

CHEW VALLEY SCHOOL SCHOOL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

Farewell and goodbye

After long periods of service we mark, with thanks, the retirement of two esteemed colleagues:

John Hack (Deputy Headteacher)
Norma Sanders (Head of Year 9)

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

We also say goodbye to the following colleagues, taking up new appointments or opportunities:

Alison Powell (English)
Gemma Conway (Maths)

We wish them all every happiness and success in the future

Important Dates for Exam Students

Examination results will be available for collection on the following dates:-

GCE – Thursday 20th August in the Library 9.30am

GCSE – Thursday 27th August in the Main Hall 9.30am

Art Department News

Some exciting things going on at the moment...

Garden Sculpture: a group of talented young artists from Years 9, 10 and 12, supported by Mrs Morris, worked for two days with garden designer Angela Morley, creating fabulous installations in the Memorial Garden. They took their ideas and inspiration from nature and the garden itself, and the results, made from wire and recycled materials, are brilliant.

Schools' Art Show: this year's exhibition will be at the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath, opening on 10th October. The A Level Applied Art & Design students, supported by Miss Bloxham, will be curating the show, and have already begun the process of selecting from the varied artwork submitted by the 13 B&NES Secondary and 3 Special Schools.

New Facilities: we are all getting very excited about moving in to our brand new Art rooms in September - A4, A5 and A6(Darkroom).

Donations: many thanks to anyone who had donated resources or materials over the year. Good quality Art books, interesting artefacts/objects, old shirts/aprons, plain fabric/canvas and working SLR cameras, are always welcome.

Year 7 News

Enrichment Week was a great success. 164 students and 12 members of staff had a wonderful week in Swanage. The weather was extremely kind (considering the rather worrying forecast the week before!) and everyone appeared to enjoy the

different activities that were organised – particularly the days at Corfe Castle and the High Ropes course. The students who stayed in school also enjoyed a range of activities including a canal boat trip and some rather "explosive" science experiments. On Friday 3 June, as part of "My Money Week", a willing group of year 12 drama students ran a workshop for the students in 7E. Together, they performed a play called "Bailing Out" which is based on a short story from a book called "On the Money". With the help of the older students, the year 7's worked together in small groups and rehearsed their roles for the final performance which took place at the end of the session. Our thanks go to Mr Conway and the year 12 students involved for their enthusiasm and help in organising this event. Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves as can be seen by the photographs on the website.

It has been a fantastic season for the Yr 7 rounders team. An ever growing number of girls attended rounders club on a Wednesday dinnertime which meant that on occasions we had enough for two full teams plus reserves! Needless to say with this number we had enough talent to pick from and easily won all our matches. Particularly impressive was the batting ability of the teams, some girls scoring 3-4 rounders per match. The only disappointment of the season was the fact that the Yr 7 BANES tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather as the girls were very much hoping to win the tournament proving that they were indeed the best, but hey there's always next year!! Miss Straw would like to say thank you to all the girls who played with such good humour throughout the season and a special thank you to Julia Head who so ably organised the teams!

The Year 7 cricket team completed their season with an exciting last ball, last wicket victory over Wellsway. Chew bowled first, and kept Wellsway to a 'par' score of 88, decent, but 'gettable', to use cricket parlance. Pick of the bowlers were James England and James Phillips. After a decent opening stand between Lukas Gentle and Jordan Bishop (Jordan reckons we only pair them together for comedy value!), Chew suffered a middle order collapse of England proportions, before the tail 'wagged', most notably due to the excellent batting of Fergus Bowen, who scored 30 in very quick time, sensibly supported by Harry Sparkes. With one run needed off the last ball to tie, Bowen somehow managed to find a gap in the close-in field and scramble two runs to seal an unlikely victory against good opposition. The team thus finished with a winning record of having won 2 of their 3 games.

