Dear Readers,
As we move towards the end of a long and sunny summer term, I thank everyone for their hard work and contribution to the life of the School.
You can see from the Newsletter, just how many activities we have offered to your daughters. We are delighted with the way in which all of our students have participated so positively, in order to make this a memorable and enjoyable end of term. We wish our Year 11 and 13 students the best of luck with their GCSE and A level results in August. We are looking forward to welcoming back into Year 12, the majority of Year 11 and they deserve to be well rewarded for their hard work. Obviously, with so many changes to examination courses in recent years, ‘predicting’ outcomes became even more challenging for all schools. We will be following the latest guidance and publishing our new grades 4 and above and 7 and above for English, Maths and English together. All other subjects are still grades A* - E. We do not yet know how the DfE will amalgamate these results into the new performance measure called: Progress 8, Attainment 8, Ebacc and ‘Threshold’ (English and Maths). We will update you when this is clearer!
Sadly, we always have some staff farewells to say at this time of year. I thank all of our leavers for their contribution to the School and wish them well for the future. They are, in alphabetical order: Mrs Ball (Head of RS); Mrs Browne (RS maternity cover); Miss Bocking (Drama); Miss Cunningham (Science); Mr Daley (ICT); Mr Green (Humanities maternity cover); Mrs Gonzalez (Head of Spanish); Mrs Kong (Maths); Ms Porter (Humanities maternity cover); Miss Rennalls (Psychology and Head of Years 12 and 13); Ms Way (Technology) and Mrs Winchester (Spanish and MFL enhancement coordinator).

Mrs K J Raven
Headmistress
MESSAGES FROM MRS RAVEN

“Parents and carers are reminded to report to Reception for any visit to the School at any time of day. For security and safety reasons, we cannot allow visitors to walk around the site, without going through our formal Reception procedures.”

“The school is acutely aware of the overcrowding on the buses and continues to lobby Transport for London to increase capacity urgently in our local area. We have also requested that TFL make changes to the bus stops on Perry Street, so that not all the buses stop in one place and instead, are staggered along the road to alleviate the congestion. This has been refused.

For September, we have made further changes to our school day to allow for a staged departure to alleviate crowding and will continue to reinforce appropriate conduct on the buses with our students, although we acknowledge that serious overcrowding is part of this problem. At home, please continue to reinforce the importance of the highest standards of conduct in public places on the way to and from School”.

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAY 2017

Hello Year 12 – Sixth Form Induction

‘Well first of all I would like to say a massive thank you for the 2 induction days. I truly enjoyed myself and I know where I plan to go in September’.

On Monday 26th June we held our Sixth Form induction. It was delightful to welcome back our many year 11s as our new Sixth Formers as well as numerous new students from surrounding schools. The days were filled with lessons and tours for our new attendees. Our new Head Student team were on hand to help and they were superb at ensuring everyone was settled and knew where to go and which lessons to attend. Science proved extremely popular this year as well as Psychology and Sociology.

Lunch was served and our current Year 12s took the opportunity to get to know our new Sixth Formers and explain how life is at Chislehurst Sixth Form.

New Year 7 Students

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all. You were excellent during your Induction Day. Good luck with your holiday work, where you need to choose ONE item for each subject.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Summer School next week and wish you all a very happy holiday.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th September at 08:30am.

Kind Regards
Mrs Kay

October Half Term 2017

Further to the recent consultation, I would like to remind parents that Governors have approved a two-week October half-term.

The dates for this year are 23rd October 2017 – 3rd November 2017 inclusive.

Thank you for your support in this regard.
MusicFest 2017 took place on July 4th, and was a fantastic celebration of all the music made by our students from years 7-13 during the course of the year. There were solo performances ranging from jazz standards to self-composed pop songs to start the evening, followed by performances from groups including the Choir, Bands, Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, Steel Pan Bands, and 7C Band On The Run. The evening culminated with the Last Night of the Proms medley for full choir and bands, which ended with a rousing rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory' involving full audience participation! The students worked incredibly hard and the concert was a great success; we were very proud of them all. Sadly, we also had to say goodbye to some of our longest serving musicians, Jess Lea, Josie Ward, and Tasha Nelson, all of whom leave Year 13 this year. We wish them the best of luck in their future studies, as well as wishing congratulations to all students involved, and thanks to parents for their support.

