



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents

As you can see from this newsletter, there is much to be proud of in Chestnut Grove at the moment with students from all year groups making significant contributions to life in the school. It is wonderful to see our young people taking advantage of the opportunities available to them and making a real difference within their communities.

The building work is on schedule on both sides of the existing building. The sites have been flattened and piling drills are currently preparing the foundations. This is expected to continue for another 4 weeks, at which point the steel frame structure should start to develop. The existing art pavilions are being refurbished as part of the building programme and this will commence in July 2016 and will involve the pavilions being taken out of action for a short while. We have planned this work to coincide with the summer holiday so that disruption is minimised. The move into the new building is scheduled for Easter 2017, at which point demolition of the existing building will begin. The final handover of the site will take place in October 2017.

I will continue to keep you informed of developments through this newsletter.

Christian Kingsley
Headteacher

WANDSWORTH YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mia: Wandsworth Young Person of the Year 2016!

This week it was announced that Mia Burgess had been awarded the prestigious prize of Wandsworth Young Person of the Year 2016. Out of the many young people nominated for their work in the community, Mia won and was given her trophy and £500 by the Mayor of Wandsworth. Her family attended the event along with Mr Kingsley and Ms Taylor, who nominated her.

Mia won as a result of her work in the school and the local community. This year, Mia set up the school's first LGBT society, Embrace the Rainbow, and welcomed students from all year groups. She has found the time in between studying to mentor younger students and prepare Anti-Bullying week activities.



In addition, Mia has been an advocate for Educate and Celebrate, a charity devoted to raising awareness of LGBT rights in schools. Acutely aware of the stigma and discrimination faced by many young people as a result of their gender or sexuality, Mia has campaigned tirelessly to improve student rights. LGBT young people are five times more likely to commit suicide and to miss school and, as such, her work is invaluable.

We need young people like Mia to campaign for those who are not treated equally in society, despite the law, and hope that we will see many more nominations for this award in the future.

FRIENDS OF CHESTNUT GROVE

Brought to you by The Friends of Chestnut Grove

School Fundraising
Quiz Night

Friday
22nd
April

£5 entry
ParentPay
or on the door
Live Music

Activities Hall
Chestnut Grove
Academy
SW12 8JZ
Doors Open **7pm**

Fabulous Food, well deserved wines, bloomin' good beers and super soft drinks available from 7pm... Quiz starts at 7.30 and there will be prizes and a raffle too!

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Open to all parents and carers and sixth form.
Come with your own team or join a table; a great way to meet other parents!

FOCG 200 Club

Join our 200 Club!! Win cash prizes and buy a stake in your child's wonderful new space for learning!

The Friends of Chestnut Grove are launching a 200 Club in March to help the school build a state-of-the-art canopy to be used as an area for outdoor eating and other activities, a spare classroom and a rentable space.

A 200 Club is like a mini lottery. This is how it works:

A 'number' costs £5 a month (members can buy up to five numbers each per month). We need to sell 200 of them in total. If we sell that many we raise £1000, 75% of which goes towards the canopy, the remaining 25% towards cash prizes. The winning numbers will be drawn publicly and announced every month, with prizes of £100, £70, £50 and £30 up for grabs.

To become a member you need to have a connection to Chestnut Grove (you might be a parent, grandparent or carer, or a teacher or non-teaching staff member). You can buy numbers every month or less regularly, it's up to you. Contact us on friendsofchestnutgrove@gmail.com to become a 200 Club member and place your stake.

You can get a rough idea of what the canopy might look like by clicking on this link. This is just an example and not necessarily the one we will install:

<http://www.auracanopies.com/media/Aura-Schools-Umbrella.pdf>

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2016

Before Easter, Chestnut Grove celebrated British Science Week, immersing ourselves in all things science, technology, engineering and maths. During Science Week, all Year 7 and 8 students had a go at the Squashed Tomato Challenge. The aim was to build a contraption that was able to transport tomatoes across a one metre gap. The winning team across the year groups managed an impressive 72 tomatoes in 60 seconds.

On March 16th and 17th, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students from Henry Cavendish and Trinity St Mary's came to visit to build floating rafts from household junk. Many countries are affected by flooding caused by climate change and now build floating rafts to grow their crops on. Students had to balance different crops on their rafts and the winners managed 4.5kg! KS3 and 4 students attended a dissection club, following instructions to see the internal workings of hearts, lungs, rats, a turtle, a shark and a frog.

