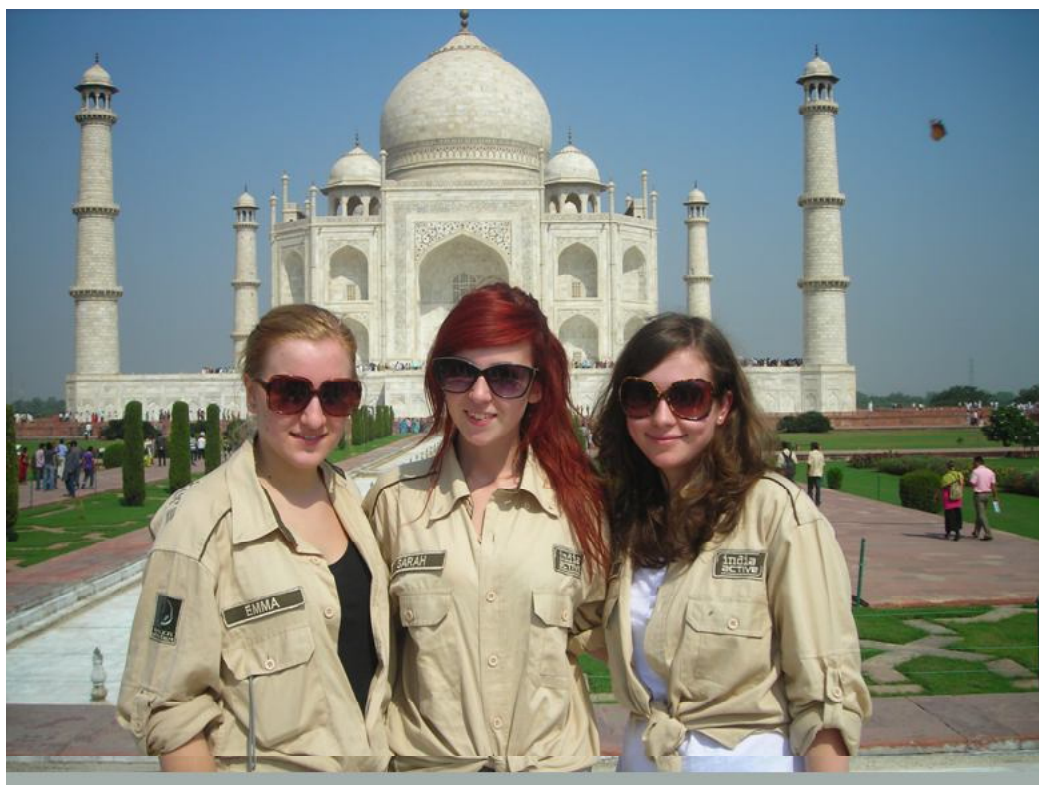


# Mini Manners

## Newsletter of Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls



*Himalayan Adventure:  
Visit to India*

**School Year 2010/2011: Issue 2**

**December 2010**

## Head's Headlines

It's been another very busy half-term at Shottery – and more detailed reports of many activities are included later in this edition of *Mini Manners*. There have been many curriculum-based visits – with sixth form biologists visiting Findon's Nurseries, the senior food technologists taking in the Good Food Show, sixth form artists visiting London (including Sir John Soane's Museum and the Hunterian) and A-level Philosophy and Ethics students attending a curriculum conference, for instance. Our young historians were able to visit the Memory Bus when it spent a morning at Shottery earlier this term, and a small group of girls interviewed a number of residents of Alveston Leys care home about their memories, as part of a related oral history project. Year 7 enjoyed a trip to see *The Secret Garden* in Birmingham, Year 10-13 drama students have visited a number of productions at Warwick Arts Centre – and a number of girls have performed on the stage in the Levi Fox Hall in KES's recent production of Tennessee Williams' *Camino Real*. The GCSE Performing Arts group were treated to a day in London, taking in a number of shows as well as a backstage visit to the National Theatre, after having completed their own first Showcase in early December. We have entered enthusiastic teams in competitions from the Mock-Bar Trial and the Bank of England Target 2.0 competition through to Maths Challenges – and Jess Hawley won the prestigious Young Economist of the Year competition. Our second Extended Learning Day of the year was timed to coincide with the Global Enterprise Week, when Mrs Key organised an exciting day for girls to work in vertical groups on enterprise activities; and our Young Enterprise companies have again been busy and creative this year. We have taken part in a wide range of sports, winning a number of trophies and medals; and you'll also find later in this newsletter the report from the Holland hockey tour that took place just before half-term – too late for the October edition of *Mini Manners*. Our own Quizzard Cup took place in the Hall in November, too, and was very well-attended; good wizarding fun was had by all – and a tidy sum of money raised to enable the PE department to have some portable floodlights! And we've received visitors from both China and Singapore, as well as visiting Germany (our annual exchange visit to Solingen) and India (see the cover photo of the Taj Mahal, as well as the report later in this newsletter). I was delighted to be able to accompany the Indian visit in person, and share the amazingly varied experiences of the group over the two-week expedition.



*Jess Hawley receiving her award from Prof Richard Blundell, President of the Royal Economic Society*

And the term is far from over yet: as I write, we still have the Christmas Concerts and the Day of Celebration to look forward to, as well as the other excitements of the last week of term, including the decorated classrooms...