Music Ambassadors
We are pleased to introduce our new Music Ambassadors - students who have shown particular commitment to the Music Department through performing in 4 or more of our concerts during their time at Chislehurst School for Girls. These students have been awarded a badge to display on their blazers, and are to be congratulated on their hard work and talent. The current Music Ambassadors are: Lois Peterson, Jess Pickett, Lily Harrison, Jessica Anderson, Nicole Anslow, Sophie Anslow, Jodie Chapman, Brid Fashina, Ronetta Fraser, Karen Nkweini, Divine Onomor, Neda Petruseviciute, Deborah Tettey, Isabelle Wade, Ioanna Bankova, Emily Brown, Emily Davis, Charlotte Holmes, Emily Howlett, Sophie Linehan, Lucy Powell, Danielle Marshall, Ellen Parkhurst, Jenna Rogers, Alanis Sackey-James, Becca Sharp, Abigail Tettey, and Mikun Tunde-Gafar.
We look forward to continuing to work with these excellent musicians, and to welcoming more students to be Music Ambassadors during the next year.

Music Creative Period 6 Lessons
In the Year 7 and 8 Creative lessons, the Music class have been working on composing, notating and performing their own pop songs, using keyboards and ukuleles. Many of the students have worked extremely hard, and their final performances in the last two weeks showed a huge amount of talent. Well done to these students for making the most of this creative opportunity.
**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD**

On the 17th and 18th June twenty one of our year 10 girls endured scorching temperatures and walked for a total of twelve hours to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. On the first day, the girls walked from Knockholt Station to Downe campsite, where we stayed the night. They all camped under canvas and cooked their own meals using camping stoves. Due to the hot weather, all the girls were eager to wake up early and get going. They were all up by 6am and away by 8am! The assessor said he had never seen such an efficient group. On the Sunday, the teams walked from Downe and finished their routes in Westerham. The teams had to use maps and compasses to find their way through the countryside, as they did not receive direct guidance.

All of the girls involved showed great spirit, overcoming physical and mental battles throughout the weekend. As temperatures reached 30 degrees, the girls had to walk through open fields with heavy rucksacks containing tents, stoves, food, water and much more. All groups navigated successfully displaying excellent teamwork and map reading skills. I am exceptionally proud to be a part of this cohort’s success as the group were a credit to the school and extremely hard working. Not only did they work hard on the weekend of their expedition but they have also been attending sessions for the past term giving up Saturdays and time after school to ensure they all had the skills needed. Finally, I just want to finish saying a huge congratulations to all involved.

Miss C Cunningham

---

**DISNEYLAND PARIS TRIP 2017**

This term, 90 excited Year 7s and 12, almost as excited staff, went for our annual residential trip to Disneyland Paris. The 25th anniversary of the opening of the park meant there were far more decorations around than usual and with all the rides, shows, parades and of course shops on offer there were, as usual, plenty of things for our girls to do.

I am sure they all have fond memories of Hyperspace Mountain, Rock’n’roller Coaster, the Tower of Terror and even It’s a Small World.

The weather this time round was glorious and the girls themselves behaved impeccably – we could not have been prouder of them.

We have just launched next year’s trip to the September starters (6th – 8th July) places are limited, so they will be first come, first served … we are hopeful of yet another fabulous trip.
The annual Art, Photography and Textiles Exhibition for 2017 ‘Art Block Takeover’, which took place on Tuesday 11th July was yet again, a huge success. This year we decided to hold the exhibition in the Art block; designating different rooms for each of the GCSE and A-Level Art & Design subjects. This proved very effective and allowed the students, parents and other visitors to see the progression from Key Stage 4 into 5. There was also plenty of space to view the work, and visitors could see the Art classroom environment in which the work was produced. The exhibition was also complemented with light refreshments and a ‘People’s Choice’ ballot box, whereby visitors could vote for their favourite work. This year’s joint winners were Saskia Hooker (A-Level Photography) and Chloe Watson (GCSE Art & Design).

This year’s sketchbook themes varied dramatically, with ‘Growth & Decay’ as a focus for GCSE Art, ‘Freeze Frame Fashion’ as the coursework topic for GCSE Photography, and freedom of choice for both Years 12 and 13. The emphasis on free choice is something which we are committed to at Chislehurst School for Girls, as it encourages enthusiasm as well as enjoyment for the subject. This sense of freedom was also evident in the high quality of the work yet again this year, and as a Department Team, we are incredibly proud of our students’ achievements.

I would like to thank all those who visited the exhibition to support the Art Department; particularly parents/guardians, the students and their friends. We wish you all the very best for the future, we would like to wish the Year 13 students best of luck for their first year at University, and look forward to seeing the same faces return to the Sixth Form in September. Thank you all for making the 2017 end of year Art celebration such a huge success.

