

Dear Parent

SPEECH NIGHT

Along with our Celebration of Success assemblies and our Rewards assemblies (all this week where the students with most rewards from last year received prizes – some I.Pod shuffles, thanks to the PTA), this is our principal opportunity to celebrate the performance of students and the whole school. Always a bit old fashioned but always hugely enjoyed. Students received prizes for contribution (nominated by Heads of House and Head of Sixth Form), prizes for subjects and Faculties (nominated by teaching staff) and special and memorial prizes for a range of qualities, including this year the prize for Resilience I have sponsored to mark my retirement; the inaugural winner was Tom Harris, Year 9, although there were many other deserving nominees; thanks to all who nominated someone. To these are added prizes for standout academic performances – excellent and exceptional KS3 performance; seven or more A*/A (10 prizes) and nine or more A*/A (18 prizes) at GCSE; two A*/A (13 students) and three A*/A (seven students) at A Level. There were Best Overall Performance prizes too: Greta Guccione and Isla Hurst (10 A* and two A grades each) for GCSE and Nick Jones (four A*) at A Level. It was nice to remind such an august gathering that Churchill is proud of these stellar performances but that the School is equally proud of all the other students too who show fortitude and perseverance. This was a theme echoed by our principal guest, Michael Eavis, CBE, who took some time out from his many commitments to present prizes, talk to each student and urge all young people to find their niche through whatever route is best for them. You will guess that my speech contained mention of our recent Ofsted Inspection Report and it was entirely apt to celebrate this alongside the many students and their parents who had such tangible proof of our successes. I was pleased also to welcome Mr Chris Hildrew, our Headteacher Designate, to the platform to share with us this moment of celebration and give him a view of things to come. A great evening.

NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR ONE PARENT GOVERNOR

I am writing to advise you that we have a vacancy for **one** Parent Governor and to invite parents, foster-parents or guardians who would like to be considered to put their names forward. Governors of the Academy will also be members of the Company and also Trustees, as we are an exempt charity. If there are more candidates than there are vacancies, there will be an election by secret ballot. If you wish to stand for election as a Parent Governor, it is necessary for you to be proposed by a parent/guardian of a student registered at the Academy and to be seconded by another parent/guardian of a pupil registered at the Academy. The proposer and seconder should indicate their support for your candidature by signing the nomination form. Nomination form (PG2) is circulated with this newsletter and can also be found on the Governance section of the website www.churchill-academy.org. All nominations should be returned to me via the school by **12.00 noon on Wednesday, 23rd September 2015**, together with a short pen portrait (max 100 words) giving a brief description of yourself, your interests and any particular strengths or skills you believe would benefit the governing body. [Please note, some people are ineligible to stand; please see separate letter sent home with students or on the website and the [link](#) attached to this Newsletter]. If you have any queries about this process I would ask you to contact me directly or write in confidence to the Chair of Governors, Mr Ian Poole, c/o the Academy or at governors@churchill-academy.org. If you wish to discuss governance generally please do not hesitate to contact Sue Hathway who will put you in contact with a member of the Governing Body for some informal discussion about the role and commitment required. Please note there are also two vacancies for Community Governors (appointed by the Governing Body). If there are suitable candidates from the field for Parent Governor that were not elected, the Governing Body may consider appointing them to the Governing Body. The Governing Body are looking for a governor who would be keen to focus on specific areas of governance – currently, governor links with staff overseeing either Pupil Premium spending or child protection need filling - as well as governance in general. If you believe you have particular skills or experience to strengthen the Governing Body, please ensure these are made clear.

YEAR 11 GCSE EVENING: 6PM- 8PM, 15TH SEPTEMBER, HALL

The Year 11 GCSE Evening will take place on Tuesday 15th September and we encourage parents and students to come along for some useful tips and information for this important year for Year 11.

YEAR 8 GIRLS - HPV VACCINE: THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER

A reminder that Year 8 girls will receive the second dose of the HPV vaccination on Thursday, 17th September. As always there should be a minimal reaction to this vaccine, apart from a slightly sore arm.

SIXTH FORM SPECIALIST TUTOR CONTACT EVENINGS: Year 13 – Thursday 17 September 2015 4.30 – 7.00pm

An opportunity for parents of Year 13 students to meet with their son/daughter's Tutor to discuss any issues and to get an update on achievement and progress so far. Information will also be available on the activities on offer this year in our Specialist Tutor Programme. Please log onto the SMILE Parents' Evening booking system to book your appointment or contact Mrs Thompson.

YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 MATHS HOMEWORK

Year 7 have a weekly homework - Problem of the Week: these are on the VLE. All students are expected to try to solve the problem and write down their thinking in their Maths Homework book. NOTE: not all students will solve all problems – but students' ideas and workings are helpful to teachers. **Year 8 Maths Homework** alternates between teacher-set tasks and VLE tasks and the latter are split by terms. Details of which to do when are in the students Homework books. NOTE: VLE tasks are unlikely to be linked to work in class; this is a long term scheme. Any questions to Mr Gale.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Year 6 students enjoyed Churchill's action packed Summer School over the holidays with a programme of activities designed to develop their confidence in starting secondary school. Week One was full of arts and crafts, team building games and lots of chocolate in our trip to Cadburys world. The week finished with an overnight camp where students had an opportunity to abseil down trees and develop their marshmallow toasting skills. The real success for the staff was to see all the students excited and keen to return for Week Two when they learnt how to programme Lego robots, cook up tasty scones and pizzas, go caving and gaze at the stars in the planetarium 3D show @Bristol. This was a great opportunity, especially for the new Year 6 students, to meet staff and learn more about the Academy. Thank you to all Year 8 buddies who helped support our new students and to all the staff involved. Natalie Jones, Access Coordinator

Year 7 CATS Tests: w/c 14th September

CATs Tests take place next week and Year 7 students will do the tests on the following days: Monday 14th - Hanover House; Tuesday 15th – Stuart House; Wednesday 16th – Tudor House; Thursday 17th – Windsor House. Parents should have received a letter about this and this link may also be helpful: <http://www.gi-assessment.co.uk/products/cat4-cognitive-abilities-test-fourth-edition/cat4-digital-demo>.

