



Newstead Wood School for Girls

Newsletter - End of Spring term April 2009

Mrs Colleen Melmore

It is with great sadness that I need to inform you of the untimely death of our Chair of Governors. Colleen has served the school loyally since becoming a governor fifteen years ago. Her wisdom and kindness will be sorely missed.

Public Examinations

This newsletter is the last to be circulated before half of our students begin their study leave and prepare for their examinations. There are the inevitable nervous feelings in the weeks before facing final examinations but they can be turned into confidence and success.

Students know that consistent, organised, meticulous practice and a healthy lifestyle, maintaining routines of work and sleep, will ensure that they achieve their best results. Such focus and self-discipline now will bring their rewards.

I wish every student the success her efforts deserve.

Building Newstead's Future

We are all delighted with the progress of our capital build plans. Thank you to the families who have supported us both in fund-raising and in securing a capital grant from the Local Authority.

Phase 1 (a two-storey teaching block of five classrooms) will begin in May 2009 and will be completed by December 2009. The building contractor – Apollo – is very sensitive to the demands of working on a school site. Most of the build will be carried out in July and August to minimise the impact on the school. Thank you to the school staff who are working hard to plan the build programme, despite having to face a challenging few months. By Christmas, they and the students will see a considerable improvement to their working environment.

Sainsbury's / Tesco Vouchers

Vouchers needed

We are now collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, as well as the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs vouchers. We rely on these vouchers to purchase much needed equipment for the school so that we can improve the variety of teaching resources available to the students.

Please ask your daughter to bring the vouchers in and put them in the collection box in reception or by the P.E. office.

Thank you for your support.

Launch of Parent Mail

Parents who have subscribed to Parent Mail are now receiving Parent Mail e-mails. Parent Mail is for whole school and whole year group letters only. We will not be sending text messages.

A procedure has been put in place for duplication of letters to parents who have not subscribed to Parent Mail. All form tutors will have a list of students to display on the form tutor board. All registers will have a duplicate of that list fixed to them.

Students must be pro-active and take responsibility for collecting duplicated

There will be a further opportunity to subscribe to Parent Mail in the Summer Term.

The distribution of mail is managed by the Office Manager.

Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition 2009

Our team took part in the Bexley heat of the Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition 2009 and was clearly the best on the day! Well done on an outstanding performance and many thanks to members of the school's Law Society who coached the team. Sadie, Anisha, Sarah, Molly and Ruby gave up their Friday evenings to work through the case with the Year 9 students and achieved an amazingly high standard as well as encouraging excellent team spirit.

The team members were Aishwarya, Tasnia, Megan, Katie, Roseanna, Olivia, Jessica, Jose, Suyin, Danica, Alice and Orla. Ellie (9F) and Marion (9S) attended on the day as Court Artists and their sketches have been submitted to the Citizenship Foundation as part of the national competition.

History

It has been a very busy spring term in the History Department.

Hedingham Castle

Year 10 History students visited Hedingham Castle, in Essex, on 21 January to study a remarkably preserved square keep castle for their coursework. Behaviour throughout the trip was very good and they were a credit to the school.

Video Conferencing with Bishop Justus School

Gifted and Talented Year 9 students from Newstead and Bishop Justus shared a videoconference History workshop called All Pals together : A First World War soldier's story on Friday 13 February. This was run by the National Archives and 10 students from each school took part in the

rôle play asking questions of a costumed actor on his life in the trenches. We were impressed by the questions students asked and were delighted by the success of this new venture.

History Master Class

Another first for the History Department, facilitated by the Languages Specialism, was Year 11 taking part in a master class run by Dr Alexander Samsom of UCL. His scholarly lecture on Mary Tudor, Philip II of Spain and Elizabeth I enriched students' understanding of the period. Over 30 History students took part and were a most attentive audience.

Enrichment Week – Battlefields Visit to Ypres

Year 9 went on the annual visit to the Battlefields at Ypres during Enrichment Week. This was, as ever, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during World War One. Students' poems, paintings and prose produced on their return are testimony to their thoughtful response to the day. Thanks to all staff who accompanied the students with special thanks to Miss Lendrim and Mrs Eaton who led the visit.

