



Senior Claremont News

Claremont Fan Court School

No. 1 End of Autumn Half Term

October 2011

Dear Parents

The Senior School has quickly settled into routines for the new academic year. The first half of Autumn term is now over and it is prudent to remember that, especially for examination year pupils, the bulk of teaching and learning occurs in the first two terms. The next weeks are important for all pupils to be fully focused on their studies without forgetting the importance of a balanced extra curricular programme.

The first grade card or academic review of the year is included with this newsletter. Please refer to the information book, pages 18 and 19, for an explanation of grades used in the grade cards. Please discuss these reviews and grade cards with your son/daughter and look to encourage further progress in the next half term.

Survey

You will by now be aware that we are undertaking a parent survey and that this will be available online for your completion during half term. We hope this will provide a comprehensive insight into parental opinion as a basis for future planning.

The objectives of the survey are:

- To assess overall satisfaction, parents' propensity to recommend the School to others, the fit with parental expectations and child happiness.
- To assess the level of endorsement amongst parents on a number of key features and identify which features parents would like the School to improve.
- To benchmark how the School is performing against other schools of a similar type.
- To measure the current image of the School among the parent body.

The online survey will close on Monday 31 October and will be followed by some consultation meetings with parents from all parts of the School. We anticipate making the key findings available in early 2012.

Calendars and newsletters

White paper calendars will no longer be published at the end of this academic year. From September 2012 we will rely solely on the website calendar that has been operational since September 2011. Please refer to it for last minute changes recorded since the paper calendar went to press. We update the website calendar continually so the information it contains is reliable and supersedes the paper calendar if there is a discrepancy.

I remind you also that the newsletter sent by email over the last few years has been replaced by the news section on the school website which is accessible to all at any time.

Grade card newsletters such as this one will be held on the school website under Letters and Documents

on the Information tab.

Attendance on day trips

It is our policy that we write to you with information about day trips that will take place and we will deem it that permission has been given from you for your child to attend once your ParentPay account shows that you have signed up. Contact information, medical and dietary needs data will be taken from our school records and be held by the trip leader for reference.

For overnight trips, we will write requesting that you fill out a form to ensure our contact information is up to date.

Data collection

If you have not yet updated the data collection sheet that verifies all your contact details, please do so urgently. If our records are correct, please also indicate this on the sheet and return to us.

Important upcoming dates

Senior School Parents' Evenings in the JGC 4.30-8.30pm:

Sixth Form	Tuesday 15 November
Year 11	Thursday 12 January
Year 9	Tuesday 7 February (including the Options Evening)
Year 8	Tuesday 21 February
Year 10	Thursday 1 March
Year 7	Tuesday 6 March

Remembrance Day Service:

Friday 11 November, Sports Hall, 10.45am – service for pupils

Christmas Service:

Thursday 15 December, Christ Church, Esher 10.00am - service for pupils

Thursday 15 December, Christ Church, Esher 7.30pm – service for parents, pupils, families and friends

School ends for the Autumn Term on Friday 16 December at 12.00.

Scholarships for 2011

Scholarship information for pupils entering Years 7, 9 and Lower Sixth is available from the website and the Senior School office. Year 7 scholarships are available for academics and music. Year 9 exhibitions are available for academics, music and sports. Lower Sixth scholarships are available for academics, art, drama, sports and music. Applications must be received by the Senior School admissions' secretary by Monday 31 October for Sixth Form applications, and Friday 18 November for years 7 and 9 applications.

Uniform

It is our continuing expectation that all students are in full uniform from the time of leaving home, whilst at school, and on the journey returning home. Blazers should be worn at all times.

As colder weather arrives, I remind you that navy scarves and school jackets are available from AlleyCatz, Thames Ditton. Non school items must never be worn over school uniform. Please ensure any unnamed clothing is named over the break.

