

A Specialist Humanities College

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 98

December 2012

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PARKING PROBLEMS!

Following a complaint from a neighbour, who frequently finds his driveway blocked, we request that you please park considerately and safely when waiting for/collecting students from the school. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.10 p.m. on FRIDAY 21st.

END OF TERM NEWS FROM THE HEAD



It has been a successful term as you will have seen in newsletter articles. I wish all students, staff, parents and carers a happy Christmas holiday and New Year. I look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 8 January 2013.

Many of our students will be taking GCSE, AS and A2 exams during January on behalf of everyone in the school. I wish them every success.

Farewells

Mr Walsh is retiring this Christmas after 25 years of teaching, with 10 of these at John Colet. Prior to entering the teaching profession, Mr Walsh worked in industry. Mr Walsh has taught Biology and Chemistry to A Level and has been very keen to promote Science and its applications with his students. Mr Walsh has been a committed Form Tutor and supported many extra-curricular activities. We wish him well in his retirement.

Mrs Drammeh, Finance Manager, joined us last year and successfully saw us through our first audit as an Academy. We wish her well in her new post in Oxford.

Welcome

Mr Elley starts as a Learning Support Assistant;

Mrs Emburey begins as Finance Manager;

Mrs Housego is our new PR Officer;

Mrs Turner will be a Learning Support Assistant;

Mrs Vincent starts as Data Manager.

Internal changes

Mrs Holt will be taking over Mr Walsh's classes

Letters given to the school to pass on to students

On occasions, we receive letters in the post or hand delivered to reception where we are asked to pass the letter/note on to a specific student. For the safety of our students, we do not pass on any letters/notes without opening them first to check that the content is appropriate. If we are happy that there are no safety issues, we then put the letter/note back into the envelope and pass it on to the student. Whilst this may seem overcautious to some parents/carers, we had to call in the Police about 2 years ago after we opened a letter to a student.

Mrs C McLintock

NEWS IN BRIEF : We have received a message from the Youth Centre to say that they will be offering young people the opportunity of starting their Duke of Edinburgh Award through the Youth Club. We understand they are planning to hold an opening night on 29 January 2013 to announce this opportunity.
Sue Atkinson - Wendover Youth Centre



NEWSLETTER

Message from Matron



Many students may be starting to feel the pressure of imminent exams. Taking exams is bound to be stressful because of what is at stake. They may be feeling a weight of expectation from parents, teachers and themselves. However, when the level of stress becomes too much it can have very negative consequences on the health of students and the results of exams. Please encourage a healthy lifestyle including adequate sleep (7-9 hours) a healthy diet as, when stressed, they will be more susceptible to infections. Please can I encourage parents and students alike to read the leaflets, to which there are links below. These provide helpful tips and advice on managing exam stress. If any students are suffering with exam stress and feel they not coping, please encourage them to come and talk to a member of staff, Form Tutor or Matron.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Examstress.aspx>

http://www.mind.org.uk/assets/0001/7285/How_to_cope_with_exam_stress_2010.pdf

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforteachers/classroomresources/BeatExamStressPDF_wdf56569.pdf

We are seeing an increase in absences due to illness at the moment and are seeing a higher volume than normal of students feeling unwell during the school day. Please can parents ensure that they phone or email and report their child's absence by 10am. Also can parents ensure that we have up to date contact information, so that should the student need collecting we do not have difficulty in reaching you.

I am sure many of you are already aware that Norovirus (winter vomiting bug) has been doing the rounds. Please encourage regular hand washing before eating using warm water and soap. Alcohol gel is not effective against this bug. If your child is unfortunately afflicted by this bug then please do not send them to school until 48hrs after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

After Christmas, Ann Allman, our School Nurse is going to be in the meetings room on Wednesday lunchtimes and is available for students to drop in and see her, and make use of a free and confidential service offering support, information and a listening ear on: Relationships, Drugs and Alcohol, Counselling and Emotional support, Sexual Health, Careers and any issues causing concern.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MUFTI DAY



Friday 8th February is going to be a mufti day. Students and staff will be required to pay £1. It is a shocking statistic that 270 children die due to a sudden cardiac arrest at school each year. The funds raised will go towards purchasing an AED for the school. An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is a small, lightweight device that analyses a person's heart rhythm and can recognize if they have an irregular heart rhythm known as fibrillation (this is also known as Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)). When a person suffers an SCA their chance of survival reduces by between 7- 10% for every minute that passes by without defibrillation. In the UK approx. 270,000 people a year suffer from cardiac arrest but many of these lives could be saved if defibrillators were more readily available.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone have a very happy and healthy Christmas!