Miss Young
Head of Expressive Arts Faculty

On Friday 9th June, students at Chislehurst School for Girls took on the battle against Cancer and took part in a Race for Life event. Despite the weather being slightly wet and grey for the first part of the event the sun soon came out and made the event a huge success! Students in Years 7-9 took part in the event and these fantastic students have managed to raise over £1300 for Cancer Research UK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/08/2017</td>
<td>17/08/2017</td>
<td>A Level Results Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/08/2017</td>
<td>24/08/2017</td>
<td>GCSE Results Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/09/2017</td>
<td>05/09/2017</td>
<td>Autumn Term starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/09/2017</td>
<td>21/09/2017</td>
<td>Open Evening 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/10/2017</td>
<td>05/10/2017</td>
<td>Open Morning 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/10/2017</td>
<td>03/11/2017</td>
<td>Half Term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
India Trip 2018

FANTASTIC OVERSEAS RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITY

The School is organising an 8-day visit to India for pupils currently who will be in KS4 or 5 during the academic year 2018 – 19. The trip includes coach to and from the school, flights, all meals, in country transfers and full and comprehensive travel insurance for a very reasonable price. Pupils will need their own passport for this trip which should be valid until the end of April 2019. They will also need to buy their own lunches on a daily basis and a small amount of spending money is, of course, always necessary.

A full programme of activities will be offered whilst abroad, and some additional money may be required for entrance fees to special attractions that we have not yet planned, but we will let you know the cost of these should we look to include them.

This trip is open to all students currently in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 (who will be in years 10, 11,12 and 13 when the trip goes ahead). The only restriction is that students currently in year 10 and 11 should be committed to staying her for their post 16 education.

We will be organising the trip through Halsbury School Travel, a first class operator backed by ABTA membership and ATOL licensed, ensuring that all payments made are fully secure.

I will be holding a repeat information evening about the trip in the Ransley Suite on Tuesday 11th July at 6pm and both students and parents are invited to attend.

Music Reward Trip

Port Lympne

On July 12th, the Music Department organised a trip to Port Lympne Safari Park as a reward for the dedication and commitment that students have shown towards extracurricular activities within the Music Department this year, including our wonderful production of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ and, of course, MusicFest. The students enjoyed a great day, despite the fairly typical British summer weather, and were excellent ambassadors for the School. We were delighted to be able to reward these dedicated students for their hard work with us this year.
We would like to congratulate one of our students for their success in the London Youth Games June 2017.

Jessica Becket, Year 9, has qualified for the Under 18 Junior Kent Squad for 2017/18.

Jess has also been accepted into Grade 1 (the highest grade in the club) at Coulsdon and Purley Badminton Club.

She is the youngest player at Grade 1 at the moment, (photo below)

Well done Jess!

**Parent Portal**

By now you should have received your INSIGHT Parent Portal log-ins in the post. To access the INSIGHT web portal please follow the link on the School’s website or directly at https://vdi.chsfg.co.uk/INSIGHT/

If you are using the Mobile App, you should also see a QR code link in the bottom right of the web login page. Download the App from either the Apple or Google Play Store by searching for ‘INSIGHT’ and then when opened, click on the cog icon (top right) to open the App settings. Then you can either scan the QR code using your phone camera or type in the direct web address listed above. This will tell the App which school you are from.

Then log in as normal.

Please feel free to email support@chsfg.co.uk if you have any trouble along the way.

**SnapMaps**

Last week SnapChat, used regularly by many of the girls, launched a new feature SnapMaps, which allows users to see the location of their contacts. This feature allows others to accurately pinpoint where you are.

Sharing your location over apps can be a risky thing to do if you have multiple ‘friends’ and you don’t necessarily know them personally.

The School will be running an e-safety update in form time to remind the students about keeping safe online.

ChildNet have posted a thorough explanation of SnapMaps and how to ensure users stay safe.

www.childnet.com
Sports Day 2017

On Friday 14th July, the PE department hosted Sports Day! The weather managed to hold and the day ran smoothly with some great performances from the students! The field events saw some great distances achieved. This included Jess Anderson and Kaylan Leslie throwing the discus over 17m, Sophie Brown throwing the shot put just under 8m and Dori Bilan throwing the javelin 14.9m! Kaylan Leslie (again), Sophie Anslow and Jess Beckett were the highest achievers in the long jump, Adeola Adelaja smashed the triple jump and Maie Lang achieved the highest jump in the verticle jump! Well done to all students who took part in the field events!

As always, the track events were very exciting and some fantastic talent and effort were appreciated by the audience. Georgina Tolson was the one to beat on the hurdles, Zsiriah Thomas excelled in the 100m, Emily Davis shone in the 800m and Tiana Haynes was the top of leaderboard for the 200m. Well done to all students who took part in the track events!

Thank you to all of the staff and 6th formers who helped run the event and took part in making Sports Day 2017 one to remember!

Miss Etheridge
**Year 9 Sports Leaders**

On Thursday 22nd June, the students in the year 9 GCSE PE class had the opportunity to go Norman Park and get involved with a primary school athletics competition. Students took on the role of a sports leader where they were running the events for the children and officiating.

This event also helped develop communication, organisation and knowledge of the roles available in sport other than participation. The students were so good at their jobs that they were asked to come back and help out at the finals on Monday 10th July!