The Science Careers Fair was a huge success this year, with an exceptional turnout from students in Years 10-13. Representatives from several London universities attended, including Southbank and St George's, as well as dozens of professions, including a neurologist, BP engineers, TfL, UK Power Network and the Met amongst others. Students learnt a lot about potential careers, with some Year 12 students managing to secure work experience places for the summer.



Year 10 students went on a trip to the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington. They had a tour around the building, visiting labs used to make clothing that conducts electricity, the quietest and loudest rooms in the country and the reference for the kilogram. Students were given the opportunity to talk to some of the apprentices at NPL and asked intelligent questions. The day was rounded off with a display of liquid nitrogen and its properties.



Year 10 students also took part in a prosthetics roadshow run by St. George's where they were given the chance to make a prosthetic finger.

Finally, in assemblies students watched the Chemistry Show, a range of chemistry demonstrations led by Ms Barnett. Well done to Joe Alvarez, Archie Alvarez and Mr Stokes who got involved in exploding balloons!

The science doesn't end when Science Week does – this week Year 12 and 13 are going to visit Greenwich Observatory and Year 10 will learn some first aid when a paramedics roadshow visits.

PERFORMING ARTS

We have 15 spaces remaining for the Performing Arts tour to Paris.

We are looking for performers, musicians, dancers, singers etc. to take part in workshops and performances around Paris including one at Disneyland. The cost is £480 and you can secure your place with a £60 deposit; book your space now as spaces are filling up fast!

High School Musical rehearsals are well underway. We are really excited about the performance on the last three days of June.

On Thursday last week **Year 12 Music Tech** went to the October Gallery in Holborn to see an exhibition of work by Sokari Douglas Camp CBE, an artist from the Niger Delta who is highlighting the way that the oil companies and government have imposed on their land. She has used metal

(arguably a masculine material) to delicately reimagine Botticelli's 'La Primavera'. We are going to base compositions on the sculptures and the pieces should (hopefully) be published on their website. She is a really interesting artist with fascinating ideas behind her work. Year 12 were exemplary and the gallery staff (Georgie Fay) were very welcoming and informative. We look forward to seeing what the students come up with. We may even sample some of our own machinery used on the new build!

On June 18th our **Samba band** will be performing at the '*Furzedown Big Day Out*' - if your child wants to perform please let us know!

Thank you to all of Year 11 and 13 - you are coming to the end of your course and we wish you all the best.

The community choir '**Voice of the Grove**' have a gig! On the 26th May at the Balham Bowls Club - early evening - all are welcome and we will be collecting donations rather than charging on the door. We shall be singing a range of repertoire which we have studied this year. We look forward to seeing you all there! Thanks to the BBC for putting us up.

Thank you to Simon Ungar for the very kind donation of a really lovely Peavey guitar amplifier and effects pedals. They are already proving very valuable in our recording studio and in the spring concert.

Actor Visit - On Wednesday 13th April the Year 11 GCSE drama group were visited by working actor Jason Langley who spoke about his training, career and his role in West End play War Horse (the production that is being reviewed for the final piece of coursework).

It was really good to meet someone who had actually participated in the production of War Horse. He explained how they had created some of the most dramatic scenes and how much work was put into rehearsals behind the scenes. It normally takes four weeks to rehearse for a West End production, however War Horse required 10 weeks due to the complexity of the puppetry. Also, it was interesting to hear what it was like not only to perform on stage but on film sets too as Jason has experienced both.

Théa Blais 11 Blake
Jude Fredman 11 Hepworth

CHESTNUT 21



Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you for your hard work in collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Up to Easter we have collected 1,500 vouchers – but we are a long way off last year's total of 22,000!!! Please keep collecting and handing them in.

The house that collected the most vouchers in March were DA VINCI. They will be getting 100 house points. Please help your child's house win the points in April by collecting as many as you can and handing them in to either form tutors or reception, in an envelope clearly marked with the house name on.

Trust Applications

We are currently working on large trust applications to gain new equipment and facilities for the

grounds after the building work is complete. This means that we have less time to focus on the fundraising activities in school other than the monthly themes. However, you can still fundraise by supporting the events of the Friends of Chestnut Grove, and if you have any comments or ideas for fundraising, please contact me on snoble@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk

Easy Fundraising

Over Easter we raised £30 from donations through Easy Fundraising – thank you! Please do not forget that you can buy anything on here, from the weekly shop to a holiday or car insurance and we get the donations! <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chestnutgroveacademy> It costs you nothing to log on through the site and Chestnut Grove get a donation for every bit of shopping done through it! You can even book flights and holidays!