Drop off for senior pupils

We ask that all Senior School pupils are dropped off at the top car park or the Upper Junior car park each morning, not at the Mansion steps.

Finishing Instrumental Lessons, an Extra Subject or Use of the School Bus

Parents are reminded that if pupils wish to stop an extra subject such as a musical instrument, chess, judo, fencing, speech and drama, dance, tennis and football, or use of the school bus at the end of the Autumn Term, notice in writing is required to be given to Mrs Butler in the accounts office by this coming half term.

We wish you an enjoyable half term break. I trust Year 11 students, as well as our Sixth Form students, will spend a good portion of their break time on exam preparation. I look forward to seeing all pupils next half term on Monday 7 November 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Insall-Reid'.

Mr J Insall-Reid
Head of Senior School

Events held this half term

This half term started with a Y11 French Conversational trip followed by a Y11 Study Skills Day early in September with a Parents Information Evening to give feedback on the day's activities. The Lower Sixth Form, Y10, Y9, Y8 and Y7 all had Parents' Information Evenings during this half term.

Physics of Surfing trip to Bournemouth

Lower Sixth physics students enjoyed a Physics of Surfing trip to Bournemouth.

Advanced physics teacher Neil Atkin led the students in a range of activities including water rockets and the famous "Monkey and Hunter" experiment and the day finished with a two hour surfing lesson. All the students managed to stand up on a surf board and so did Mr Boothe!



In early October, we had a very successful Sixth Form Open Evening attended by both our own year 11 students and their parents and a record number of outside families. If you wish to discuss any aspect of our Sixth Form programmes with us, please contact the school.

Y7 and Y8 started the term with a social evening; Y10 visited a mosque; Y7 enjoyed two trips this half term, the first one was a team building day at Boxhill and the second one was an art trip to the V&A Museum.

Year 7 took part in a Team Building day at the Box Hill outdoor education centre on Friday 23 September. The day was designed to foster new friendships and to build communication skills via team work and co operation. The pupils were able to take part in activities such as rock climbing, abseiling and 'the leap of faith'.

We were blessed with great weather and beautiful surroundings and the children thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to learn new skills in such a stunning environment.



Y9 visit to Ypres – Friday 30 September 2011

Year 9, accompanied by eight staff, left Claremont before dawn for a long day trip to the First World War battlefields of Belgium. Thanks to all parents who got their offspring at school so early!

After picking up our guides, we drove straight to Ypres. The Museum, with its many artefacts and interactive exhibits, held our attention for an hour. We visited Hill 60, a small hill overlooking the town, containing a huge crater, the result of British explosions, whose sound was heard in London in 1917!



In Tyne Cot cemetery we laid a plaque and held a small ceremony, especially for the 70% of its thousands of occupants who are nameless and 'known only unto God.' Crosses were also placed on the graves of distant relatives.

The sombre grey marble slabs in the German cemetery of Langemarck provided a stark contrast to the individual white stones of the British soldiers graves; a contrast furthered by the huge pit containing 25,000 bodies whose names were inscribed on large grey standing stones.

The highlight of the trip, for the students, was the well preserved British trench system at Sanctuary Wood, where they ran in and out of the dark tunnels and muddy trenches!



In early October Y8 enjoyed poetry workshops with Ros Barber. Y6 parents came to the Senior School to attend a Y7/Y8 assembly followed by a tour of the school.

Drama news

Sixth Form drama students took a trip to the Chichester Festival; Y10-Y13 drama students enjoyed their GCSE trip to Richmond Theatre. The Y11 GCSE drama class presented *All the World's a Stage*, four short devised plays taking a tongue-in-cheek look at time and/or the "seven ages" of man.

The famous "seven ages of man" speech from Shakespeare's *As you Like It* was the stimulus, or starting point, for each of the four plays. These had little in common with each other apart from their genesis, genre and great success!



A large audience of parents, friends and staff came along to the JGC and responded warmly to a mix of comedy, the absurd and a somewhat more serious look at time and the human condition.