Maddie Jenkins (Matron)

SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE



On Tuesday 20 November, Year 12 students attended the Safe Drive Stay Alive Campaign at High Wycombe Swan Theatre. We discovered last year 841 people aged 16-19 were injured on Thames Valley roads and an average of 4 young people per week were killed or seriously injured.



After an emotive and hard-hitting performance produced by a road safety partnership including Thames Valley Police, local councils and emergency services, everyone that visited the campaign were deeply moved by the true stories of families who had suffered loss or injury from road accidents.

This was a shocking but great experience for me and many others learning to drive in Year 12, it has really woken us all up about the true realities of reckless driving and the traumatic effect it can have on the lives of so many people. The campaign has helped to reduce the number of people dying on the roads and we hope it will influence as many young people our age as it did for us. This experience will always remain with me and has most definitely changed mine and many other year 12 pupils' attitudes on safe driving.

Naomi Smith 6H

REMINDER YEAR 11 LEAVERS HOODIES

A letter was sent out recently regarding Year 11 Leavers Hoodies. On discussion with the Student Council and with the students in the form groups, we would like to offer all students within the year group the opportunity to purchase a leavers hoodie which will be in maroon.

The design of the hoodie will have the school logo and 'class of 2013' printed on the front with the number 13 printed on the back filled with the names of those students who purchase the hoodie. The cost for this is £15.99, however; for an additional £3.00, students can also have their 'nickname' printed above the number 13 (obviously nothing rude will be accepted).

Should you not have been aware these hoodies are available, please contact the School Office for a copy of the letter and relevant reply slip as payment and completed slip needs to be returned to School Finance Office. Should a nickname on the back be required, this should be printed clearly on the form using block capitals as to what you would like so that this can be passed onto the company who are supplying them.

To ensure that the hoodies are printed in time for the final day, we would appreciate it if you could return the slip and payment before or on the **21st January 2012**. All cheques should be made payable to 'The John Colet School Fund' and Finance Office is open to students between 8.15—8.45 a.m every morning.

The Year 11 Student Council and Mrs Froggatt.



JOHN COLET SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT WELCOMES YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2012

The Christmas concert is just around the corner. On Wednesday 19th December many students will be performing pieces they have been working on and some traditional Christmas music. Get your tickets now to avoid disappointment. The concert will take place in the Main School Hall from 7.00 p.m.

Tickets available from the School Office: Adults £4 Concessions £2

Refreshments available. Tel: 01296 623348



Performance to include: Class Brass Choirs
Drama Soloists

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



follow us on twitter @JCSMusicDep

DRIVE iQ—NEW WEBSITE AND MATERIALS

THIS USEFUL RESOURCE IS AVAILABLE ON LINE USING THE FOLLOWING LINK

www.driveiq.co.uk

Drive iQ provide every 16+ year old student free access to an award-winning, state of the art, e-learning platform, that has been designed by experts to help a young person prepare for in-car lessons and make them a safer and more responsible driver and passenger. Drive iQ consists of 6 interactive modules which use cutting-edge driver principles to address the effect a young persons attitude and behaviour can have on their driving. It will help keep your child (and the friends they drive or are driven by) safer, by developing the following skills; driving awareness, detecting hazards, coping with distractions, improving observations and avoiding crashes.

As part of Drive iQ programme there is also a useful Parents Guide "Is your child learning to drive? Everything you will need and want to know" which can be downloaded for free at www.driveiq.co.uk/parents.



Winning Poem

from the Poetry Competition

When thinking about the stars as a whole

There's Simon Cowell and Cheryl Cole

Tulisa, Paris, Jordan and Co.

The cast of Towie and Gary Barlow

But what is that I hear you cry?

Some other stars, in the sky???

Very shiny out at night

Luminous and shining bright.

A group of stars is a constellation

All together in one location

There's Cancer the crab and Leo the Lion

Scorpio the Scorpion and of course Orion.

The ones on earth are loaded with money

Shallow and loud and think they're funny

Gossip, Fashion, seeking attention

Stilettoes, Fame and so much tension

The stars in the sky sparkling pretty

Held together by force of gravity

The other kind, with the Paparazzi

Held together by the force of vanity

Celebrities with their perfect hair

To the stars in the sky you can't compare

Expect to say one thing alas

They're both great big balls of glittery gas.