**Bromley Borough Rounders Tournament**

On Friday 16th June and Friday 23rd June, the rounders teams went to Charles Darwin School and took part in the annual Bromley Borough Rounders Tournament. All four teams put in a fantastic effort and represented the school very well. All students displayed excellent perseverance, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Lots of rounders were scored and lots of people were caught out! If a fielder caught a batter out, their name went into a separate competition. Special mention to Jess Beckett who caught out 9 players throughout the competition, Alessia Ciocan who also caught out several players and Jess Anderson who won the Year 10 competition!

Jess Anderson now has a bright pink rounders ball to remember the occasion! Congratulations to all the students who took part.

**Dressage**

It has been a fantastic term for Year 10s Alice Lundy, who is fast making a name for herself in the Equestrian World. In May, she met and displayed her skills in front of Princess Anne and in June, achieved the status of Greater London Regional Champion for Dressage. Alice rides at the Arrow Riding Centre in Dartford and having won regional competitions, she has now come first in her category for Dressage at the RDA National Championships held at Hartpury College, Gloucester on Sunday 16th July!

She was so successful, that if she had been old enough to compete in the adult category, she would have actually come second. Alice has the potential to be an Olympic contender in the future.

Well done Alice!

---

**London Youth Games**

Zsiriah Thomas was chosen to go to the London Youth Games this weekend, to represent the Bromley borough. Not only did she win her heat and get into the final, she came first in the event for her age group! Furthermore, she was apart of the winning relay team! This is a fantastic achievement for Zsiriah, lots of famous athletes and Olympians have been successful in the London Youth Games, so lets hope she can follow in their footsteps. She now has a new PB of 12.9 seconds in the 100m.

**Swimming**

Ellie Harden has also had some great success in swimming. Ellie signed up for 5 events at the 3rd Beachfield Summer Open and achieved a PB in both 50m & 100m Backstroke, winning 2 gold, 1 bronze and a finalist medal She is now ranked 1st in Kent in the 100m backstroke and 5th in the London region.

Ellie achieved a PB of 1.07.68 (coming in 2nd in her race but 1st in her age group taking Gold) Ellie will now be back in training to compete at Basildon over the weekend of 22nd/23rd July before heading off to swim at the Welsh Nationals where she has achieved qualifying times for 5 events 1st – 5th August.
SPORTING SUCCESS contd.

Tennis
LTA Tennis for School’s Tournament

Chislehurst School For Girls had two teams entered into the LTA Tennis for Schools Tournament.

The girls took part in weekly training sessions since Easter and prepared to play against Bromley High, Dartford Grammar, Bexley Grammar and Colfes. With one game still left to play the team did brilliantly with Charlotte Holmes winning three of her matches, Ella Jollie two and Ciara Sheridan one.

Bromley Minors Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 14th June, our Year 7 and Year 8 students went to Norman Park to represent our school in the annual Bromley Minors Athletics Competition. We had some great success stories! Makeda Gordon Johnson won her heat in the hurdles, got into the finals and came 3rd. Kaylan Leslie also won her heat in the hurdles, got into the finals and came 2nd. Martha Lawrence qualified for the final and came 6th in the 200m. Tianna Haynes qualified for the final and came 2nd in the 100m. Kaylan Leslie came 4th in the long jump.

Congratulations to all students who competed and represented the school.

U13s Cricket

The Summer Term saw the U13 cricket squad comprising of Year 7 and Year 8 girls compete in two large, local festivals. The first of these was at Colfe’s School on 15th May where the team were knocked out in the quarter finals by a strong Hayes School team. Progression to the knockout phase was secured when the team beat Blackheath High School in the group stages by 18 runs. Here Deborah Adebayo and Cindy Tran batted well to help the team to amass a total of 65 in our allotted 7 overs and some accurate bowling from Bonnie Hughes-Narborough and Fatima Ahmad restricted our opponents to 47 runs.

The Kent Schools festival took place the following day at Bexley CC. Here the girls again acquitted themselves well, playing a total of 4 games in glorious sunshine. We lost to Tonbridge Grammar and Hayes School, both of whom had county cricketers in their teams. However, the margin of defeat against Townley Grammar was only 9 runs and against St Mary Magdalene Academy a nailbiting finish saw our opponents win by an agonising single run after a great effort by Frankie Northcott and Deborah Adebayo in the final over to reach the required target.

As normal the girls were a credit to the School and played the games with great spirit. Thanks go to Ms Staples and Mrs Winchester for their support in accompanying the girls.


