

**CHEW VALLEY SCHOOL
SCHOOL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2009**

News from the School Society

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Quiz Night earlier this month. Twenty two teams battled it out with Mr Hammett and Mr Boardman's team winning for the second year running. Congratulations to them and many thanks to Mr Gaynor and Mr Brown for once again setting the questions. The evening raised £639.

FUN RACE NIGHT: Our next event will be a Race Night on **Thursday 30th April** in the School Hall, doors open 7pm, first race 7.30pm.

This is the first time we have held such an event which Mr Gaynor and Mr Brown have kindly offered to lead for us. We have had support from several local companies by way of sponsorship ... all we need now is your support to make sure the evening is a success. We're afraid this event is for over 18s only – we do hope some Sixth formers will come along.

There will be a bar and cash prizes, including a first prize of £100. Tickets are priced at £10 which includes all bets (no hidden extras), nibbles and a free drink and a roll.

So, why not come along and see how good you are at spotting the winners? Whether you study the form carefully ... or just choose the jockey whose colours you like best, it might turn out to be your lucky night! Tickets are available from Reception until Friday 24th April.

HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT: Somerfield have very kindly donated two tickets for a Hot Air Balloon flight to raise funds for the new building. We will be holding a raffle with the winning ticket being drawn at the Race Night. Tickets are just £1 and will be available from the Humanities Block during break and lunchtime from Monday 20th April. Vllth formers will also be coming round all the tutor groups to make sure everyone has a chance to win this fantastic prize.

Dance Festival

From the 9th – 12th February, hundreds of pupils from primary & secondary schools across the area performed to eight sell out audiences at Chew Valley School's annual Dance Festival.

As always, I was amazed by the depth of talent on show. Pupils danced and choreographed in such a range of styles – from ballet, to jazz, to street – with real skill and presence. I was particularly impressed by the confidence and skill of some of the youngest performers.

A word must also go to the faultless behind-the-scenes organisation. Each visiting school came equipped with stunning costumes and props; had its own dressing room; marshals to collect pupils from where they were and return them afterwards. Whilst on stage, the crew and compere ensured that each show ran smoothly from beginning to end.

I cannot imagine how many hours go into the planning of the Dance Festival each year but it is always a pleasure to watch. It was also a joy to see the enthusiasm of the participants – something even the snow couldn't dampen this year.

Roll on next year!

Midsummer Night's Dream Review

Audiences at Chew Valley School were recently treated to a truly magical performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The double cast meant that many people had to make a difficult decision about which night to attend! I watched the cast that performed on the opening night, and despite having seen many versions of this play, I was struck by the freshness of the performance. Will Kelly was hilarious as Bottom, adding some wonderful slapstick touches to the performance. His physical presence on stage and his comic timing were impressive. I am told that George Heritage gave an equally brilliant performance on Thursday and Saturday night. Both actors were well supported by their motley gang of mates, including Will Saunders as a wonderfully impressionable Quince. Both groups of mechanicals were a joy to watch – especially during their hilarious rendition of 'The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus & Thisby' as the scenery collapsed around them.

Beth Reynolds was fantastic as Puck and filled the stage with sparkling mischief. The bickering of the spurned and betrayed lovers was skilfully handled by Fred Cotterill (Lysander), Sam Reeves (Demetrius) Christy Grimes (Hermia) and Abi Williams (Helena). They lifted many sections of the play that are sometimes over shadowed by the mechanicals sub-plot. Their lines sounded alive and spontaneous and were complimented by some very effective physical comedy. This was echoed by Lucy Hacker & Daisy Ajderian who also played Hermia & Helena. The lovers showed a real understanding of their character and brought this alive for the audience each night.

The fairies, elegant in their Rennie Mackintosh inspired costumes, supported their imperious yet vulnerable mistress Titania (played with real understanding and subtlety by Verity Jordan & Harriet White) even when in love with a donkey. The talented cast delivered their lines with such ease that it is quite humbling to think that the majority are also juggling heavy GCSE and A-level work loads. *Midsummer Night's Dream* is a decidedly tricky play to stage – which makes the achievement of this cast even more impressive! Credit must also be paid to the outstanding set design, technical crew and inspired direction which brought the very best out of this talented cast.