Frances Merry - 7D

French Breakfast

Firstly we had to decide what food and drink we were going to have. We then designed an invitation, menu, and a poster in our groups. We paid £2.00 towards buying the food and drink. On the day of the breakfast we laid the decorations we had made the previous lessons onto tables. We then moved some tables along the wall so we could place the food and drink on them. Once the food and drink was ready we went up in small groups and using our menus we correctly asked for our food and drink in French. The last task was to eat, drink and do a word search. If another French breakfast was on offer we would do it again!

Alice , Sophia and Danielle

8B



The Liffre Exchange (a teacher's view)

After many months of preparation the day had arrived! Thirteen Year 10 John Colet students, seven Misbourne students and three teachers, all off on an adventure commencing Sunday 26 November at 7.15

a.m. A coach to St. Pancras, the Eurostar to Paris, an interesting trip in the metro, suddenly it became clear why big suitcases were not advisable! Mr. Measures, Mrs Hill and three students left at Gare du Nord!!! All re-united at Montparnasse and the last leg of the journey by TGV (high speed train) to Rennes. Excited but nervous we met the French host families; what would they give us for dinner? Frogs legs, snails, or do they just eat pizza? *Monday* was a trip to Rennes ...the park, but best of all the Christmas Markets! *Tuesday*, a very wet day at Mont St. Michel and more shopping! *Wednesday*, a visit to our exchange French School then the afternoon with our partners. *Thursday*, what a day, at St.Malo, the Aquarium, a trip on a submarine (girls stop screaming!), rock climbing (wrong shoes Mrs. Simpson!), and more shopping! Back to Rennes on *Friday*, a visit to the oldest department store in France, a rallye through the historical town, crêpes at the Christmas Market and finally a trip to the Planetarium, and no...the teacher's did not have a snooze!! Back to Liffre, and last shop at 'Super U'....definitely one of our favourite haunts!!!

Saturday 2.00 p.m., Rennes station.... so many tears, sad goodbyes. On April 13th 2013 our French friends arrive , a time for us to give them a truly British welcome.

A very big thank you to Mr Measures and Mrs Hill (Misbourne) for all their help and support and an especially big thank you to all the students for their excellent behaviour and attitude throughout the trip.

Isabelle Simpson

Trip Leader/Head of MFL

Student Reports on the Liffre Exchange

On the 25th November 2012, some Year 10 French students linked with the Misbourne school set off to Liffre on an exchange. We had previously been given some information on our host families, although this did not stop many of us feeling nervous before meeting them. Throughout the week we visited many different places, such as Mont St. Michel, a Planetarium and an Aquarium. Everyone was also invited to visit the school our French students attended and then shared the rest of the day with them. The trip to Liffre was not only extremely beneficial, but you also make new friends. I know that everyone is looking forward to their exchanges return in April and hopefully will go back to France in the future!

Liv Finch-Fox 10H

We left school on Sunday 25 November very excited about our long journey. When we finally arrived in Liffre, we were met by our exchange partners. After a while we started to feel really comfortable with our French family. Throughout our stay we went on many trips including Mont St. Michel, Jardin du Thabor, our exchange school, tours around Rennes, the Planetarium and the Aquarium and loads more! After a week packed full of fun activities we left on the 1st December to return to England.

Natasha Rzemieniecka 10H





HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2012

Christmas Holiday: School closes at 12.10 p.m. on Friday 21 December.

NEW

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NEW

SPRING TERM 2013

School re-opens morning of **Tuesday 8 January 2013.**

February 1/2 term: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 15 February** and re-opens morning of **Monday 25 February.**

Easter Holiday: School closes at end of afternoon on **Thursday 28 March.**

SUMMER TERM 2013

School re-opens morning of **Monday 15 April.**

INSET DAY: Friday 26 April 2013

May 1/2 term: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 24 May** and re-opens morning of **Monday 3 June.**

Summer Holiday: School closes at 12.10 p.m. on **Wednesday 24 July.**

AUTUMN TERM 2013

School re-opens morning of **Thursday 5 September 2013.**

October 1/2 term: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 25 October** and re-opens morning of **Monday 4 November.**

Christmas Holiday: School closes 12.10 p.m. on **Friday 20 December .**

INSET DAYS: **Tuesday 3 September and Wednesday 4 September**

SPRING TERM 2014

School re-opens morning of **Monday 6 January.**

February 1/2 term: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 14 February** and re-opens morning of **Monday 24 February.**

Easter Holiday: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 4 April .**

SUMMER TERM 2014

School re-opens on morning of **Wednesday 23 April.**

May 1/2 term: School closes at end of afternoon on **Friday 23 May** and re-opens morning of **Monday 2 June.**