Eight of our students have applied to take part in the "Young Mendip Rangers" training course. Such was the quality that the scheme extended the three available places to five. Congratulations go to Dan Milverton, Megan Banks, Megan Abernethy-Hope, Megan Bendall and Stephanie Moreno. First reserves for the course are Lewis Horseman, Thor Baber and Sam Lear.

Sports Day was a wonderful occasion with many of our year group putting in tremendous performances. Special mention should go to Lukas Gentle (7C) who broke the school record for both the hurdles and long jump, Charlie Pearce (7W) who broke the school record for the javelin and Laura Finch (7E) who broke the school record for the hurdles. Thanks must also go to the team captains who took their roles very seriously in organising their teams.

Year 8 News

We are nearly at the end of another action packed year for Year 8. The most recent big event was Enrichment Week. This was an opportunity for every student to experience something different, whether they stayed in school or went on one of the trips to either Spain or France. In school an excellent group of staff offered their skills for activities ranging from Jewellery making to Shelter Building! Other activities included Media, Fair Trade Cooking, Sport, Circus Skills, Trade Game, and Gardening. The Big Foot theatre group gave all the students a really helpful insight into Fair Trade which dovetailed beautifully with the Geography unit that has been studied this year. An outside agency then enhanced the Circus Skills that had been started earlier in the week and then gave us an opportunity to sample Samba Drumming to widen our skills even further!

The trips to Spain and France went wonderfully with the staff and others expressing the fact that the students behaved in an excellent manner.

Sadly Year 8 are losing two tutors at the end of the year. Miss Hellier and Mr Edwards are taking over the running of Year 10 as Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year. The good news is that they will be staying in school so they will not be lost to us completely and I'm sure they will still follow the progress of 8A and 8H with interest as they move through the school. We wish them both the very best of luck and thank them for their tireless work with Year 8 and their tutor groups in particular. A number of students have also left us for pastures new and we wish them all the best of luck wherever they are going. Keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on.

Sports Day saw Connor Kendall in 8H break the 100 metres record which was a fantastic effort. Connor shows real promise for the future which is great. Year 8 represented their houses wonderfully all through the day and took a full part in all the events.

Claire Hammett and Julia Lawson-Johns in 8E (with help from Alex and Jay in Y9 and Y10) have been instrumental in helping to produce a school newspaper. The first edition came out last week and is full of excellent articles and features. Well done!

There are too many talented students to mention but Oliver Harper in 8C has really reached the big time! The article that follows this piece details his many successes so far this year. At present he is involved with a West End production of 'The Sound of Music'. It is very hard work balancing all the demands of school and also a major commitment such as this. We all wish him the greatest success and hope to see him on stage here in school next year.

At the time of writing we have the Celebration event to look forward to in addition to other end of year events to celebrate everyone's success. All too soon we will be back and starting Year 9 with renewed energy and looking forward to selecting exam courses!!

A Star is Born?

Oliver Harper has been appearing on stages since the age of 10. Below he gives us his cv and talks about the challenges of 'The Sound of Music' which tours this summer.

I started to like acting when I was 8 because I saw my first James Bond film and I decided I wanted to be James Bond. I started drama lessons on a Saturday. Then when I was 10 I saw an advert in the paper for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang auditions. So I went along and there were over 400 people there and I got in after 4 rounds of auditions. After that I got into Joseph in the Bristol Hippodrome and Bath Theatre Royal and Half a Sixpence with Gary Wilmot at the Bristol Hippodrome. In 2008 I was told to go and audition for Chitty in Cardiff and I got in.

So far this year I have done Waiting for Godot with Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen which was a great experience because they are probably the best actors I have ever seen. Also in 'Waiting for Godot' were Ronald Pickup and Simon Callow. All the actors were really nice to me. This year I was in a Bath Operatic & Dramatic Society amateur production of Oliver in the Bath Theatre Royal where I was Dodger. I have just found out that it has won an award. During the rehearsals for Oliver! I went for an audition for The Sound of Music tour 2009 and after 5 rounds of auditions and a trip to London I got in.