PRAYER GROUP: MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER' 7.30PM, MUSIC BLOCK

The first Prayer Group meeting of the new academic year will be held on Monday, 21st September. This is open to all who are associated (or who have been associated) with Churchill. A time of quiet reflection and prayer – giving thanks and seeking grace in things to come. Everyone welcome.

OKEHAMPTON: W/C 19TH OCTOBER

All parents of Year 7 students should have received a letter about the Okehampton Residential. Students have an opportunity to attend a three day/two night stay in Devon w/c 19th October 2015. Please check the letter carefully and return completed forms as soon as possible as there are limited places. If you have not received a letter a copy can be found on the Academy's website.

REFUGEE CRISIS APPEAL

The School community will be helping the Quaker Street Meeting with a collection of aid going from Somerset to the refugees in Calais in October and we invite you to help us by donating urgently needed items. We will accept donations from Monday, 14th September to Friday 2nd October and they can be dropped off at Reception. Items required: Camping equipment (tents, roll mats, plastic tarpaulin, canvas sheets, camp beds, large damp proof membranes, sleeping bags, blankets, rope, chairs, stools); clean clothing (including waterproofs, shoes and boots (not wellies)); cooking utensils (pots & pans, tin openers, plastic pots, cups, gas stoves, plates, cutlery etc); cleaning products and basic toiletries; first aid kits; antibacterial products; non-perishable food (flour, oil, tea, coffee, sugar, water, tinned food etc); unlocked mobile phones, chargers, SIM cards; tools; extinguishers; umbrellas; books and games; pens and paper; bikes; radios & batteries; sports gear etc.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (YES) NEWSLETTER: [Issue 13](#) of the YES Newsletter is now on the website.

EDUCATION SUNDAY: 20TH SEPTEMBER AT 9.30AM, ST JAMES'S CHURCH, WINSCOMBE

Reverend Linda Avery invites all educators and students to attend St James's Church on Sunday 20th September, where they will be marking Education Sunday with a service.

WESTON SUPER FOOD FESTIVAL: 26TH & 27TH SEPTEMBER, 10AM-5.30PM, WINTER GARDENS & TOWN SQUARE, WESTON

Free admission to indoor and outdoor food markets, street food, drinks and ice cream, wine, beer and cider tasting, cookery demonstrations, fun activities for kids, competitions and much, much more! Plus Food Festival Fortnight- September 12th-27th with special offers and events in restaurants and cafes. www.westonsuperfoodfestival.co.uk.

Dates for the diary (Full details on the website)

Next Week 2

September

11 th	Gospel Choir Concert, 7pm, Academy Hall
w/c 14 th	CATS: Year 7 students
15 th	Year 11 GCSE Evening, 6pm, Hall
17 th	Year 13 Specialist Tutor Contact Evening, 4.30pm, Sixth Form
21 st	Year 10 Curriculum Evening/ WEX Launch, 6pm, Hall
21 st	Prayer Group, 7.30pm, Music block
22 nd	Year 12 Specialist Tutor Contact Evening, 4.30pm, Sixth Form
23 rd	Open Morning, 9am-12.30pm
23 rd	Year 7 SEN Parent Forum, 6pm, Hall
24 th	Open Morning, 9am-12.30pm
24 th	PTA AGM meeting, LRC Conference Room, 7pm
30 th	Open Evening (Prospective Parents), 6pm

October

3 rd	Churchill <i>MUSIC!</i> Concert, 7.30pm, St. John's
7 th	Accelerated reader launch with Year 7 Parents, 6.30pm, Hall
7 th	Schools' Careers Convention, Winter Gardens, Weston
9 th	PTA Quiz, 7pm, Hall
16 th	INSET DAY
19 th - 23 rd	Year 7 Okehampton Residential Trip
20 th	Year 8 Parents' Curriculum Evening, 6pm, Hall
21 st	Public Speaking Competition, 3.45pm, Hall
23 rd	Term 1 Ends

Yours sincerely, Barry Wratten, Headteacher



ELECTION / APPOINTMENT OF PARENT GOVERNOR - NOMINATION FORM**(PG2)****NOMINEE:** I, (names in full) _____

of (address) _____

_____ Post Code _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

would be prepared to stand as a candidate in the election for Parent Governor to serve on the Governing Body of the above named Academy.

I am a parent/carer of the following student(s) who are registered at the Academy:

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Tutor Group</u>
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Signed _____ Date _____

Please do not forget to add your pen portrait (100 words max).**PROPOSED BY:** (full name) _____

Address: _____

Parent/Carer: [name(s) of student(s)] _____

Tutor Group(s): _____

Signed _____ Date _____

SECONDED BY: (full name) _____

Address: _____

Parent/Carer: [name(s) of student(s)] _____

Tutor Group(s): _____

Signed _____ Date _____

This form should be returned to Dr Barry Wratten, Headteacher, Churchill Academy & Sixth Form by 12.00noon on Wednesday, 23rd September 2015 and be accompanied by the Nominee's pen portrait (100 words max).