Revision Conference on James 1 And Charles 1

Year 12 attended a superb revision conference on the early Stuarts on 18 March run by Sovereign Education. They heard excellent speakers who provided students with useful insights into their new AS course.

Christian Prayer Group

The Christian Prayer Group, an informal group which exists to support the school in prayer, would warmly welcome new parents. For more information please contact Jenny Endersby: Tel 020 8851 4547 or e-mail: jenny.endersby@virgin.net

Science

Science Crest Awards

Congratulations to Katherine in Year 12 and Meryl in Year 10 who have both achieved

their Silver Crest Awards. Katherine's project is titled "Could Man Potentially Live on Mars?" (Could this be a further extension of Newstead's building programme?) and Meryl investigated "The effect of Various Acidic Drinks on Calcium Carbonate".

Salters' Chemistry Camps

Congratulations to Arielle and Tumi, both in Year 10, who have been selected to take part in Salters' Chemistry Camps at the University of Leeds during the summer holiday.

Chemistry and Art

A group of Year 13 chemistry students, accompanied by Dr Lawlor-Price and Mrs Cheyne, visited the National Gallery during Enrichment Week and took part in a highly entertaining tour of some of the paintings in the gallery, focussing particularly on the chemistry involved in the artworks.

Enrichment Activities

Enrichment Week

A huge thank you to parents for your support for this annual event in the Newstead calendar. Students worked with enthusiasm and commitment on topics ranging from historical costume design to London's riverfront and cryptic crosswords. Aspects of citizenship and preparation for the world of work were particular features of the week and we are especially grateful to visiting specialists and parents who accompanied trips.

Academic Tutoring Day – Wednesday 22

April

Years 7 - 10 will have another range of enrichment activities on this day and details of these have already been sent to parents.

Flight : A Leonardo Question Answered

Details of this year's summer school will be available soon. The proposed dates are Tuesday 28 July – Wednesday 5 August.

Ingolstadt – March 2009

Mini EU Parliament

We were invited by the Katharinen-Gymnasium Grammar School in Germany to take part in the Simulation of European

Parliament debating a European approach to issues such as domestic violence and carbon dioxide emissions.



It was an amazing opportunity to meet other young people from different European countries such as Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Spain. As well as taking part in the debate we were able to visit historic towns such as Nürnberg, Regensburg and Munich and go on a boat trip along the Danube. It was an enriching experience which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Mathematics

World Maths Day

A new world record was set on 4 March 2009, when over 1 million students from 160 countries answered 452,682,682 Maths questions correctly. The 'day' was actually the 48 hours during which the date was 4 March in at least one time zone. Newstead Wood students contributed over 104,000 of those answers. The event consists of one minute competitions against three other students from any part of the world. One student found herself competing against her friend who lives in Hong Kong.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

246 Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. 19 gained Gold awards, 59 were awarded silver and 75 received a bronze award. Emily gained the highest mark in the School. She, Divya and Suyin qualified for the follow up Olympiads, which are tough 2-hour written papers demanding mathematical skills of a high order, including the ability to provide accurate and well-written proofs. Another 7 students qualified for the European Mathematics Kangaroo, a multiple-choice paper sat by students across Europe. The

results of these papers will be available next term.

Drama

At the beginning of the Spring term students from all years worked hard to create another sensational musical hit when they performed "Grease". My thanks to all the talented students involved, the actors, musicians and backstage and technical teams for all their enthusiasm and dedication. Particular thanks must also go to Dr Parsons, Miss Jacques, Mr Harris and Ms Viggers for their effective management of the student teams.

In Enrichment Week Year 10 students took part in what has now become an annual event: a workshop on African storytelling and dance with the Iroko theatre company. This workshop is always thoroughly enjoyed by those who take part.

Last week A2 Drama students performed their last examination piece, student interpretations of the play "Two" by Jim Cartwright.