Since 16 June 2009 I have been rehearsing in London for The Sound of Music. I go to Chew Valley on a Monday then travel to London on Tuesday. While I'm in London I have to have 3 hours of tutoring every day. Then I have 6 hours of rehearsals. It is very hard work. One of the people that teaches us is Arlene Phillips. She is at rehearsals most days. We have rehearsed with Connie Fisher and she is really nice. She talks to us a lot. Michael Praed is a very good actor. He is Captain Von Trapp and at the beginning he is really horrible to the children and it seems very realistic. He is very icy. We rehearse at the Jerwood Space in London. There are lots of people rehearsing there and one day we bumped into Cameron MacIntosh and he was joking with us and asked us to come and join his show 'Oliver'. We said that we would not go over to the dark side.

Today I have had to have my hair cut. I was really scared. I think it's ok but I look a bit like a mushroom.

Next week as a treat all the children are going to watch Grease in the West End.

I'm looking forward to being in the opening night on 26 July. I have 2 weeks of rehearsals left and we have learned everything we just have to keep doing it over and over again.

We are performing in Cardiff until the end of August and then we go to Bradford, Southampton, Milton Keynes and Sunderland. It will be good to visit so many different places and perform in lots of different theatres.

We wish you the very best of luck with what looks like an exciting but punishing tour schedule!

Year 9 News

Year 9 acquitted themselves well on Sports Day and can feel proud of their achievements in sport throughout the year. They entered into the spirit of RSPCA Day on Friday, many choosing to be felines, others less obviously identifiable, and we hope that lots of money was raised for this good cause.

Alex Grace is the leading light behind the new CVS 4U magazine. Congratulations to him and all who worked on it.

Mrs Sanders is handing over the Head of Year role to Ms Hellier and Mr Edwards on her retirement at the end of this academic year. Year 9 has an excellent academic record, as well as sporting and theatrical, and Mrs Sanders will be tracking their progress through to Year 11 and beyond. They are a Year Group which welcomes opportunity and they have already contributed a huge amount to the school. Mrs Sanders wishes them all happiness and success in Upper School and beyond.

Year 10 News

The term started with a weekend yomp from Priddy to Panborough (near Street) for 43 students intent on completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This was a training weekend and they had to carry full kit for an overnight stay. The sun blazed and walkers were grateful for the regular water stops organised by staff. On the Sunday morning (having missed the final of Britain's Got Talent – such sacrifice!), Thea House learnt not to walk shoeless near tent pegs. A quick visit to Glastonbury's Minor Injury Unit soon mopped up the blood. A few weeks passed and it was time for the actual event. Students were bussed to Lynton in North Devon, Rebecca Cox singing questionably throughout the journey. They walked about 20 miles over the weekend. As students competently set up a stove on the Saturday night (as Bruce Springsteen belted out 'Born To Run' a few miles away), the staff realised they had forgotten their own gas canister – a terrible sin. Fortunately they were able to purchase pizza from the neighbouring farm while Mr (History) Brown's stew was consigned to storage once more. In a strict regime, students were awake by 6am and walking by 7am on the Sunday morning. Showing determination and grit, all groups finished the walk at Dunkerry Beacon (Somerset's highest point) by lunchtime on the Sunday. Singing was less enthusiastic on the way home and there was much cowboy-style bow-legged walking as we disembarked at school. The expedition forms one of their four challenges as part of the award. Well done to the students and many thanks to the school staff for making this possible.

Work Experience week was an incredibly diverse experience for those involved. From building a porch at Charterhouse to washing hair in Bishopsworth; from tending golf greens at Farrington Gurney to milking cows at Redhill; from surveying houses in Long Ashton to helping disabled youngsters in Nailsea; from tiling residential homes in Staple Hill to producing DVDs at Bristol Bridge; from testing yoghurt in Ubley to designing bearings for helicopters in Clevedon. The list goes on. For many, this was a life-affirming experience and it confirmed students' aspirations for life beyond school. Several have already been offered apprenticeships and others will return to work for the summer holidays. Thanks to Mr Hammett for organising such an array of occupations – the weekly interruption of assemblies was worth it in the end!

