading their personal statements.

Two more students have also contributed to the Sixth Form section of the newsletter, namely Charlie Robinson, our Head Boy, and Conor Heslin. I would like to thank both of them for taking the time to write their articles.

I hope that everyone has a restful half-term and comes back refreshed for the latter part of this year.

Jayne Gott - Assistant Head of Sixth Form

RAF TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE



On the 6th September, the new Year 12s took part in an RAF Team Building exercise, in order to get to know each other more.

We were separated into groups and each group took turns in completing a series of small, yet extremely amusing activities. One memorable activity was where we had to fit our entire group (which consisted of ten or more people) onto a very small platform. The task proved difficult; however, we managed to complete it successfully in the end.

Another activity was when the entire group was blindfolded. Every person was given a number, and one member of the group had to numerically place them in order – not forgetting about the blindfold!

This was by far the most difficult task, and many people couldn't adapt to the darkness. However, the results proved comical and, once again, successful.

The morning was exceptionally enjoyable, and I would like to thank the RAF for coming in and organising the activities for us. By the end of the morning, everyone was looking forward to the start of a new academic year in the Sixth Form.

Emma Eastgate - 12B

The Eden Project 2011



On the 21st of September, the Year 12 and 13 Product Design and Art students went on the annual Eden Project trip. We left early in the morning and had a great trip down to Crantock where we saw beautiful sights and scenery. The whole group enjoyed a walk along the beach and played Frisbees and other games.



In the early hours of Thursday morning, some of the group went on a walk around the nearby tranquil coves, towering hills and other highly inspirational views which included Iron Age structures and remains. We then met back with the rest of the group to head to the Eden Project. We were lucky enough to be there at this time as a brand new sculpture, 'Aeolus' had just been put on display. This had an interesting design by Luke Jerram and was also known as the 'acoustic wind pavilion'. Made out of stainless steel and stainless steel piping, the sculpture used the wind to create music as it whistled through the structure. We spent the day walking around the whole of the project including the two domes in the hope of being inspired for our individual school projects. This gave us the opportunity to open our minds to the range of possibilities of design. Elements such as the branch sign posts and the 3.3 tonne WEEE man sculpture, which represents the amount of waste created by one individual in a single life time, helped push the point of sustainability and the potential of design that can include environmentally friendly and sustainable materials.

After Eden, we went on to Padstow for some fish and chips and even more beach games before heading back to the house.

Friday morning brought another early morning walk up the estuary followed by packing up and heading home. On the journey home we stopped off at Boscastle (setting of the devastating floods) where we all rambled up to the view point on the cliff to take in the scenery before walking around the little fishing village. Finally, we returned to school later that evening, after an exhausting ten hours on the road. I would like to thank the Departments for arranging this trip, which will definitely benefit our projects.

Charlie Robinson - 13C

You have been warned ..

The Technology day is approaching fast for Year 8X. This will take place on Wednesday November 23rd. Your creative skills will be tested.....watch for further details !!

Mrs M Johnston



Will Gurton: Our own World Class Athlete!

Over the Summer of 2011, a Year 13 John Colet student, Will Gurton, was selected to become a member of team GB, and represent Great Britain at the IAAF World Youth Championships in Lille, France. Will came seventh in the 800 metre semi-final, and was then selected for a further competition in September, the Commonwealth Youth Games on the Isle of Man. For these games he came third in his heat, 3rd in the semi-final, and then came 5th in the 800m final! This is what Will had to say about his incredible experiences and achievements this summer, and what he hopes to achieve in the future.

When did you first start running competitively?

“I first started running in my primary school, then was asked to join the local athletics club, as a young whipper-snapper.”

How long was it before you realised you had a real talent?

“From day one it was clear that I stood out from other athletes, even those in a higher age group. I have always excelled, but training is an important element as well.”

Who do you consider your biggest inspiration in athletics?

“I would say Seb Coe, as he was also an 800m runner, and achieved greatness at international level.”

How much of an important role have the PE department played in your development as an athlete?

“They have always encouraged me to achieve my potential, as has everyone around me, from day one.”