HOUSE NEWS

HEPWORTH

Welcome back to all students in Hepworth. I hope you had a lovely Easter break.

Well done to the following tutor groups who have great attendance:

7 Hepworth: 95%

8 Hepworth: 96%

9 Hepworth: 95%

10 Hepworth: 95%

11 Hepworth please make sure you begin revising for those exams in a few weeks - please speak to your teachers if you have any concerns regarding your subjects.

James Wildman

KAHLO

Well done to all Kahlo tutor groups for being above national average for attendance. Special congratulations to 8 and 9 Kahlo who have met the Academy target of 96%. The more you are here, the more you will learn and the assessment data shows that this is having a great affect on progress.

Congratulations Mary, Ran, Lidia, Teva, Ramu, Kai, Harry, Jackson, Bruna, Billy Smith and Shea in 11 Kahlo who achieved at least 6 A*-Cs in their PPEs last month. They continue to work hard to reach the goal of 9 GCSEs at that level. Jackson, Shea, Lidia and Ramu also achieved A*s.

Abi Fisher

KAPOOR

Kapoor house continue to lead the **attendance** table with 95.87%

7 Kapoor – 1st place

8 Kapoor – 1st place

10 Kapoor – 1st place

9 Kapoor – 4th place

11 Kapoor – 4th place

Punctuality, needs to improve – Students must be in Tutor time 8:45am

Uniform – Kapoor house look sharp! Well done all.

Results from the Year 7-11 assessment week have indicated that a great many Kapoorians have, through hard work and revision, done very well – I have enjoyed being told by students of their success - congratulations to all who gave it 100% effort!

11 Kapoor – It is pleasing to see that students in 11 Kapoor are working hard and attending intervention sessions to give themselves every opportunity to achieve their very best in the fast-approaching final exams – Keep up the hard work Year 11 as it will be worth it come results day to know you have given it your best!

Tutor Team – A huge thank you to the members of the team for your continued hard work , support and high standards set for the students of our house!

Karen Fletcher

DA VINCI

Welcome back, I hope you all had a restful Easter holiday and I'm proud to see Da Vinci students back in full school uniform looking so smart.

In March Da Vinci students collected the most Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers winning us 100 house points. Keep collecting them for April and May - let's do it again!

Well done to Da Vinci students for your excellent attendance - Da Vinci remains above 95.6% attendance overall.

Noga Verber

TURNER

Dear Parents,

As we enter the final term of this academic year we also enter what we refer to as exam season. Not just the obviously important GCSE, AS and A Level exams, but also the various end of year exams for all of the lower years. KS3 exams are as follows:

- English, Maths and Science: Wednesday 11th May - Friday 13th May (in the Sports Hall)
- Y7/8 Foundation Subjects: w/c 16th May (in lessons)
- Y9 Foundation Subjects: w/c 23rd May (in lessons)

Year 10 will have their first official mocks much later this term in June but it is still important that all students are beginning to revise and asking their teachers if they need clarification on anything they have learnt this year. Revision tips can be found just by searching on the internet, but the key things that I have learnt over my years as an educator are the importance of sleep and healthy food when it comes to doing well in exams. Having had discussions with Year 11 just recently, it has become evident that most students may go to bed at 9 or just after, but are not actually falling asleep until nearer 11 as they are watching TV in their room or on their mobiles. I have made myself very unpopular as a result by phoning parents and telling them to take their mobiles away in the evening and also take TVs out of bedrooms!

You would also have seen in the recent newsletter that we are going to be changing the pastoral structure after May half term. This means that whilst I closely align myself with Turner House, I will no longer be their Head of House, but rather a Raising Standards Leader for a year group. As Mr Kingsley said, as soon as it has been decided which year group I, and the other Heads of Houses, will be assigned to, we will inform you and start working with that group of students before the end

of this academic year to ensure smooth progression into the next school year.

As always, it has been an honour and a privilege to work with the students of Turner House. They are an outstandingly unique group of young people and I wish all of them and you a happy and successful start to the final term

Kat Striesow

BLAKE

Well done to 7 Blake who have won the attendance breakfast against all other Blake tutor groups.

They enjoyed croissants just before the half term break!

Katie Robinson