Back at school and two classes were inundated with a total of 33 trainee teachers for a special morning of Maths. These classes have been selected to take their Maths GCSE early, in November of this year. They spent the entire morning with their enthusiastic mentors, who were impressed with the positive approach of the students. However, after four lessons of Maths up until lunch, even the keenest were a little disappointed to see that last lesson was..... Maths! I wonder if homework was set that night?

A recent Friday saw the annual Multi-Sports Festival take place. We were invaded by 209 Year 1 & 2 children from the surrounding feeder schools to take part in dance, games and multi-skills activities. The morning was run by Becky Cox, Tom Vipond, Nathan Berkley, Claire Newman, Jess Boardman, Rachael Hutchinson and Jamie Batt who are all members of the BANES School Sports' Partnerships Leadership Academy. Together they had a team of 53 Year 10 students who ran the series of activities throughout the morning and as a result have now completed the second section of their Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership. The festival culminated in a final performance of the dance learnt earlier that day. The entire hall was filled with hundreds of legs and arms in (something approaching) unison. There is something about helping the little ones that brings out the best in Year 10, be it cheering up the scared, accompanying them on the frequent loo visits, or cajoling the shy. Let's face it, it was not long ago that they were this age themselves. This only serves to show the incredible and positive progress that the year group have made. Please do make sure they have a restful summer holiday before the challenges and achievements of Year 11. They will need all of the energy that they can muster, but, as ever, they will be 'up for it'.

For photos of the above events please do check the 'News' section of www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk.

The further exploits of an MYP

Hello all, Fred here again to tell you about what've been a fairly eventful few weeks in the world of the Youth Parliament. I've become involved with a campaign called 'Youth Fight for Jobs' recently, something I think will be pivotal in raising a coherent platform for young people to voice their demands. The campaign's demands include free education for all, increasing the minimum wage so that young people, who often end up taking the worst jobs, get enough to live on, and establishing better apprenticeship schemes in a wide variety of industries and jobs. With the recession and the focus on saving banks ruined by incompetent officials it's easy for the government to forget young people. However, with mass support 'Youth Fight for Jobs' will keep our needs on the agenda! Two weeks ago, as a representative of the campaign and as an MYP, I gave a speech to the South West branch of the Trade Unions Council and asked for their support of both YFFJ and the UKYP. After a grilling on the specifics of various policies, almost every delegate at the meeting agreed to go away and propose the motion to their local areas, a massive success in getting more structure and funding in the struggle for a better future and hopefully getting many more young people to join Trade Unions. To help raise funds for the campaign I have been assisting Mr Stinchcombe organise the school variety show, half the profits of which are going toward YFFJ. Finally, at the behest of a local resident, I have a lot of leaflets opposing Bristol airport expansion to give out, so if you feel strongly about it or would like to learn more then talk to me in the near future. That's all for now, so until next time comrades, goodbye.

Young People's Health Clinic

Chew Magna Doctors' surgery have approached the Governing Body regarding a possible clinic to run after school one afternoon per week. The clinic would be situated at Lake View House and complement the various mentoring and counselling services which are provided for young people there. It is anticipated that the 30 minute clinic will be set up in the Autumn to provide advice and clinical support for young people with drugs, alcohol or sexual concerns.

Year 12 Psychology visit to Bristol Zoo

On Friday 17 July, 36 intrepid psychology students set off to study animals at the zoo. We were lucky with the weather, the sunshine encouraged most of the animals to sit outside and be reasonably active. The students observed some of the animals maybe more closely than they would have liked. Several had to "volunteer" to hold a giant African land snail, while their partner poked the snail gently in the eye (this was not as cruel to the snail as it sounds!) Another session involved observation of the behaviour of various interesting species, including meerkats, penguins and ground squirrels. Ms Vartuli, Mr Walford and Mrs Palmer also observed the students, noting a large intake of icecream throughout the day. This visit links with the unit on Intelligence that we study in Year 13. A great day was had by all and the staff agreed that we will make this trip an annual event. Many thanks to Ms Vartuli for organising the day.