Mr Graham
Granada 2017

From the 26th to the 30th of April, we took a group of 32 students from years nine and ten to the majestic city of Granada. Despite the rainy weather, (yes, it is not always sunny in Spain!); The girls had a fantastic experience. These are what some of our students thought of their visit:

“My favourite part of the trip was the flamenco show because I was able to learn about the Spanish culture. I also liked going to the tapas stalls as I was able to try different foods and it helped me with my Spanish speaking when I ordered pizza. I also liked to learn about the city of Granada because I wanted to find out more about Spain and learn some history of the country. The school also gave us Spanish tasks, which helped me to get to know my peers and made me more confident in the language.”  - Emily Davis 9E

“I really enjoyed my trip to Spain. My highlights were the food, which tasted lovely; especially the tapas and speaking to the local people as I feel that it helped me to improve my Spanish. Next time I go, I would like to explore further into the historical buildings and close towns. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, it was a lovely experience and I would love to go back”  - Georgina Tolson 9T

“I really enjoyed eating and trying the tapas. I also enjoyed doing the activity that involved taking pictures of specific objects and places, as everyone was competitive and had a fun time. I wish the weather were nicer when we went to Alhambra because the architecture was very pretty and I think it would have been nicer in the sunshine”  - Chelsea Clarston 9U

“I really enjoyed the Spanish trip to Granada. I got to experience different cultures and traditions from there and learned about the country. I really liked trying new foods, which I have not had before such as paella and tapas. In addition, I enjoyed the flamenco as it is a different style of dance and it was a good experience”  - Mia Holland 9E

End of Term Arrangements / Information about Autumn Term 2017

Arrangements for the end of the Summer Term.

The following arrangements are in place for the end of term:
• 19th & 20th of July - Enhancement Days with a wide range of events running for each year group.
• Friday 21st July - last day of term: students will have normal lessons periods 1 & 2 followed by break, form time, and a whole-school assembly. Students will be dismissed between 12.15 p.m and 12:30 p.m.

Please note, there will not be school buses at the Turning Circle on that day.

For students, the first day of the Autumn Term is Tuesday 5th of September 2017. Arrangements are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year group</th>
<th>Arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year 7</td>
<td>Arrive at 8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 8-11</td>
<td>Arrive at 11:15 a.m. for extended tutor time and whole-school assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 12-13</td>
<td>Arrive at 11:00 a.m and go straight to the Main School Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 6 Mathematics Transition Project

The Maths department have been running a four-week project with Year 6 pupils who are joining CHSFG in September.

The girls have enjoyed extending and improving their Mathematics skills. They have shown much commitment and interest throughout the four weeks. Well done girls!

The content of the sessions are available on the School’s website, so that any girls who were unable to attend can download the content.

Thank you to Mrs Bankova, Mrs Tutt and the Maths Department.

Dance in the Summer Term

On Thursday 25th May, the Dance department and some of the year 9 and 10 GCSE dancers, went to The Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see a dance production entitled ‘Life’ by the Ballet Boyz. The first dance confused the audience by having almost all the cast wearing rabbit heads! The girls were challenged to give an interpretation of what the dance was about - something they must do in their written paper! The second dance was more accessible and included a barre in the middle of the stage which was used to climb on and dance around. This dance was set to words, rather than music, which made the dance even more interesting to watch and gave the girls some good choreographic ideas when they come to create their choreographies in Year 11.

Thank you for a lovely evening!

On Tuesday 11th July, the A Level, and some GCSE dance students participated in a workshop run by Rambert Dance Company based on the A Level work, ‘Rooster’ by Christopher Bruce. ‘Rooster’ illustrates the differences between males and females within the 1960s and uses the Rolling Stones’ music as the accompaniment.

The students were taught by Rambert teacher, Shelley Maxwell. They were led through an intense, technical warm up before moving on to learning some repertoire from the show’s opening section ‘Little Red Rooster’.

This section includes rooster like movements such as using the arms as wings and a pecking gesture with the head along with some more stylised 60s material, much like the movement that is seen in ‘Grease’ the musical. The 20 girls who participated were challenged to learn the repertoire that the company learns in a very short amount of time.

The girls rose to the challenge and picked up the movement very quickly, impressing both Shelley and the dance teachers.

Within the workshop, the students were given the opportunity to use the movement material that they had learnt, and create an opening section, ‘conversations’ with their partner, and a travelling section. By the end of the workshop they had all created a short version of the opening section of ‘Rooster’ and were really embodying the characters that they had discussed and watched. The students worked very hard and achieved a lot in the space of three hours! Well done dancers!
Chinese Exchange & Study Programme 2017

Modern Language students in Years 7 – 10 from Chislehurst School for Girls are proud to have taken part in the Chinese Exchange and Study Programme. Between the 10th and 14th July, our student ambassadors have warmly welcomed a group of 39 Chinese students from Xuzhou in Jiangsu Province of China. The week began with the Opening Ceremony on the 10th July which was attended by Councillor Kim Botting, Orpington Ward and Gigi Chen, Headteacher of the Orpington Chinese Language School along with the Xuzhou Education Bureau Officer and a group of Chinese teachers and group leaders in addition of course to the Chinese students and our student ambassadors. They were entertained with wonderful performances by our Chamber Choir and Lois Peterson organised by Ms McIntosh and the Music Department.