I do hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter. May I wish you a joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. Next term begins for pupils on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010, with registration at the normal time and lessons beginning at 9.15 as usual.

## Staff News

We have welcomed a new member of staff to the Shottery team this half-term: **Miss Suzanne O'Neill** has joined the French team in the MFL Department while **Miss Jasserand** is taking her maternity leave.

We have one more staff change taking place at the end of this term: we say goodbye to **Mrs Roz Barton** as she leaves us to take up her new post as Second in the English Department at King's High School, Warwick. Mrs Barton has been a key member of the Shottery English department for six years, stepping up to take the Second in English role here when Mrs O'Dea took her maternity leave last year, starting up GCSE Film Studies two years ago and taking a lead in a number of other school activities, including fund-raising for charities such as Crisis at Christmas this year. We wish her well at her new school, and look forward to closer links with King's High.

We welcome **Miss Rachel Manders** who will be joining the English Department in January.

## **Buildings Masterplan and Developments**

Parent questionnaires over the past five years have, without exception, identified accommodation as the weakest element of Stratford Grammar School for Girls. We have had a Buildings Masterplan for all that time and longer – and have campaigned for many years for capital funding to address some of the issues we face with our inadequate buildings. We thought last year that we were finally getting somewhere: Warwickshire agreed that our needs were significant, and supported us in drawing up phased plans to deal with them. It was therefore with great disappointment that we learned, a couple of weeks ago, that we would not after all be receiving funds this year from Warwickshire County Council to enable us to move forward with our Learning Resources Centre plans. It was a year ago, almost to the day, that we displayed the plans in the vestibule of the Community Building, outside the Hall. The new building was to have replaced the existing three “temporary” classrooms (the huts) and the current administrative wing which includes the staffroom, the careers room and the offices for the Assistant Head and the Exams and Data Officers, Cover Supervisor and careers staff. The new two-storey building was to have linked the Hall and vestibule with the teaching block, and would have included six classrooms (three of them effectively replacing the huts), a whole school Learning Resources Centre, and sixth form study and common room space. The next phase of the masterbuild would then have been a new Sports Centre, which the plans showed as an interesting triangular building in the corner of our playing fields, partly on the site of the current netball/tennis courts.

As a result of demographic changes in Warwickshire (including Stratford), the County Council has had to divert its reserved capital funds to the primary sector, in order to ensure that there will be sufficient primary school places to meet the anticipated need over the next few years. In the current economic situation there is little likelihood in the near future of capital funds becoming available from the Local Authority to develop Stratford Grammar School for Girls in the ways we need.