A beautiful production and a joy to watch. Congratulations to all involved.

Fashion vs. Uniform

The school has a very difficult line to hold between a school uniform which is smart, comfortable and uniform(!) and the various fashion trends which sweep the teenage market. We are experiencing an unfortunate cross-wind in girls' skirts at the moment!

The school wishes to clarify the uniform expectations in relation to skirts as follows:

Skirts should be plain black or dark grey, A-line style - knee length to mid-calf (no mini, maxi, tulip or Ra Ra skirts). Skirts and material should not be of jeans material, corduroy or cord.

Could we also reiterate that hooded tops are not acceptable!

Year 7 News

On Thursday 12th March, the whole of year 7 took part in a "workout" to raise money for LEPRO, the leading UK medical charity committed to caring for people affected by leprosy. The students had a great time – as can be seen by the photographs on the school website.! It costs around £21 to help cure someone of leprosy, and within six months most patients can be completely cured of this dreadful disease. The final figure raised was an amazing £1600.27!!!A big thank-you to all parents, other family members and friends who have helped us reach this staggering total by donating to this extremely worthwhile cause. Well done Year 7!!

A number of our year group have taken part in a project run by the University of Bristol. Known as "The PEACH Project", the aim is to monitor the amount of physical activity that young people do. The project also aims to explore factors in children's environments that act as barriers or facilitators to activity.

Earlier on this month, we were entertained by the school's outstanding cheerleading team. This included an impressive display by the year 7 girls - hopefully others (maybe some boys?) might have been inspired to take up this exciting activity in the future.

We now have an enthusiastic team of monitors who have volunteered to help look after our tutor base at lunchtime – thank you to those who have volunteered!

The lower school production "Ubu Roi" was a resounding success with a large number of year 7 students involved. The energy and enthusiasm of the whole cast was wonderful to see and special mention must go to Noah Tyler, Joe Terrible, Fergus Bowen and Lucy Reynolds for their impressive performances.

The local Championship Heat of the Times National Spelling Bee will take place in Bath on the morning of Thursday April 30th. Our team of Ed Stowell, George McGeowan, Shannon Jones and James Conway will be accompanied by two members of staff. We wish them luck!

Our girls' hockey team continue to do well with recent victories over Wellsway (9-0) and Somervale (5-0). The "players of the match" were Lauren Weaver and Vicky Vipond respectively. The year 7 football team have enjoyed a successful season thus far. Having won both of their pre-season friendlies they began the league campaign with good cause for optimism and the 6-1 win over Broadlands saw Joe Cowell manage a hat-trick, Sam Lewis scored with a header and Harry Sparkes came off the bench to score two goals in the last ten minutes to record a comprehensive, if slightly flattering victory. Last week's game was a more competitive affair. Another slow start saw Somervale take the lead from a corner, but for most of the match Chew were the more threatening side, although it took another close range effort from super-sub Sparkes to gain them the draw their efforts deserved. Man of the match was Ed Stowell.

Having had their first game snowed off, the B team are in action this week and a report will appear in the next newsletter. The enthusiasm and commitment to practices of the entire 30-"man" squad has been excellent. Finally, just to stop him nagging, we'd like to point out that, excellent defender that he is, Olly Morgan did not score in the friendly at Churchill, it was Olly Garland – we hope the matter can now be laid to rest!

Year 8 News

Year 8 made a wonderful job of raising £75 at a cake sale for the Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund. This followed the presentation mentioned previously that was given by Mr Ian Strand of the Avon Fire Service, about Arson Awareness. The students really pulled out all the stops and the delicious cakes were eagerly snapped up by students at break time. Many thanks to all the long suffering parents for donating cakes, and/or, putting up with untidy kitchens the night before the sale. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. And of course thanks to all the students who bought cakes on the day.

