



Senior Claremont News

Claremont Fan Court School

No. 3:11/12 End of Spring Half Term

10 February 2012

Dear Parents

Enclosed with this newsletter are grade cards for Years 7-11 or Sixth Form academic reviews. This is now the third grade card or review of this academic year and I trust a pattern of conscientious work habits, prep completion and good behaviour in class supports achievement in the academic grades of your child. Each grade card serves to highlight each subject over the preceding six weeks and the full grade card will then inform the end of year report. Heads of Department and Year Heads look at these cards closely to track progress of your child. It is our expectation that grades progress upwards throughout the year. If this is not the case, please discuss the actions necessary with your child that will ensure greater success in studies and school life.

Term Dates

The 2011/2012 term dates have been issued to you in the school calendar and are also available on the school website and are summarised as follows:

Spring Term:	Wednesday 4 January to Thursday 29 March (half term Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February)
Summer Term:	Tuesday 24 April to Thursday 12 July (half term Monday 4 June to Friday 8 June) – Bank Holiday Monday: 7 May.
Summer Meeting:	Saturday 7 July
School closes:	Noon, Thursday 12 July

2012/13 Academic Year

Autumn Term	Thursday 6 September to Thursday 20 December (half term Monday 22 October to Friday 2 November)
Y7 Induction	Wednesday 5 September 2012
School opens for all pupils	Thursday 6 September 2012

Please note these term dates in your home calendars.

A copy of the term dates for 2012/2013 is enclosed.

Pupils missing days of school disrupt both their own learning and that of their classmates as teachers then need to re-teach in catch up sessions. It is school policy that pupils should request permission to be away from School, well in advance. Please avoid requests for additional time off School by planning holidays for School break times only. Any pupil given permission to be away from classes should meet with his/her Year Head and all his/her teachers a week prior to his/her time away to request an early absence report card (blue) to be completed with instructions for missed lessons. He/she should return to School with lessons completed and ready to resume learning in classes. On his/her return, the pupil will need to

ask subject teachers to sign on the card to indicate that the work set has been completed. Otherwise the pupil will be expected to attend study hall until the work has been caught up.

It is this School's policy, in line with national guidelines, not to give permission to be away from School for additional holiday time.

Notice of leaving

You are reminded that notice of pupils leaving Claremont Fan Court must be received at least one term ahead of their final day of school; therefore by 24 April 2012.

University offers

We are very pleased that our Upper Sixth students are receiving offers of university places from many fine universities. Amongst those offers is one to Neil Cordon to read mathematics at Churchill College, Cambridge University. We trust these offers encourage our final year students to work hard to secure their place.

Scholars

Congratulations to the many students who have been awarded scholarships and exhibitions to enter years 7, 9 and the Sixth Form for the next academic year. This year we have awarded a record number of scholarships and exhibitions to enter the Sixth Form. This sizeable number reflects the growing academic strength of our students and augers well for a very successful Lower Sixth next year. In addition we have offered a number of scholarships to outside candidates at various levels and we look forward to welcoming these students to School in September.

Uniform

School beanie hats and scarves (in two styles) are now available from AlleyCatz. It is this School's expectation that only School hats and scarves are worn as from next half term.

I wish you a restful half term and look forward to the second half term beginning Monday 20 February 2012 at 8.30am. Senior pupils should be very focused now in the last weeks before their GCSE and A2/AS exams. Please ensure that your children have a break but also spend time wisely on their final pieces of coursework, their continuing revision and preparation for these important exams.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Insall-Reid
Head of Senior School



The following events took place during this half term:

Early AS exams have been completed and on Saturday 14 January we had over one hundred and fifty applicants sitting the entrance test for Year 7 in September, 2012.