A Level Dance Trip to London

On June 29th Miss Helliard organised a trip for A Level dance students to experience what full-time dance education would be like in London and to visit the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The day had an early start; we met at Bristol Bus Station at 6.00am! arriving in London at 9.30am to catch a tube from Victoria Station to Kings Cross. We walked to London Studio Centre (LSC) which is a well established full-time dance school where students are trained in all areas of performance i.e. Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre; this prepares them for a professional career in dance. We watched the second year students in a ballet class and we were extremely impressed by the skill and intensity of the lesson.

After watching their two hour ballet lesson we went to Covent Garden, had lunch and did a bit of window shopping. Sadly we arrived at The Royal Opera House without any shopping bags! We had a guided tour and visited the main stage (which can hold up to three performance sets), we also went backstage. The Auditorium was very grand and its size was overwhelming, there we had an historical talk about the building. We also saw the Royal Ballet rehearsal studios which were the same size as the stage. The studios were very high tech which accommodates a ballet dancers needs. We looked into the technician area where staff were making props and scenery for future performances. The tour was very interesting and it was fascinating to see how a working theatre operates.

Next we went into a few dance wear shops and saw the famous Pineapple Dance Studios. On our way home we visited Leicester Square and saw the preparation for the premiere of *Public Enemies* and just missed out on seeing Johnny Depp! Then we walked to Piccadilly Circus and caught the tube and bus back home, arriving at 9.00pm, after a very hot journey as the temperature in London was 32 degrees that day!

By Charlotte Gallop, Kim-Ling Chung and Thea House

Book Amnesty!

This is a plea to any family which might have French, Spanish or German textbooks at home.

We are desperately short of books for next year's classes as so many books have not been returned. Please could everyone check and if you find any Chew Valley School text books, hand them in to reception, to your languages teacher or to the languages office in L1A and they will be gratefully received – no questions asked!

A Plea from the Textiles Department

If you have any of the following items around your house, the Textiles department would be very grateful for any donations of : Fabric, thread, buttons, beads, ribbon, yarn, embroidery threads or other textile bits and pieces. Also a big thank-you to all the people who have kindly donated items so far - they have all been put to good use!! Ms J Wilcox

Recycle Your Cycle

Recycle your Cycle Month – September 13th, 20th & 27th

Every year in the UK thousands of unwanted bicycles are rusting away in garages and sheds or even being thrown away, while in Africa, children are facing a four-hour daily walk to school and some adults may have a 20 mile round trip to collect food and water. Re-Cycle is a charity that collects second-hand bikes, parts and tools in the UK and ships them to places like Ghana, Liberia, Namibia, and South Africa. During September there will be **3 donation Sundays at Bishop Sutton Village Hall Car Park From 9.00am to Midday**. Please bring your unwanted bikes regardless of condition and very quickly they could be making a real difference to someone's life. The bikes need to be suitable for aged 8 and over and there is a particular need for adult bikes. For further information please contact us on 01275 331431 or 01275 331563.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

New Sports Camps for Children aged 5 - 14 years from
Monday 27th July – Friday 28th Aug
10am-3pm Sports Camp
8.30am-4.30pm – Sports and Activity Camp
Prices from £12 per day
Up to 80% off with Family Tax Credits

To book or for more information contact 0117 3027557 or visit
www.sportrecruitmentsolutions.com

Next Year's INSET days

Tuesday 1st September 09
Wednesday 21st October 2009
Friday 13th November 2009
Monday 22nd February 2010
Thursday 1st April 2010

Contacts for the School Society

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