What’s your training regime like?

“I train 5 times a week. It’s a very intense regime, and it can often be difficult balancing this with my studies and social life, but I’ve still managed to do very well in my first year in the Sixth Form.”

What has been your proudest moment as an athlete so far?

“Representing Great Britain at the World Youth Championships in Lille was crazy. I loved every minute, even though there was a lot of tough competition, and I was pretty nervous.”

How did it feel to be among the best of the best at the World Youth Championships?

“It was totally inspiring to be racing against the best in the world. I will remember it for the rest of my life and I am honoured to have been selected.”

What would be your dream achievement in Athletics?

“What I would be most proud of would be to be selected for the Olympics. As 2012 is only next year that may not be realistic, but I’d love to make it some day.”

Finally, what advice would you give to other aspiring athletes?

“Stay in school, live life to the fullest, and train hard. It’ll pay off in the end”

Conor Heslin – 13C



DANISH VISITORS



On Wednesday 12th October, the John Colet hosted a day visit from 24 Danish students and 2 teachers as part of their week trip to London. The average age of the students was 18 and they attended Falkonergardens Gymnasium in Copenhagen.

At the beginning of the day, students and teachers welcomed the visitors to the school and groups of the students were invited into different classes throughout the rest of the day. This helped them learn about the British educational system as well as cultural differences and similarities. This was an interesting experience for both parties to have the opportunity to interact and engage with one another. This was also a chance for the teachers to hear about techniques and ideas which could be adapted to suit each school.

When the school day had ended, both English and Danish students, with the teachers, gathered for a meeting in which students from both schools presented speeches about how their schools worked. This was followed by a discussion about the similarities and differences. The possibility of further interaction between schools, including a proposed exchange, were discussed and very well received by both parties.

Following the meeting everybody headed up to the local Indian restaurant to further develop the bonds and relationships between both students and teachers. Overall the visit was a memorable experience as well as a very constructive one in which links were made which we all hope will lead to further co-operation in the future.

Alice McDonagh - 13C

HELP WEEK

Help Week this year will take place in the week beginning November 7th. Look out for information immediately after half term about how you can support us this year.

In this article Lauren Jarvis in Year 11 explains why we will be supporting the charity Alec's Angels

"This charity is close to my heart because it's named in honour of my cousin Alec who passed away earlier this year because of a brain tumour.

Alec's Angels is organised by my Uncle and works to raise money for three charities

- Helen and Douglas House which is a children's hospice and was where my cousin lived for a while.
- CLIC Sergeant who cares for children and young people with cancer and
- Lennox who help children suffering from cancer and leukemia throughout the UK by offering practical, financial and emotional support to the whole family.

Alec's Angels want to give back to the people that helped them and I think this would be a nice and different charity for our school to get involved with.

By supporting this charity we would be helping three different organisations that aim to help people not only with brain tumours but other cancers and terminal diseases. Alec's Angels has only recently been set up and therefore would appreciate any support it can receive. At the moment I think a charity like this that concerns a student in particular at school could really help bind our school community together and therefore encourage everyone to do their best to raise money.

Alec's Angels is a great charity and is already arranging other event throughout the year such as 'It's a Knockout' to help fundraise but I know if we help as well they'd be very grateful and happy that we chose them out of other well known charities. If we can support this local charity that will encourage support throughout not just the school but the local community we would be making a difference. I know personally for me, I would be so happy knowing that I helped raise money and support this cause that is so personal as well as raising awareness about brain tumours, I hope John Colet can help make a difference and can really help Alec's Angels help others.

Website for further information:

<http://www.alecsangels.co.uk/> Lauren Jarvis - 11D



Primary Liaison

Classroom help at Halton



On 21st September Harry Frost, Ellie Philp, Lucy Crayford Venn and Max Smith from Year 9, accompanied me to Halton Combined School to work with small groups of Year 5 and 6 pupils. The Halton pupils were split into groups and given a First Aid scenario. They then had to plan and produce a short video explaining how to give basic first aid and explaining what to do in an emergency. The Colet students worked closely with their groups, assisting with the planning and videoing. The head teacher of Halton School joined the class at the end to watch the clips. Both Halton pupils and John Colet students enjoyed the activity and Halton were really appreciative of the help.