During this half term, Y8 PHSE talks on illegal drugs took place in January; Y11 parent/teacher evening was held in the JGC; The DofE presentation evening included many Claremont students at the ACS Cobham International School, Cobham. Spanish and French information evenings prepared our pupils for these exciting exchanges; the Lower Sixth technology trip went to Siemens, Camberley; the Rotary Young Chef competition (see separate news item) resulted in success for our chefs. The Young Enterprise competition, Brooklands continues with our teams working well; the English Gifted and Talented workshop for creative writing skills was very successful; Y7-Y13 Surrey Schools Problem Solving Challenge competition included Claremont teams as did the Y9-Y11 Intermediate Maths Challenge; Y10 Sixth Form introduction evening was a fun and informative event; Y5 parents visited Y7/Y8 assembly and toured the Senior School; the Y7 geography trip to Kew Gardens was held on a very cold day. Lots of drama rehearsals for the performances of *Spoofs Ga-Law* was also a big part of this term. The Sixth Form Berlin trip departs on Friday 10 February and returns on Tuesday 14 February.

Spoofs Ga-Law!

This year's theatre production was last week! If you were amongst those who not only managed to get a ticket (we were sold out on all three nights) but who also braved the blizzard on Saturday, we thank you heartily for your support and trust that you enjoyed the evening's entertainment.



To judge by the congratulatory cards, letters and emails received, *The Real Inspector Hound*, *The Perils of Pauline* and *Trial by Jury*, all successfully poked their fun at Agatha Christie-type whodunits, a famous 1920s silent movie and the law. The eclectic ingredients which comprised *Spoofs Ga-law!* seemed to complement one another remarkably well, with the short Gilbert and Sullivan piece rounding things off with the very model of a modern... musical flourish. We were even able to welcome back, amongst the audience on this occasion, our Director of Music, Mr. Alexis Affonso. We all look forward to working with him again shortly. The final rehearsals and performances of *Trial* were conducted by Mr Alan Hitchcock who, at short notice, once again found his true forte!



Congratulations to all the 70 or so students who took part and many, many thanks to all the parents and friends who so willingly and ably helped and supported. Claremont Fan Court productions are always community events and Spoofs was no exception. What's next? Watch this space!



The Philosophy Cafe

The Philosophy Cafe, a new lunchtime club for Years 7 and 8, has had a successful launch this term, with regular discussions on such topics as "what is the right answer?", "what is personal identity?" and "can you step into the same river twice?" Several pupils sit round the tables in the Drawing Room eating packed lunches and contemplating these issues. It is not all serious discussion though; we also play games and laugh a lot.

Letters to parents on School Website

You are reminded that all letters to parents are listed on the school website for your reference. Please look under the heading Information 'letters and documents'.

Notice of changes

Notice to cease extra subjects and use of the school bus needs to be received by the end of the half term holiday to stop these at the end of term and avoid being charged for the summer term. Please bear in mind the summer term will be disrupted due to study leave and exams (for Y11 pupils and above).

Tennis Lessons for Pupils

Tennis England is providing tennis lessons for pupils from after February half-term again. Pupils can choose to attend a group tennis lesson with a coach to pupil ratio of 1:6 or select an individual lesson with a coach. The lessons can take place before school, during the lunch break and after school.

Tennis England is also providing group and individual lessons for parents as well. Please call Tennis England on 0800 043 0707 so that you can reserve a place on one of the courses.

Spring Term Tennis Time Table - 20 February-30 March (6 weeks)

Senior School Pupils

Wednesday 1.05pm-2.05pm; year 7 to year 9, improver/intermediate, cost £66.95

Wednesday 4.45pm-5.30pm; year 7 and 8, all levels, cost £57.95

Friday 4.20pm-5.20pm, year 7 to year 9, all levels, cost £66.95

Saturday, 12-1.30pm, year 7 to year 9, all levels, £100.95

Senior School Team Training

Tuesday 7.15-8.15am, team players only, cost £10.00 per session

Saturday 11.15am-1.15pm, drills/match play, team players, cost £18.00 per session

Adult Group Lessons

Monday 9am-10.15am; improver/intermediate, cost £54.00

Thursday 10am-11.15am, rusty racquets/improver, cost £54.00

Rotary Young Chefs

After weeks of gruelling school heats and planning of menus, Tuesday 26 January was finally the day our budding young chefs had been waiting. At 7.30am with trepidation and bags packed with ingredients, equipment and aprons, four Claremont students, Mrs Knight and Mrs Wells set off to the area rounds of The International Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland's Young Chef Competition.