The governors have met to consider the school's options in the light of this disappointing news, and have decided to commit the funds that we have in our own reserves (mainly from devolved formula capital grants, saved over the last few years in order to contribute to the masterplan) to a more modest development that will help us to meet our two most urgent needs: a) more classroom space, especially for the Humanities, and b) sixth form study space. Plans are therefore being drawn up currently for a simple two-storey extension to the practical block, with four classrooms and some small office areas. We are planning to allocate two of the classrooms to the Geography Department, and to turn the current Geography Room (the large first-floor room in the Manor) into a sixth form study space. We hope to be able to move forward with these plans quickly in the new year.

The pressing need for a sports hall has not been forgotten, either, and we are actively seeking funding from Sport England (linked with the Olympics) that will enable us to realise our plans there.

## **Ofsted: Survey into Girls' Achievement**

We received a visit from Clive Kempton, HMI, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, as part of a survey that Ofsted is carrying out into girls' achievement. The survey set out to try to discover whether there might be any school-based factors that would have some long-term bearing on the future career prospects of women – and, in particular, that would explain the following socio-economic fact:

*Young women achieve better educationally than boys at the age of 16 and are more likely to continue in education. Their early success, however, does not translate into similar advantages in terms of careers and pay later. Women earn less per hour than men and systematically occupy lower-paying jobs that do not make the best use of their skills.*

He met with three groups of girls – from Years 7, 10 and 12 – and with key staff involved in information, advice and guidance in school, holding discussions with them over the course of the morning. The survey results may be subsequently published via the Ofsted website, but there will be no judgements about any school's individual work, though the names of the schools visited will be published. Having observed the discussions with two of the groups of girls, I can say that the girls were lively, articulate and very thoughtful in their responses. It will be interesting to read the conclusions that Ofsted draw in due course.

## Academy Status for Stratford Grammar School for Girls?

Parents will undoubtedly be aware from the media that the new Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has written to all schools identified as outstanding by Ofsted, inviting them to become academies as part of the coalition government's education reforms. Our governing body has been considering this offer very carefully since the summer, and researching what it would mean for us at Shotton. The governors are naturally determined to make the best decision for the future of the school – and also to maintain its essential character and ethos, as well as its reputation for all-round excellence. While some questions and concerns remain, it seems clear that academy status would offer the school greater freedoms and flexibilities to the benefit of its students and staff. To this end, governors took a resolution on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to seek academy status from September 2011. This is not a binding commitment, but it will allow us to register our intention with the Secretary of State, and enable us to enter the next phase: the formal consultation process. It will also enable us to seek definitive answers to the questions which governors still have and clarification of some of the uncertainties which at this stage inevitably remain.

The governors and I will therefore be writing formally to all parents in the new year with further information about what academy status would mean for us, and what the process of conversion would entail – and seeking your views as part of the formal consultation with all stakeholders. A meeting will be arranged for all interested parties as part of this process, and information and updates will be published on the website.

## Schoolcomms

Thank you to all parents now registered on and using Schoolcomms – the vast majority! Please do use this system to report your daughter's absence, and remember that it is helpful to tell us your daughter's surname and form when you contact us.

*Kate Barnett*

## Acorn in India 2010

Wow! What an amazing trip! Where to start... We left school with our bags packed and wrapped in considerable amounts of duct tape on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. We were all so excited but also very apprehensive. Most of us had never been to India before!

The plane took off at almost midnight and although most of us didn't sleep and were exhausted, we were filled with awe as we looked out of our windows to see our first glimpse of India. It was amazing!

Once we had arrived in Delhi we headed out through the airport and marched in line to the bus that was waiting for us. As we walked heads turned and watched us. I realised that to them, westerners were a rare sight, never mind a group of about 50 of us! And I thought we were the tourists!