On 26th September Year 9 students Richard Atkinson, Kaja Vijayanathan, Ellie Robins and Jordan Rogers also helped in a literacy lesson at Halton School. The pupils had to devise a short presentation explaining the water cycle. Again, Colet students proved they could be relied upon to assist and lead a small group of Year 5 and 6 children.

On 10th October, Alice Oliver, Declan Austin, Lewis Williams and Harriet Gordon accompanied me to Halton Combined School to assist with a Numeracy lesson. The children were working out in the forest area, making 3D shapes out of twigs and branches. The John Colet students worked with small groups of pupils and helped them construct their shapes and the Year 5 and 6 children really enjoyed working with our students.

Making Movies Club

On October 5th, the third Making Movies Club started. There are 13 Year 5 pupils from local primary schools on the register and many willing volunteers from John Colet School to help run it. The Year 5s looked at some films and began to consider how they are going to make their film. We are all really looking forward to the next eight weeks.

Drama Club for Year 4

Tuesday 11th October saw the first of six after school Drama workshops for Year 4 pupils from local primary schools. 16 enthusiastic children played games and got to know each other during this first session and were assisted by several willing sixth form and lower school volunteers, who were just as enthusiastic! Many thanks to Mrs Griffin who made the first session so exciting and we are all looking forward to the next five.

Reading at Wendover Junior School

On Friday 14th October, Kaja Vijayanathan, Richard Atkinson and Alice Oliver gave up their break time to help with guided reading at Wendover Junior School. Each student sat with a small group of Year 6 pupils and listened to them read aloud, asked them questions about their books and assisted if there was any lack of understanding. Wendover Junior School and the children appreciated the input of the Colet students.

I have been overwhelmed by the number of volunteers who have come forward to offer their help over this school year. Many thanks, and I will get round to you soon!

Julie Caplan



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 + Friday 27th April**.

Easter 2012: 06 - 09 April : **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

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John Colet School 2011/12

FREE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATION FORM

CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS/CARERS RECEIVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS ARE ENTITLED TO

- **Income Support (IS)**
- **Income-based** (not contribution-based) **Job Seeker's Allowance (IBJSA)**
- The **Guarantee** element of the **State Pension Credit**.
- **Income-related employment and support allowance** or
- Financially supported by NASS (National Asylum Support Service).
- **Child Tax Credit** except if you meet ANY of the following criteria -
 - i) entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)
 - ii) have an annual income in excess of £16,190 (Please note that this figure is for April 2011)

Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

This form should be completed and returned to the School Office.

1. DETAILS OF PARENT/CARER WITH QUALIFYING BENEFIT – COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS

SURNAME/FAMILY NAME as it appears on your benefit letter:.....

INITIAL: **TITLE:** **DATE OF BIRTH:** dd/mm/yyyy

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER OR **NATIONAL ASYLUM SEEKER NUMBER**

..... /..... /.....

ADDRESS

POST CODE **DAYTIME TEL. NO(s)**

2. DETAILS OF THE CHILD/CHILDREN REQUIRING FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Family Name or Surname **First Name** **Date of Birth** **Name of School**

Family Name or Surname	First Name	Date of Birth	Name of School

3. DECLARATION

I declare that the information given on this form is true and complete and I undertake to inform the school if my entitlement to one of the qualifying benefits is terminated. I understand that I will be liable for any costs incurred in providing free school meals for my child(ren), should I fail to inform the school of the termination of my benefit. I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school lunches and will contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial, and ongoing, entitlement to free school lunches. I understand that the results of any free school lunch eligibility check may also be used to assess my entitlement to receive free travel to school.

I have read and I understand the above declaration.

SIGNATURE _____ (**Parent/Guardian**) **DATE** _____

s110 of The Education Act 2005 requires that data is only used for its intended purpose, i.e. to determine eligibility for free school meals and that improper use of information is an offence. All LA users are required to sign a declaration to confirm that they will only use data for its intended purpose.