In the first part of the summer term GCSE Drama students will perform their examination devised plays and, a few weeks later, the AS Drama students will perform "Twelfth Night" and selected monologues.

Next term there will be an opportunity for gifted and talented drama students from Years 9 and 10 to take part in Newstead's entry for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Schools from across the country perform a wide selection of Shakespeare's play at professional theatre venues. The performances will take place in the Autumn term. More information will follow next term.

Sport

Individual achievements

Cross country

Hannah was selected to represent Kent in an Inter Counties competition.

Judo

Amelia represented England at the Belgium Ladies Open in January (competing with an injured toe!) and went to an international training camp immediately afterwards.

Amelia has been selected to receive a TASS Award for 2008/9 – one of only ten females doing Judo in Great Britain. This is the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme, a government funded programme that provides potential medal winners of the future with a tailored package comprising such services as Coaching, Strength and Conditioning, Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support, Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine as well as support with competition and training expenses.

She has also been selected by the governing body for Judo in Great Britain to undertake an NVQ at Bath University in 'High Performance Sport', a two year course that complements her GCSEs. She is one of only seven individuals to be picked out to undertake this prestigious award.

Pentathlon

Zainab represented Great Britain on several legs of the 2008 Biathle World Tour and The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne recently announced the results. Zainab was awarded a Bronze medal for her age group. It is a shame that, due to lack of funds, she was unable to compete in Egypt as she may have gained sufficient points to achieve a world Silver medal position.

Biathlon

Kate competed in the Schools National Biathlon Final in March, swimming 50m in a personal best of 32.01 and running 1000m in a personal best of 319.04, finishing 11th out of 41. The field of 41 competitors had been selected from the best athletes across the country with only the top two automatically qualifying from each region.

Kate has also been selected to run for Bromley in the Adidas Mini London Marathon on 26 April 2009.

Kate recently competed in the Kent County Swimming Championship. She won two Gold medals and accordingly is the top swimmer in her age group in Kent for 50m and 100m breaststroke. She also won a Silver medal in the 200m breaststroke, achieving an 8 second personal best, and a Silver medal in the 800m freestyle.

Athletics

Dina was awarded Athlete of the Match for her efforts at the Kent Sportshall Championships in December, where she set a new county record for the 2-lap race.

Dina represented Kent in the South East Regional Sportshall Final in February. Dina won all three events that she took part in but Kent failed to get through to the national final.

At the recent South of England Indoor Athletics Championships Dina competed in the U15 age group for the first time. She gained places in the finals of all the events she entered and gained Bronze medals for the long jump and 200m and a Silver in the 300m, a new event for her.

At the Aviva Indoor Championships Rhiannon Jones finished 4th in the heats of the U15 60m hurdles, clocking the 12th fastest time. She also finished 4th in the final of the 60m hurdles at the South of England Indoor Athletics Championships, making a big improvement on her personal best to 9.68 secs.

Dina and Rhiannon made their debut appearances at the Aviva England Athletics U20, U17 and U15 Championships in February.

Team Achievements

Badminton

The Senior team of Eleanor, Harriet, Victoria and Surabhi qualified to represent the East London Boroughs at the Regional round of the National Schools Badminton competition. They beat Nonsuch High School and then went on to play some hard matches against England players. Although

achievement against the best players in the country.

Netball

Our congratulations go to the senior netball squad who recently won the Bromley play offs. Led by captain Caroline, the squad produced an excellent performance to be crowned Bromley Champions. After finishing second in their league group, we faced Bromley High in the semi-finals. The match was fiercely contested but we eventually triumphed winning on 'golden goal'. The win meant we faced St Olave's in the final. After a close first half that saw us lead 8-7, we went on to pull away and won 14-10.

Well done to the all girls for their commitment this year.

The Year 7 netball A team took part in the Kent Schools Netball competition recently. Our girls played well despite this being their first big competition and came 2nd in their group. They went through to the knockout stage and were drawn against Benenden. It was an exciting match with lots of turn overs and interceptions but Benenden pulled away to take the win. The team's efforts mean that they are now ranked in the top 16 in the county. Congratulations to Amy, Jade, Isabelle, Tofunmi, Elizabeth, Emily-Jane, Chloe, Alice, Zainab, Tomisin, Grace and Mimi who have worked so hard.