Summer Holiday: School closes at 12.10 p.m. on **Wednesday 23 July.**

INSET DAY: **Tuesday 22 April**

Plus two days yet to be decided



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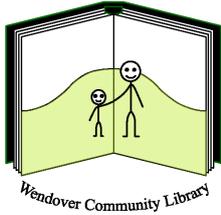
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FRENCH BREAKFAST

In French we had our first ever French Breakfast also known as 'le petit déjeuner français'. We had this on Friday 23 November. We ordered all of our food and drink in French. There were croissants, baguettes, brioches and pains au chocolate. We also had to order our own drinks. There was jus d'orange, du lait au chocolat et de la confiture'. (Chocolate and Strawberry Milk). To finish off we did a quiz and all in all it was great fun and we got to practise our French as well. AMAZING!!

Amber Christmas 8B



OFFICIAL OPENING OF WENDOVER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The official opening of Wendover Community Library was celebrated on Saturday 1 December. Mr Philip Mitchell (a past Headteacher of John Colet School) who is Chair of the Wendover Community Library Committee spoke about the journey he and other committee members had taken to arrive at this momentous day. He thanked everyone who had supported the library in the past, by way of time and money, and then welcomed the long awaited appointment of the new Library Manager. He thanked all the John Colet students for their professionalism in presenting their logo details and amazing artwork. He also thanked the primary schools for their contributions and the students of Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School for providing the music on the day. Well Done to Luke Paulley who designed the winning logo.

Councillor Margaret Aston spoke on behalf of the County Council hoping the joint venture would go from strength to strength. The library was then officially opened by one of the first volunteers who, at the grand age of 97, cut the ribbon. Refreshments and photographs ended the morning festivities.

Mrs M Johnston

SIXTH FORM NEWS

The Autumn term has come to an end and it has been a busy term for the Sixth Form.

On the 20th November, Mr Andy Date took the whole of Year 12 to the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' morning at Wycombe Swan. Many schools attended and there were talks by family members who shared some traumatic experiences, regarding driving accidents, with the students. There were also talks by the Services who again, spoke of the sad incidents in which they have been involved. Hopefully, the morning will benefit the students and make them more aware of the dangers of driving.

Help Week raised around £2,400 for 'Wells for Tanzania', the school's chosen charity for this year. I would like to thank the following Sixth Formers for giving up their time and organising this event: Emma Eastgate, Jason Gooderham, Jordan Hadley and Naomi Smith. Naomi Weaving's input was also appreciated. As usual, the Talent Contest is always a great success and many Sixth Formers took part namely, Calum Lawes, Megan Dear and Emma Eastgate. However, the stars and winners of this year's show were Ude Amadi and his band of 'performers' consisting of Steven Betts, Vijay Bhavan, Kieran McKay and Cameron Shirley. Ude's rendition of 'Sex Bomb' was certainly memorable and the actions of his 'group' brought the house down!

On Friday, 7 December, the Sixth Form were privileged to have Viscount Younger of Leckie come to school and speak to them about the House of Lords. The talk was both informative and interesting and this was evident by the number of questions asked at the end. The students, hopefully, benefited from this insight into one of the oldest institutions in this country and many were surprised to learn that current ministerial affairs are debated in the House of Lords as well as the House of Commons.

Following the success of the November Cake Bake, which raised £141.31 for charity, the Sixth Form Council are organising a Christmas Cake Bake on Wednesday, 19 December. Again, they hope that this event will boost their charity funds even more by the end of this term.

On Monday, 17th December, a group of Sixth Formers are going to sing carols to the Residents of Abbeyfield, in Wendover. At the moment, they are busy practising and trying to keep in tune!

Finally, to end the last Sixth Form newsletter of the Year on a light note, a 'Parrot Prize' was given to Emma Eastgate in the Sixth Form Assembly this week. A parrot was seen on the roof of the textiles area of the school and Emma managed to persuade the parrot to come down with a lot of different 'noises' that obviously impressed the parrot! As the parrot was tagged, the local veterinary surgery was called to try and find its rightful owner.