Amber Price, Eleanor McChesney, Hari Khan and Nicola Shaw were chosen to represent Claremont Fan Court School after impressing our judges and winning these early school rounds. Having to cook a three course healthy meal for two people for under £15 was a big challenge in an unfamiliar kitchen and against the clock. The teachers were banished from the room and the students were left to compete against five students from two other schools in a two hour timed session.

The standard of cooking and the chosen menus was very high. All students produced dishes that would have pleased the most discerning of critics and the judges deliberated long and hard.

Amber won best starter for her hand-rolled sushi. Hari won best dessert for his Austrian coffee and raspberry tart and Eleanor won overall to go through to the next round with her menu of smoked salmon rolls, prawn and butternut squash curry and chocolate fondant pudding.

Exhausted and with a mountain of washing up to do, all students nonetheless agreed it had been a great day and we can't wait to see how Eleanor will do in the District finals on 25 February at Merton College.



Young Enterprise Half Way Competition

On Wednesday 8 February the Claremont Young Enterprise companies had a very successful evening at the Half Year Festival hosted by BP in Sunbury. We have two companies, our Sixth Form students Khrysos and our year 10 pupils Urband. Each company was asked to present their business ideas to various judges. Khrysos have developed "Pholder" a product to safely hold your phone whilst charging. Urband are providing personalised, printed silicon bands for schools, clubs and sports groups.

There were sixteen other companies there from nine other schools and competition was fierce.



There were four prizes to be won:

Most Creative use of Science awarded by BP (£100 prize) – Khrysos came second.

Most Innovative Product (P&G £100 prize) – Khrysos came third.

Best Presented Company (Gavin Jones Ltd, £100) – Khrysos won overall.

Best Video Advert (Retail Therapy TV £100) – Khrysos won overall.

An amazing result.



The year 10 group also presented themselves really well, coped brilliantly with tricky questions from the judges and should be proud of their ability to compete against much older students. The marketing manager from P&G was extremely impressed with the advert stills that this group had submitted and told Urband that the quality had been superb.

The next event is a trade stall in Camberley on Saturday 25 February and then it is the North Surrey Area finals on Tuesday 27 March.



Year 7 Geography Field Trip to Kew Gardens (for the Ecosystem Experience)

Year 7 spent a freezing day at Kew Gardens. There was time to warm up in the desert and rainforest conservatories where we looked at how plants had adapted to their environment. We had guided tours and were shown some of the smelliest, tallest and biggest plants and seeds in the world. All students worked very hard to collect information to help them with their class work on Ecosystems.

We began our day with a visit to the Plants and People Museum whereby we had to hunt for answers in the display cabinets. Did you know that from a coconut you can make clothing, baskets, roofing, food, drink, ropes and door-mats!

Whilst inside the Palm House and The Princess of Wales Conservatory, with temperatures reaching 27.1°C, we could have been miles away from the freezing temperatures, remnants of snowmen and the attempts of a snow flurry that were going on around us outside.

The Princess of Wales conservatory was divided into a series of separate biomes and whilst moving through each one, we were able to observe both the changes in temperature and vegetation type. Some of the cacti in the desert section were fascinating and we stopped to sketch the barrel cacti and to think about how this particular plant had adapted to survive in this arid climate. It was funny to think that this plant had its very own 'sun hat' to protect it from the sun. In the Palm House, there were so many plants that it was full to the roof. We saw the world's largest palm tree, which looked as though it was going to burst out the top of the conservatory.

In this building we also climbed a spiral staircase which took us on a walk along and around the top. This enabled us to get an idea how tall these trees really were and what it must be like up in the canopy layer of the rainforest.