During the week our ambassadors and their new Chinese friends have shared the experience of going to lessons together and finding out more about each other’s education, culture and traditions, in addition to improving their language skills and making new friends. All the students have engaged brilliantly with each other and they all thoroughly enjoyed their picnic lunch despite the rain which drove us indoors! Our visitors were very impressed with the delicious sandwiches and beautiful homemade cakes provided by Mrs Mayhew and the catering team.

All of our Chinese Visitors had the opportunity of attending our Art Exhibition which inspired their creativity and our students Tami Omotayo and Nicole Onigbanjo requested that they take part in an artistic lesson. Ms Young and her team in the Art Department took up the challenge and the students were able to create a London inspired piece of art which has been framed and presented to them as a gift to take home. They were also delighted, thanks to Ms Etherington and the PE Department, to compete in our Sports Day.

In the Closing Ceremony on 13th July, all students were presented with Headteacher commendations by Mrs Raven and Gigi Chen to thank them for their excellent contribution to the programme. One of the teachers from the school in China spoke of how brave the Chinese students were as they must have been nervous at first and he praised our students and the school for the warm welcome they had received. He spoke about the importance of making global connections as they would lead to future opportunities. They were entertained by our wonderful Gospel choir arranged by students Deborah Tettey and Neda Petruzeviciute.

Student representatives from China, Sirui Wang and Junzhi Peng spoke eloquently in English about their time in our school said that they had learnt a great deal from their visit and hoped to keep in touch with their new friends in the future. They felt that they had been able to improve their language skills.

CHSFG student Angelika Kochajkiewicz said that she had ‘loved’ the experience and Caitlin Fletcher was happy to have learnt some Mandarin and used her newly found language skills to thank our visitors and to say goodbye.

Cheng Yudi shared what she thought about the trip and she described the school as ‘very interesting’ and said it ‘has helped me to learn English better’ despite not being able to understand all the courses. She said the people in the School were ‘very cheerful and warm’.

We are so proud of all of the students and would like to thank them for their engagement and enthusiasm and for their responsible and mature approach to the week. We would also like to thank their parents and carers for allowing them to take part. We would also like to thank Councillor Kim Botting, Gigi Chen and Mrs Raven for the opportunity to take part in this programme in addition to the Xuzhou Bureau of Education and all the teachers and Group Leaders from China. We would also like to thank the teachers and support staff at CHSFG for their flexibility and support, without whom this programme would not have been possible.

We are hoping that this programme will lead to further opportunities for our students such as Mandarin lessons and hopefully a trip to China. We aim to encourage them to become better 21st Century global citizens and by developing stronger links with what is now the world’s largest trading nation, this will create better educational, business and career opportunities in the future.

Ms J Chappells, International Co-ordinator
Ms S Hau, Head of Modern Languages
Differences. There are so many possibilities with that. Race, nationality, culture, height, personality. But, what really matters, is how you see differences?
Do you accept people due to their race or personality?
Since the beginning of time we have been told to accept people for their personality, rather than culture or race or nationality. But, that is most certainly easier said than done! Sometimes prejudice thoughts get the better of us and stop us from looking at someone’s personality. It’s like saying ‘never judge a book by its cover’ this goes for us as well, don’t judge someone by their outward appearance but by the content of their character.

Sometimes when you look around you can see that people do not accept differences in society. I’ve seen someone cross over the road just so they didn’t have to walk next to someone of a different race to them. We are such a diverse community that something like this really does stand out in society; many people are still narrow-minded towards other religions, cultures and races.

We know that Martin Luther King fought for diversity and acceptance for black African-Americans in the 1950s, yet sometimes you would never know he had done so. King made one of the most iconic speeches of all time, “I have a dream”. There is one line that always come to my mind, “I have a dream that my four little children will grow up in a world here they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.” This one line means so much, yet is so simple.

Hastings Trip
We went to Hastings last Wednesday on a geography trip. It was an amazing experience and we learnt about geographical terms related to the ocean and local area, one of the best trips have been on this school. It was a fun, yet educational, day out with our friends, peers and teachers, a day I will remember as I carry on through the years.

We walked along the coastline first, noting down all of the tourist facilities and finding out about the area. While doing this we surveyed both the tourist beach, Pelham beach, and the fishing beach, Stade beach. Both had many amazing features to it, but different in almost every way. After this, we took the very steep East Cliff Railway to Hastings’ Country Park on East Hill, and did an environmental survey on the landscape.