I would just like to wish all the students taking examinations in January the best of luck and I hope that everyone has a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Jayne Gott—Assistant Head of Sixth Form



Primary Liaison

Making Movies Club – BAFTA awards

The lights were yet again dimmed, the BAFTA awards were ready and the cameras were rolling for the fourth awards ceremony! Wednesday 28th November was the last session of the Making Movies Club for Year 5 pupils and the group watched a showing of their movies and Mrs McLintock presented certificates, a BAFTA statue and a DVD of the eight movies that had been produced. Many thanks again to Mrs Johnston for making the amazing BAFTAs and allowing us the use of her room to make the characters, to Mrs Bulteel for the Art session when the backgrounds were created, and to the John Colet helpers who were all stars as the club could not have run without them. A special thanks to Vicky from the canteen for the cookies and squash that kept us all going over the last eight weeks.

Drama workshop

Monday 19th November saw the last session of the Drama Workshop with some dancing led by Hannah Jarvis. The Year 4 pupils were very sad to see the end and were asking why it couldn't run for longer! This positive response is down to the hard work and enthusiasm of Mrs Griffin, Miss Dolder and Emma Eastgate from Year 13 and the Year 10 and 8 students who willingly gave up their time on a Monday after school to ensure the Year 4 students had a good time. Again, thanks to Vicky from the canteen for all the cookies and squash.

Bullying Assemblies

Throughout this half term four Year 8 girls have been out and about delivering a very successful assembly on bullying to local primary schools. Estella Alvares, Ellie Cunningham, Lucy Hedges and Macey Hill gave their presentation to whole school assemblies at Weston Turville Junior School, Wendover Junior School, Halton Combined School, Stoke Mandeville School and Aston Clinton Junior School. They also gave the assembly to the Year 7 students at the John Colet.

The girls delivered a very professional and well thought out assembly, including advice for anybody being bullied and an accessible power point the children could really understand. The quiz at the end engaged the junior school children and ensured they had learnt much from the presentation. Well done to the four Year 8 girls!

Friday 23rd November

Year 8 students Charlotte Ball, Elizabeth Gidney, Taja Ojukwu and Jodie Robinson went to Halton School and continued helping Years 5 and 6 with the writing of a newspaper report they had started a week earlier. The pupils were writing a report on a day they had gone to work with a parent or guardian. The Colet students worked very well with their groups, ensuring the children structured their reports correctly and used interviews and quotations.

Wednesday 28th November

Grace Stockland, Kerrie Parsons, Tianni Harper Smith and Emma Peace from Year 8 returned to Halton School to help the Years 5 and 6 children understand bullying. They helped the pupils make notes after reading a short story to prepare for a lesson in writing instructions.

Friday 7th December – Panel Interviews

Year 9 Business Studies students Harri Kane, Ashleigh Stent, Kayleigh Hampton and Joel Llewelyn came to Halton School to help the Years 5 and 6 develop their interview skills as part of the module Career Planet. The Years 5 and 6 pupils were practising their interview skills and each student was allocated a group to work with. They interviewed the 'candidates' for their prospective jobs and, along with the other members of the interview panel, awarded marks for their responses. At the end of the session they helped the pupils evaluate the whole careers unit and discussed their performance with them. Everybody enjoyed this session and again the Colet students were mature and committed in their approach.

Year 11 Fairytales



On Wednesday 12th December, 30 Year 2 pupils from John Hampden Infant School came over at 12.40 pm to the John Colet to watch Year 11 Drama students perform their fairy tales as part of their GCSE examination. The Year 2 children were enthralled as they were entertained by performances of 'Hansel and Gretel', 'Snow White', 'Rumpelstiltskin', 'The Hare and the Hedgehog' and 'Clever Hans' and were very disappointed when it all came to an end. The presence of a live audience really helps the John Colet students in their performance, so many thanks to them.

Julie Caplan

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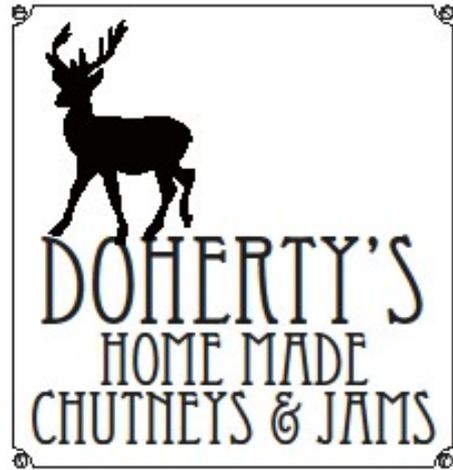
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ParentMail

We are pleased to confirm that ParentMail2 is now up and running for online payments of school trips. This is the preferred method of payment and we are encouraging parents to sign up if they have not already done so. Please contact finance@johncolet.co.uk if you have not signed up and we will be happy to talk you through the registration process.