The Year 8 Parents Evening will be on **THURSDAY 7 MAY FROM 4-6.30** to follow up on all aspects of the Year 8 reports. Please keep this date available to see all the subject teachers. It should be a very productive evening for all concerned.

The Lower School play has been a wonderful success with a huge cast giving a large number of students a great opportunity to tread the boards.

The Year 8 students involved in the recent Cheerleading competition certainly have a great deal to cheer about as they had another excellent weekend of results. More trophies adorn Reception as a reminder of their wonderful success.

Hockey Netball and Football house matches are being played in the last week of term weather permitting. This will be another opportunity for participation, with as many as possible preparing to represent their houses. All the Year 8 sports teams have been playing matches throughout the winter months and the following students have been named Player of the Match on various occasions; George Worle, Emily Harding, Peter Miles, Emily Haberfield, Harry Bratchel, Joe Martin, Henry Harper, Amber Bradbury, Sophie Biddle, Georgia Watts Jess Hepburn, Collette Winter, Katie Purchase, Ben Walsh, Jake Rogers, and Ben Jones. Congratulations to all of them. It's great to see so many students getting involved and reaping the rewards of practice. Well done to all who have taken part so far this year. We can now look forward to the summer with more players to recognise. Enrichment Week plans are well underway so we should have some excellent activities for all to enjoy during the week.

Year 9 News

Year 9s helped to organise two events in our fundraising week: a cake sale, which raised £50.52 and a "Soak the Teacher" session, which raised £31.47. Special mention must be given to Chelsey MacKay and Katie Ford, whose cakes were out of this world, but thanks to all students who made or brought in cakes to sell. Mr Jory, Mrs Sanders, Mr History Brown, Mr Turner, Mr Hammett and Ms Kenzie all faced the wet sponges on Friday lunchtime and lived to tell the tale. Thanks to them and to Sam Robinson, Dean Hall and Katie Lorraine-Francis, who organised the equipment. More than £1,400 was raised in total.

Chew Valley School Tech Club has reached the regional finals. The aim is to make a solar-powered car and to create a team identity. Alex Grace, Alex Turner and Alex Fricker are going to Bristol on April 28th to do an oral presentation and race their car. If they do well they will be in the National Finals and win a £1000 car for the school. We wish them well!

A large number of Cheerleaders from Year 9 entered the Nationals at Nottingham recently and came away with a 1st and 4th place. Well done to them!

Since January the following Year 9 students have achieved Player of the Match status: In Football; Conor Hunt, Jack Morris, Oliver Vipond, Ben Melhuish and Shaun Ford. In Netball;

Cat Shaw and Melissa Wembridge. In Hockey; Cat Shaw. Our congratulations to them!

Year 10 News

Budding chefs Lorna Burnell, Rosie Gay and Archie Hancock spent a day at the City of Bath College in the Chef vs. Chef competition. Using locally produced foods they knocked up delicious spreads and the judges (including celebrity chef Martin Blunos) judged Rosie as second and Lorna as third. Well done to our three competitors, all of who justified Mrs Cook's confidence in them.

Member of Youth Parliament Fred Cotterill has been busy since his election, including a visit to Westminster as a guest of Liam Fox, MP. He was able to stand in both chambers, the Commons and the Lords, possibly as a prelude to a career in politics – time will tell. Thanks are due to Miss Powell for organising the trip. Fred has also been involved in weekly meetings with a local youth group in Peasedown, launching a regional campaign to get people more involved in their communities.

Meanwhile, Elise Davies has won first prize in the *Bath Literature Festival* Young Writers' Competition. Elise's poem was inspired by the idea of 'Wild Places', the theme of this year's festival. The poem was praised by the judges for its powerful simplicity and the way the character seemed to grow emotionally, as well as physically, as the poem developed. As well as an i-pod, Elise has also won a writing workshop for the school. Many thanks to Ms Kenzie who inspired Elise to keep on with her creative writing.