After we took the railway down, we went into a museum, which everyone loved. There was a full sized fishing boat, yet another thing everyone loved. We got souvenirs and took probably hundreds of amazing pictures, with our friends and of the sights. It was one of the many highlights of the day.

Frankie Northcott 8C

Student Articles

Something in society that has bought the whole of London closer is the Grenfell Tower Fire. After the horrific tragedy, there were a few people who started to emerge from the crowd, with food, water, clothes and true compassion! Then more and more people started to help and volunteer. Mosques were offering shelter and food. Churches were opening their doors for anyone who just wanted to talk about what they saw that night. This is a true example of the diversity in London, when you see something like a community pull together for those in need it really shows the good in people!

Whenever a disaster occurs in a community it really brings the best out in people, even though something so horrific may have happened, its only human nature to want to help and nurture those in need. Regardless their race, culture or nationality.

So as we come to the end of another school year, look back and think to yourself, ‘have I done my best at accepting people?’ Maybe if you haven’t then that could be your goal for next year, or maybe if you have then just be an even better person next year!

By Caitlin Fletcher
8C
The Grammar School Debate

You’ve probably heard about the grammar school debate but what does that really mean? Prime Minister, Theresa May, is currently in the process of introducing more grammar schools rather than comprehensive schools. As she is the leader of the Conservative Party she is the prominent figure within the grammar school debate, however she is trying to reintroduce an old system of education which Tony Blair tried to reintroduce in 1998. Recent evidence has shown us to believe that she is trying to create a new generation that will prioritise poor and disadvantaged pupils, but is this the genuine reason for her decision?

The government have said that they are doing this because they want to see more grammar schools across the country, the majority being in deprived areas. Sources familiar with the plans said the government are looking to pacify critics by putting pressure on existing grammar schools to give priority to students with pupil premium (pupil premium are given to the children who come from disadvantaged backgrounds), meaning that they will give preference to students who are academically able and come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This allows grammar school headteachers to change their admissions criteria. In the view that it can be seen to support and help able children who would not be able to traditionally get in into grammar schools due to their background. In theory I think to some extent this is a good plan. A spokesman said “we are looking at a range of options to allow more children to access a school that lets them rise as far as their talents would let them.” I believe this can only be viewed positively if a child is happy with the arrangement of attending a grammar school and they are willing to commit themselves in this working environment.

On behalf of pupils from disadvantaged background; I believe that going into the grammar system pupil premium students may be underestimated by other attendees who have been learning at the school and students may seem uncomfortable around students who are labelled as more advantaged and are part of the pupil premium. One of the most uncomfortable situations for a student is being compared to someone who is ‘better’ than you although you are still academically able.

However, The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few. Therese May has said, “We have got to a place where selection only works when you are wealthy. What is just about that?” She said that it is illogical to stop new, good schools from opening, so therefore she wants to change the rules that currently stop expansion of grammars and enable new grammar schools to open where they are needed. In my opinion I think that by more children attending grammar schools this will impact on their choices in the future. However it could create another system of inequality. What people are not taking into consideration are the children who are labelled as unable and come from disadvantaged backgrounds. What happens to them? One day they may be able to get the education they need and people will stop judging them for who they are and not who they’re going to become. Students will then have the confidence and resources they need and express their true talent. The student who has not been given a ‘good’ education consequently has not been able to show their true potential. Children are not responsible for how they’ve been brought up and their background, some children just need extra support and guidance to go that little bit further and make it possible for this child to reach their goals.

To conclude: Theresa May should provide more resources for existing schools rather than trying to reproduce better schools, as this will allow all students to strive for success together rather than separating them. Both more able and un-able students whether there from advantaged or disadvantaged backgrounds, should still have access to reaching their full potential.

By Rebecca Barton 9E
From the 10th to the 14th of April, a few girls from year 10-12 attended a trip to Iceland. It was truly amazing, and definitely a once in a lifetime experience. The lovely Ms Tellick arranged it and we are so thankful for the opportunity to have been able to go. It was a four-day trip jam-packed with activities, with much knowledge to be picked up about the culture as well as the geographical phenomena Iceland possesses.

**DAY 1**

On day one, once arriving, our first stop was Reykjanesbær. We were really hit by the cold here so much so that as we took pictures it felt as though our fingers were going to drop off from frostbite. We stood on a cliff edge amazed at the vibrant turquoise colour the sea gave off, contrasted by the black earthy hue of the huge boulders, which had broken off from the cliff edge.

We then went on to visit some geothermal hot springs in a place called Grindavikurbæer and if we are being honest the intense smell of rotten egg took a bit of getting used to. However, we again were blown away at what beauty Iceland held. We were engulfed in a large fog of warmth, which was a slight relief from the bitter icy climate.

Our last stop of the day was to where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates split. We endured the cold just to get some great shots of us halfway between where we were considered to be “nowhere”.