We spent the afternoon in Delhi and visited Gandhi's memorial. However, this cultural visit was interrupted by an impromptu rainstorm which was the heaviest and noisiest I have ever witnessed; the thunder and lightning was really quite terrifying!





The following day, after a very early start, we got on a train to Agra, where the Taj Mahal is situated (or as we lovingly called it: "the Taj"). It was absolutely huge and the whole area was populated with thousands of visitors. Even there we were constantly being photographed by Indians as if we were celebrities, and to be honest, we were beginning to feel famous too! After queuing for what seemed like hours in the sweltering heat, we got inside and saw the fascinating tomb of Mumtaz Mahal. It was really interesting to see how much effort had gone into this beautiful building.

On the fourth day of our trip half of the group headed out to a village in old Delhi, which was crowded with people, litter, animals and dust. There was a strange beauty to the hustle and bustle of the community and after visiting a school and the surgery of Dr Akhilesh we felt privileged and inspired by

the sense of friendship and love in this derelict society. What particularly struck me were four boys who followed us around the village. Although the houses were jumbled and half built, and the streets were endless and winding, they knew every inch of their kingdom and they were as happy, if not happier, than any English child in their home. The other half of the group visited Father Ravi's shelter in Delhi. Some years ago, this Catholic priest decided he had to do something about the homeless in the city, and opened a night shelter. This has now grown into a much bigger project – we visited him at an orphanage and hostel he runs for the destitute. The orphan children were delighted simply to be able to play and we were felt moved and privileged to spend time with them.



That afternoon we took a tour of old Delhi in rickshaws. These strange contraptions consisted of a bike attached to a small cabin in which we were towed through the streets of Delhi. The sounds and smells constantly changed with every twist and turn and we were all overwhelmed by the life of the crowded streets.

That night we got onto our first overnight train. What a nightmare! When we first got on it struck me how claustrophobic the cabins were. With three bunks one above the other, in units of six bunks together, we each had a small compartment too small to sit up in... And we were expected to sleep in here?! With people moving up and down the aisles throughout the night, and cries of "Chai garam!" (hot tea)? I was terrified! After another night with little sleep we woke early and finally embarked upon the next stage of our journey.



After a bumpy bus ride lasting a few hours we arrived at the beach camp. It was stunning. The views went on and on as we followed the Ganges with our eyes. And we were lucky enough to be staying on the beach, less than a few feet from the river bank! The spectacular view coupled with the peaceful serenity contrasted hugely to the bustle of Delhi and we immediately relaxed.



That afternoon we went white water rafting and it was one of the most exhilarating experiences of the trip. The rapids were two or three metres high and each time we hit one we felt like

we might fall out at any second! It was a complete adrenaline junkie moment!

As soon as the sun set the temperature dropped each night and we had to wrap up warm around the campfires, singing songs. It was so calm and tranquil. This was a completely different side to India. The next few days included a trip to Rishikesh, a local town which is holy due to its close proximity to the Ganges. What struck me most about the town was that as the sun set, children no older than six or seven would emerge and try to sell pictures they had drawn as a source of income. The image of a child walking alone through the streets at night will stay with me and remind me how lucky we are here in the UK.

During our stay at the beach camp we also visited a school where we experienced education from another perspective. We left them with gifts of pens and notebooks and the gratitude in their faces was humbling to witness.

Sadly, our time at the beach camp had to conclude and we left the camp regretfully, wishing that we had had longer to bask in the Indian sun, play volley ball and sit around sandy campfires. We headed back to the overnight train (aargh!) and after another uncomfortable night's sleep we transferred to a convoy of jeeps. In our jeep we listened to various songs on my luxury item: a small iPod speaker. As we enjoyed the music we were presented with some of the most breathtaking views I have ever seen. We soon gave up taking photos...there were just too many amazing sights! I remember the four of us in our jeep saying to one another "How are we ever going to explain this when we get home"... the simple answer...we can't!