I Wish I Were Big

I wish I were big,
Have long legs to keep up with the older children,
I could lead the games at school,
Look down on the little ones,
I could rule the school.
I wish I were big,
No more forests of legs as I walk down the street,
Strange men stepping on my feet,
Huge faces smiling down at me,
No more hiding behind mummy,
I could be brave.
I wish I were big,
I could stay up late at night,
wouldn't it be great,
I would make the monster in cupboard disappear,
Just like Mummy does,
Have no fear of darkness,
I could be brave.
I wish I were big,
I could tie up shoelaces like Daddy does,
Drive the car to work,
No more playing with imaginary friends,
I could have a real adventure,
If only I were big,
One day I will be big,
Enter the grownups' world,
Leave the wild place of a small child's mind,
I will walk and talk like they do,
My games will become real,
Will be more than imagination,
I will be like that one day,
I will be big.

Elise Davies – 1st Prize 15-18 Category; Bath Festival

The Year 10 Parents' Evening was hugely successful, with a 94% turn-out from parents. With such solid teamwork between school and home we can ensure that the students achieve all that they are capable of. In sport, the netball team go from strength to strength, beating Norton Hill 32-13 and Kings Of Wessex 19-9, the outstanding player of both matches being Alice Herbert-Radford. In football, the boys are unbeaten in the league with Tom Blanchard's hat-trick at Broadlands a particular highlight. Mr Brown's favourite moment was the 'B' team fixture where a huge squad of 18 willing athletes thoroughly enjoyed a close-fought match. Mr Edwards was kept busy, making as many as seven substitutions at a time and the highlight was (rugby specialist) Adam Pollett's debut goal for the school.

About 30 of the year group took the chance to visit 'Science Live' at the Colston Hall. They were truly inspired by a range of top-quality speakers and it looks like the future of Science at Chew Valley is assured. Meanwhile, the same day saw one of the performances of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the school. Year 10 shone in their acting, with Kit Lawson-Johns and Louise Harrison as Egeus and Philostrate. George Dibble was funny and eye-catching as Flute, while the fairies (Amelia Hicks, Chloe Davis, Emily Thornton and Rhiannon Slatcher) were charm personified. Thanks also to those who helped behind the scenes, the boys who made the weapons at lunchtimes (!) and Chris Lawrence for wearing full bib and tucker as he greeted us to the show.

In mid-March, the geographers headed to Lulworth and what a glorious day it was! Sunny and warm with barely the hint of a breeze. Low gentle constructive waves lapped the beach, and caves, arches and stacks looked even more amazing than in the text book and photos. The students also savoured amazing homemade ice-creams, with (prime, fit sportsman?) Tom Blanchard trying 16 different flavours. The talk at the Heritage centre covered everything they needed to know (and more) about the management of the area, more than enough facts for a great coursework. We even made the two hour coach journey there and back without incident!

As ever Year 10 are remarkably busy and positive. Just as a reminder, the snow forced the jabs for tetanus, diphtheria and polio to be postponed. The day of reckoning is now April 23rd.

STOP PRESS: The Charity Week organised by Years 9 and 10 raised a fantastic £1425, to be split between Mr Mallett's parachute jump and the Teenage Cancer Trust – thanks to all those who joined in.

Year 11 News

On Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March cheerleaders from Year 11 and other year groups competed at the British Open Cheer & Dance National Championships in Nottingham. After performing well on both days the teams came home with five 1st place trophies, one 2nd and one 5th. The achievements included National Champions in the senior hip-hop division, National Champions in the schools dance division for the third year running and National Champions in the school cheer division for the second year running. Well done to everyone who competed.

Well done to those Year 11s who performed so well in the recent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The next few weeks will be very busy for Year 11. With GCSE and other examinations nearby, Easter will be a crucial time for Year 11 to get down to the serious revision that will lay the foundations for success in the summer. Many have started their revision already and some students are remaining after school to complete coursework. We wish them all the best of luck.

The Year Book went off to the publisher this week and we hope the completed book will be in school before study leave begins on May 13th. Many Year 11s have paid their initial deposit for this with the balance being due by May 2nd.