We then got back onto the coach, driven by our great driver Fin-boy and was fully equipped with Wi-Fi and warmth! So as you can guess we were happy. Once at the hotel we settled into our large room of twelve and shortly after made our way to a lovely restaurant in which most of us ‘devoured’ a lovely burger and fries.

**DAY 2**

We woke at the early hour of around 6am the next morning and braced ourselves for the day of the Glacier walk and the sights of some jawdropping waterfalls as well as visiting a black sand beach called Vik.

Our first stop of the day was visiting one of the many wonderful waterfalls Iceland has in a place called Rangarbing eystra. Thanks to the seemingly good but still cold weather that day we had the chance to walk behind the waterfall. This again was another amazing experience where we were able to take some amazing photos and videos. Despite some of us getting quite wet and a little bit cold, it definitely didn’t dampen our mood as we hopped back on the coach for our next trip to another waterfall, which was just as amazing as the first.

Finally, the time had come for us to do the glacier walk, which definitely did not disappoint and was better than any of us had ever imagined. Before beginning our climb we had to put on a helmet for safety and were given crampons (a metal plate with spikes) to put on our shoes as well as ice axes to carry in our hands. Climbing the glacier was an experience of a lifetime, which ended up being a definite highlight of our trip thanks to our glacier guides who provided great information about glaciers as well as helping us walk the glacier safely and due to the magnificent sights around it. Some of us even had the chance to drink from the clean, refreshing glacier water too! After finishing the glacier walk, we headed to our second hotel of the trip, which was in a more isolated, rural area of Iceland next to one of it’s many volcanoes.

Before checking in we stopped off at Iceland’s famous black sand beach called Vik, which was about a ten minute drive from our hotel. This was unlike any beach we had seen before due to, as you may have guessed, the sand being black rather than the usual golden colour. There were some spectacular views here of the black sand and pillars but also the danger of the rogue waves. These can sneak up on you at any moment and can caused quite a few deaths due to many tourists it knowing the dangers. However, our tour guide Katrina, informed us about the danger of the waves and made sure we stayed far away from gigantic waves.

Finally, we got to our hotel, which was just as good as the first and had dinner. Later on that evening, we were told there could be a chance of seeing the Northern Lights but it could be very unlikely due to it being the end of their season. However, at about 11pm there were knocks at are doors telling us the northern lights could be seen from our hotel. We all rushed out of our rooms and grabbed our jackets to get a look at the spectacular sights. We were all amazed at how beautiful they were and couldn’t believe our luck of being able to see them. We all attempted to try to get some pictures but soon discovered that they were hard to notice on camera so just continued to look at them for as long as we could. This was, again, an amazing once in a lifetime experience which none of us will ever forget.
DAY 3

The next morning we headed straight to the secret lagoon, which is a geothermal pool, for a morning dip. We were amazed by how warm the water was considering that it is completely natural and it really made a great change from the cold Icelandic weather we were experiencing.

After spending about an hour in the pool, we got back on the coach and headed to the famous golden circle for a tour of some of Iceland’s most famous sites. Here we got to see the famous Gullfoss waterfall as well as the geysirs and hot springs, which were incredible!

Our third stop on the golden circle tour was at Thingvellir National Park where we saw the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates being pulled apart. We even got to sit in front of the edge of the North American plate in the gap between the two continents and walk through a fissure. Seeing these fascinating geographical features in real life was truly astonishing.

After a long day of activities, we got back on the coach and headed to our third and final hotel in our visit to Iceland, which was back in Reykjavik. We then headed out to a restaurant for dinner, which was delicious and devoured very quickly by some of us. We then went back to the hotel and had a good night’s sleep ready for our last day in Iceland before our journey home on the Thursday.

DAY 4

On our last morning, we woke up bright and early to make the most of our final day in Iceland. We started our day by heading to the cathedral in Reykjavik, which was beautiful inside, and out. We also got to go to the top of the cathedral where we were able to take some great pictures of the city of Reykjavik.

We then had a chance to wander around the city ourselves and experience the Icelandic culture before heading to a museum about the Icelandic volcanoes as well as stopping off at the opera house.

Finally, it was then time to say goodbye to Iceland and head to the airport ready for our journey home back to England, which we were all very upset about.

We had such a great time and were so sad to leave the country as we had had an incredible four days. It was an experience that was fun, informative and unforgettable and definitely, something we would remember for the rest of our lives. We are so thankful to Ms Tellick for organising such a spectacular trip and also to Miss Davis and Miss Webb who supervised us on the trip and made our experience in Iceland even more enjoyable. We really recommend that everyone visit Iceland if they have the opportunity as it really is a once in a lifetime experience and something that you will never forget!

By Sophie Anslow and Chloe Grove