The Year 7 netball team won their section of the Bromley League and went through to the Bromley crossovers which took place on Thursday 26 March. They were up against Cator Park, losing after a very close match. In the play-off for 3rd and 4th place they were against Langley Park (who they had previously beaten in the league). They won the game convincingly, 10 – 2 to take 3rd place in the Bromley league. Congratulations

The Year 8 Netball team took part in the Kent Schools competition recently. The girls were in an extremely hard group

schools. They played with experience and skill and should be justly proud of winning all their games. They qualified for the next round and played Bromley High. A fantastic game ensued with Newstead the winners. In the quarter final they played a very strong team from Kent College. Unfortunately they lost after a very exciting game. Congratulations to Laura, Annabelle, Kate Curran, Isabel, Louise, Tamara, Maddie, Izzy, Jing, Sophie, Dina and Isabel.

Swimming

Newstead has no swimming facilities so the girls work hard in their spare time to train and compete for local clubs. The Junior swimming team qualified for the junior freestyle race and were reserve for the medley race at the National schools relay championships in February. The girls swam in both races coming 11th and 10th respectively. To put this achievement into context, there are 4,932 state secondary schools and a further 2,284 independent schools, so 10th out of 7,316 schools is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to Lauren, Rebecca, Kate, Emma and Zainab.

Geography

This half term has been another busy and productive one for the Geography department.

Miss Rawe ran a 'Go Bananas for Fairtrade' event on 6 March where 41 students ate a Fairtrade banana in room 31 at lunchtime as part of the 429,000 across the UK in an attempt to set a world record and raise awareness for Fairtrade.

Miss Morley took three Year 8 students to Bromley Environmental Education Centre at High Elms (BEECHE) as part of a Bromley Geography fieldwork project in association with the Royal Geographical Society. The students worked alongside students from other Bromley schools in trying out new and different fieldwork exercises and paving the way for more cross schools work and new fieldtrips for Geography in the future.

As part of their Geography course on rivers Year 8 spent the day at the River Tillingbourne in Dorking, Surrey. Students were led by tutors of the Fieldstudies Council in taking measurements of the river in order to investigate how the river changes as you move downstream. After the initial shock of standing in a river and getting hands wet, students rose to the challenge and it was clearly a very enjoyable experience with students quick to get involved at each site. Students will follow up this work in the classroom and use their data to present their findings.

On a final note I would like to take this opportunity to remind students that it is their responsibility to return fieldwork permission slips and payments to the Geography box in reception by the set deadline. The Geography department has a rigorous risk assessment and health and safety policy which requires parent permission well ahead of the actual trip. The department can not therefore accept slips after the deadline, for whatever reason and students would be unable to participate in the trip. The Geography department will take every reasonable opportunity to remind students of the deadline but the final responsibility has to rest with students.

SSAT Pan-London student leadership conference

The executive schools at the heart of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust's student leadership network for London met for their annual conference on 27 February. The three executive schools for South East London are Cator Park, The Charter School and Newstead. After only a week of being in post our new Head Girl Team led a session on student leadership by explaining our new student leadership structure and hosting a question and answer session. Our general impression was that many schools are still experimenting with student voice and have not yet started to experiment with student leadership. The Newstead team was congratulated by the SSAT for articulating the progression from Student Voice (passive

participation) to Student Leadership (active participation).

National Award Nomination for Year 10 Student

Sarah Laughton in Year 10 was recently nominated for a National Award as part of the “PrintIT!” programme. The work of Year 10 GCSE graphics students forms part of the national “PrintIT!” programme, which is run by Proskills UK and designed to raise awareness of the print industry. The brief was to design a complete marketing and display pack for a new Fair Trade Café, that could be opened in the Market Square in Bromley.

Students had to design and produce a poster to promote the café, a “table talker” (a menu card



professionals), packaging for a Fair Trade snack bar and a counter display to hold the snack bars. Students were required to prepare a range of initial ideas for each of the products, develop a chosen idea and then produce a fully printed product.