At the same time the year are looking forward to the Dinner on June 23rd which is being held at Ashton Court Mansion. This will bring to an end their period of compulsory education and everyone is busily organising dresses, suits and transport to the venue.

Stop Press: Maria Montague 11W has won a prize worth £100 in a musical theatre competition at the Mid Somerset Arts Festival. Well done, Maria!

Megan Davis achieved a merit in her Grade 8 flute exam in November 2008, and has recently received her certificate. Last month Megan performed in the Royal Festival Hall in London and she has also been offered the chance to be put forward for the Young Musician of the Year Award.

Study Trip to Paris



From the 11th to the 15th of March our AS French group spent five culture-packed days in Paris with ten AS and A2 French students from Gordano School, along with Miss Kerr from Chew Valley and Gordano's French teacher, Mrs Lidstone.

Our stay in Paris began with a boat trip on the river Seine, taking us past many beautiful buildings such as "La Cathédrale Notre-Dame", "Le Louvre" and "Le Musée d'Orsay", all of which

we later got to go and look around. We all took an active part in planning the day's routes via the Metro and were allowed time alone in groups to visit a flea market and shop along the "Champs Elysées", giving us plenty of opportunity to practise our French on each other and unfortunate passers-by. Some memorable moments include climbing "La Tour Eiffel" at night and singing on the steps of "Le Sacré Cœur" (in French of course). We also sampled some authentic French food including "crêpes au Nutella" and the vegetarians survived the week which was a victory!

We would really like to thank both the teachers for all the hard work they put in to make the Paris trip such an amazing educational yet fun experience and really hope we will get the opportunity to return to Paris next year.

Sinéad Millers, Year 12

Chew Valley Get Active Co-ordinators Launch

Calling all Chew Valley residents
Here's a great opportunity to Get Active
Sat 4th April 09, 10am -1pm
The Chew Valley Green Space & Millennium Hall Chew Magna

Your chance to:

- Commit to Get Active
- Try a new activity taster session
- Find out about activities in your area
- Guest appearance
- With great activity offers prizes & freebies too!

For more information contact:

Rebecca Leese, Your Local Get Active Coordinator:
Call 07530263116 or email Rebecca_Leese@bathnes.gov.uk

Tesco Vouchers

We are again collecting for the Tesco's for Schools offer and there is a collecting box in reception. The vouchers are available until Sunday 7th June and the scheme has now been widened to include computer equipment and sports equipment too.

The Head Who Fell To Earth!

Intrepid Headteacher, Mr Mallett rose to the challenge of a tandem parachute jump to raise £4000 to help equip and furnish the new 6th Form Block. Parents and pupils rallied round to raise the sponsorship to ensure the Headteacher kept his side of the bargain. Mr Mallett's 'Dutch Courage' Appeal brought in a late flurry of support to enable us to raise much needed funds for the quipment.

The jump was the idea of parent Chris Austins, a skydiving enthusiast, whose daughter Lucy witnessed the jump from the co-pilot's seat. It all took place at Dunkswell Airfield due to the generosity of Jason Farrand of Skydive UK Ltd who donated the jump to the school. Jason acted as Jump Master and successfully piloted the parachute down from 15,000 feet after a full minute of free-fall. The whole thing was filmed (again as a donation to the cause) by skydiving camera-man, Adrian Thornton.

Mr Mallett commented, after the event, "It was the most terrifying thing I've ever done in my life! But the more distance I get from it, the more pleased I am to have done it! I'm so grateful to everyone who donated money to the cause and hope there aren't too many disappointed I survived!"

For more information about sky-diving, contact
Jason@skydiveukltd.com

Photography Plea!

The year 12 A/S Photography course develops with students making great use of their darkroom and SLR film and digital cameras but there is always room for more cameras and camera equipment. If you have one sitting about collecting dust and clearly yearning to be used by little hands in sixth form and years 10/11 do donate to the photography course it will be well used. Contact Mr O'Connell / Mrs Morris or hand in to reception.

Contacts for the School Society

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