Geography news

Year 10 have been studying factors affecting infiltration as part of their Water on the Land topic. On Thursday, 10A carried out their own fieldwork which was designed and planned by the students themselves. Their aim was to record the varying rates of infiltration across the School site. The class collected some interesting results and are now in the process of writing these up in order to apply their results to the theory we have learnt in class. prepare students for their residential geography field trip to the Isle of Wight at the end of the spring term.

Year 9 spent the day in Southall on Wednesday 12 October. They visited the Shree Ram Mandir in Kings Street, Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha on Havelock Road and St Anselm's Catholic Church on The Green. The day was full of a myriad of colour, sights, sounds, smells, but also quiet reflection as they visited the various places of worship and walked through the busy streets of Southall. They saw a slice of multi-cultural, multi-faith Britain which, while enriching their experience, also helps them with their religious studies work.



The Sixth Form artists travelled to Portland in Dorset to complete some wonderful stone carvings.

On Friday 14 October Y11 spent the day at the V&A on an art trip. Lower Sixth Form geography students departed to Chichester on Wednesday 19 October (photos to follow in the next newsletter).

The music school enjoyed the first instrumental concert, a guitar tea.

The Sixth Form's Charity Week has just finished and our charities this year are:

FANA – charity in Bogota, Columbia supporting orphan children awaiting adoption.
<http://www.fundacionfana.org/home.php>

Scope – charity in support of disabled people and their families <http://www.scope.org.uk>

Today, the last day of the half term, we have an Experience Day for Y6 pupils from outside schools interested in attending the Senior School next year.

Sports News

Girls' PE Report

The girls' sports teams have had a very busy start to this new academic year. Great enthusiasm and commitment has been shown by all players and the development of the squads has been very promising. There have been over 60 fixtures including lacrosse and netball matches from years 7 to the senior teams. Impressive successes have included: Netball - U12A verses Dunottar (15-3), U14A verses Harrodian (12-7), U18A verses Caterham (27-3). Lacrosse – U13/14 verses Dunottar (21-1), U14 verses St Catherine's (18-0), U15 verses Heathfied, Ascot (9-7), U18



verses Wellington (14-4), U18 winners of the Surrey Bowl Competition. Well done to all the girls involved.

Congratulations to the following girls for their individual achievements so far this year: Emily Runton, Emma Nanson and Amy Bissix for making the Surrey Lacrosse squads; Lottie Barrett for being selected, second year running, for the Surrey Netball Satellite academy. A special mention should be given to Emma Nanson who has also been selected to play for the South of England Lacrosse U18b squad.



Sixth Form bursaries: Mitchell City of London

Mitchell City of London Charity and Educational Foundation are offering Sixth Form bursaries to a maximum value of £1,650. Applicants must have a connection through their families with the City of London and expect to get six C passes or better at GCSE, with at least two at A grade, and intend to apply for a university place. No application can be considered without the City Qualification. Further information is available from Mrs Braithwaite in the Senior School office. Applications must reach the London office of the charity by 9 January 2012.

PTA News

Gift Wrap Fundraiser

The Northbrook Gift Wrap brochure is enclosed with this newsletter. The School will receive **22% cash back** on every item sold.

In the next couple of months we will all be buying wrapping paper for Christmas and of course we need birthday paper all year round. If we all bought just a couple of items we could raise a significant amount of money. Very importantly Northbrook's gift wrap has been responsibly sourced in the EU and finished in the UK therefore reducing carbon miles and sustaining UK jobs.

Besides the roll wrap, there are many other great value products in the brochure; check out the birthday cards at £3.50 for 20 - just 17.5p per card, and the Secret Sheet Pack (5m of paper) for just £3.50. We do hope you like the selection of papers and that you and your family will support our school by purchasing through us.

Completed forms in this mail out should be returned to the School Office with cheques made payable to CFC PTA.