As well as the practical aspect of the programme, students were also required to research printing and manufacturing techniques and processes. They also had to analyse and evaluate their ideas together

with a justification of their reasons for their final choices. Naturally as the café was intended to be a Fair Trade establishment, correct use and understanding of the Fair Trade logo, together with its place in a corporate identity, were very important when producing a winning design. Over 600 schools took part in the programme, producing over 12,500 entries.

The awards ceremony took place at the historic Stationer’s Hall in the City of London. The Stationers’ Hall is one of the oldest Livery halls in The City and is situated just behind St Paul’s Cathedral. The ceremony was attended by sponsors and representatives from 38 companies from across the print and publishing industry.

Sarah’s award, of a digital camera, was for the “Best use of Brand” across the range of her products. Many of the schools who took part in the project entered teams of students rather than individual students; and the majority of schools only entered specially chosen students for the competition. Newstead on the other hand did neither. The work was carried out as part of the normal programme of teaching, with every student in year ten submitting their work. Sarah is to be congratulated on an outstanding achievement. The picture above shows Sarah standing beside her award winning entry (it’s the set on the left).

European Youth Parliament

Rachelle, Alex, Sarah and Molly participated in a European Youth Parliament competitive debate on 16 March at the prestigious Locarno rooms of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office accompanied by Mr van Teutem. Issues under discussion included climate change, separatism, piracy, a centralised health system and accession of

assigned to a particular department – Newstead was assigned to the Committee on Civil Liberties.

Careers Seminar
Tuesday 12 May 2009 at 7.30pm
Designing the Built Environment

We all have opinions about the environments which surround us, but very often give little thought to the creative processes that produce them.

This seminar will examine some of the careers available to creative students who care about their environment.

More details will be available next term but please put the date in your diaries now.

Year 10 2009 Summer Exam Modules

Listed below are the dates that Year 10 students are sitting exam modules in the Summer season. All Year 10 are sitting ICT, Biology, Physics and Maths and some Year 10 students are sitting Latin. If you have any queries please contact Alison Cunningham, Exams Officer.

Day	Date	Start	Duration	Board	Level	Subject	Code
Tue	19/05/2009	13.30	1h15m	OCR	GCSE	Ict A Paper 1 (Higher)	2357H
Tue	19/05/2009	13.30	1h15m	OCR	GCSE	Latin Prose Lit (Higher)	1942/21
Mon	01/06/2009	13.30	1h15m	OCR	GCSE	Latin Prose Lit (Higher)	1942/22
Tue	09/06/2009	13.30	45m	OCR	GCSE	Latin Prose Lit (Higher)	1942/23
Tue	09/06/2009	13.30	45m	OCR	GCSE	Latin Prose Lit (Higher)	1942/24
Mon	22/06/2009	09.00	30m	AQA	GCSE	Biology Unit 1A	BLY1AP
Mon	22/06/2009	09.00	30m	AQA	GCSE	Physics Unit 1A	PHY1AP
Tue	23/06/2009	09.00	1h30m	AQA	GCSE	Mathematics B Module 3 Tier H	43053H

The London Marathon

Dr Unseld will be running in her second marathon on 26 April, in aid jointly of St Mungo's, which provides support and care for many of London's homeless and Hope for Chilubula, which is raising funds to enable a community in Zambia to become self-sufficient. Hope for Chilubula is a project which Miss Wright is involved with and with which Newstead is hoping to set up a link. If you would like to support Dr Unseld's marathon appeal, you can do so by going to www.justgiving/drunsel, or by sending a donation into school, in a sealed envelope, to be put in the box in the reception area marked "Marathon".

If you wish to send a donation into school for Dr Unseld's marathon run, please enclose it with the slip at the end of the newsletter, in a sealed envelope, marked "marathon", which can be posted into the box in reception.

Rachelle wrote about the day "Focusing on European issues made us realise that sometimes we should not always focus on the UK being an individual country, but instead focus on it being part of the 'team' of the European Union... The day also told us a lot about leadership development. I learned that if you want to improve yourself and your leadership skills you should not sit back and let others do the work, but instead put yourself and your ideas forward and

Parents' Association Newsletter

Dates for your Diaries

Saturday 2 May – Quiz Night. All are welcome. Fish and Chip supper included in the price and you can bring your own drinks.

Saturday 13 June - Newstead Ball (7.30pm to Midnight). There are still a few tickets for this event. If you are interested please contact Mary Capon on thecapons@ntlworld.com

If any parent is able to provide raffle prizes for the ball please contact Mary Capon. We are looking for anything from a holiday/flights to vouchers for restaurants

Ladies Pamper Evening – 27 March 2009

Many appointments were sold out and the evening raised in the region of £500.

Quiz Night – October 2008

Over 100 parents attended yet another popular Quiz Night which raised a healthy profit of approximately £400. Many thanks to those who organised and supported this event.

Please come along and support these events as every pound raised goes towards supporting your daughter's education.

Matched Funding

The parents who came forward with matched funding from their employers are being involved in PA events

thereby increasing the amount raised by as much as £500.

If you work for a company that has a matched funding scheme which is not currently being utilized by the school please contact Mary Capon thecapons@ntlworld.com

Building Plans at Newstead – As you will have seen from Mrs Allen's recent letter the school is embarking on a massive rebuilding, refurbishment and improvement plan. In addition to raising capital funding from third parties, the school will also need to rely on the funds raised by the PA. This takes two forms: the covenant scheme and PA events. In relation to both of these your continued assistance and support is greatly needed.

If you would like to donate money via the covenant scheme, but have not already done so, please contact Georgina Sparkes gacgas@yahoo.com

If you could also spare the time to help the busy social committee, your assistance would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact Linda Wanniaratchy wanniaratchy@btinternet.com

Thanking you for your continued support of PA events and wishing you an enjoyable spring break.

Term Dates 2008/9

Spring Term 2009

Monday 5 January – Friday 13 February
Half-term 16-20 February
Monday 23 February – Friday 3 April
(Good Friday 10 April, Easter Monday 13 April)

Summer Term 2009

Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May
(May Day 4 May)
Half-term 25-29 May
Monday 1 June – Tuesday 21 July

The School will be closed for Professional Development on:

Friday 17 July 2009

Monday 20 July 2009
Tuesday 21 July 2009

(NB: CPD Days may be subject to change)

Term Dates 2009/10

Autumn Term 2009

Wednesday 2 September – Friday 23 October
Half-term 26 – 30 October
Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December

Spring Term 2010

Monday 4 January – Friday 12 February
Half-term 15 – 19 February
Monday 22 February – Wednesday 31 March
(Good Friday 2 April, Easter Monday 5 April)

Summer Term 2010

Monday 19 April – Friday 28 May
(May Bank Holiday Monday 3 May)
Half-term 31 May – 4 June
Monday 7 June – Friday 23 July

The School will be closed for Professional Development on:

Wednesday 2 September 2009
Thursday 3 September 2009
Wednesday 31 March 2010
Wednesday 21 July 2010
Thursday 22 July 2010
Friday 23 July 2010

(NB: CPD Days may be subject to change)

End of Summer Term

Please note that the last day for students is Thursday 16 July.

Welcome to our two new governors, Mr Jonathan Capon and Mrs Naureen Khalid.

I wish all of our families a happy and restful break.

Please return the reply slip to your daughter's form tutor by 2 April 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Allen

Mrs E Allen
Head Teacher

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE FORM TUTOR

PLEASE RETURN BY THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2009.

I acknowledge receipt of the End of Spring Term, April 2009 newsletter.

Daughter's name Form
(Block Capitals please)

Signed Date
(Parent/Guardian)

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MARATHON

If you wish to send a donation into school for Dr Unseld's marathon run, please enclose it with this slip in a sealed envelope, marked "marathon", which can be posted into the box in reception.

I enclose a donation of towards the marathon fundraising.

Daughter's name Form.....

Signed