When we reached the mountain camp we looked out and saw the Himalayas. The white peaks erupted from the horizon and I realised that for the next four days I would be in the company of these glorious mountains.

This was my reason for coming to India, and I certainly wasn't disappointed.

Over the next few days we trekked around the surrounding hills and experienced a "survival day" where we had to plan, budget, and cook our own food – on a trek. Our group went for rice, baked beans and lentils followed by cake and condensed milk...not exactly Michelin! However, this activity made us realise how close the experience had brought us.

Each afternoon our showers consisted of a warm bucket of water...it soon became known by some of us as "the dunk". The food was always various curries but we were used to it by now and most of us were addicted to chapattis! One of the highlights of the trip at this camp was that every evening we would crowd around a fire and tell ghost stories and sing. We also learnt some basic Hindi and one night we had a talent show. Even the teachers got involved and we had a very entertaining evening!

Eventually it was time to leave so we packed our bags and after a long night of jeeps and a final overnight train we arrived back in Delhi. After a final day of souvenir shopping and a visit to a gurdwara it was time to go home.

As we took our last glimpses of India out of the plane window we knew that this trip had been the trip of a lifetime. We had learnt things about ourselves and our way of life and we felt humbled and grateful that we had had the experience.

Thank you India!

*Lydia Heynes (Year 12)*



## Drama Department

The department has run a number of Theatre Trips this term:

### ***Teachers***

by John Godber

Hull Truck Theatre Company perform their adaptation of this fast-moving and entertaining comedy that brings to the stage all the vigour of life at a comprehensive school. A drama teacher struggles to put on an end of term play and has to push against disruptive classes, cynical colleagues and unhelpful caretakers.



### ***Spend Spend Spend***

directed by Craig Revel Horwood

I went to see *Spend Spend Spend* in October. It was a free-spirited, yet enlightening musical about the fact that money is not always what matters. It was a fun, enjoyable and very humorous piece of theatre as well as being moving and sad at times.

*Eve Farmer (Year 12)*



### ***The Red Shoes***

Kneehigh Theatre Company

When we arrived, members of the cast were mingling with the audience in nothing but pants and vests. What had we let ourselves in for? The stage was brilliant and the way the actors used the set and props was clever and very entertaining. Overall, we all found *The Red Shoes* thought provoking and humorous and the trip was really enjoyable.

*Lydia Heynes (Year 12)*



### ***Punk Rock***

by Simon Stephens



Last week, we went to see *Punk Rock* at Warwick Arts Centre. *Punk Rock* was completely different to anything we had ever seen before and we were overwhelmed by how shocking and thought-provoking it was. It was modern and we were kept on edge throughout the piece.

*Bella Roach and Cara Davis (Year 12)*

## ***Hansel and Gretel***

Kneehigh Theatre Company

A re-telling of the classic fairytale by Kneehigh Theatre Company combining music, poetry and stunning visual imagery.



### **Moderation Dates Confirmed**

#### **Year 11 – GCSE Drama:**

Tue 12th April - GCSE Moderation all day

#### **Year 12 – AS Theatre Studies:**

Tue 3rd May 7-8pm AS Theatre Studies Performance evening in PAS

Thurs 5th May 4-7pm Yr 12 AS Theatre Studies Moderation

#### **Year 13 – A2 Theatre Studies:**

Mon 16th May 7-9pm A2 Theatre Studies Performance Evening in PAS

Wed 18th May 4-7pm A2 Theatre Studies Moderation

### **Year 11 Theatre in Education Project**

In December, Year 11 will perform their Theatre in Education pieces to Shottery Primary School. The project started in September when Year 5/6 were invited in for a Drama Workshop in order for Year 11 to meet their target audience. They then wrote two short plays: *Behind the Scenes* and *Murder at Mulberry Manor*. Rehearsals are currently underway and both pieces look fantastic. We hope Shottery Primary School enjoy them!



It is an exciting time in Stratford at the moment as the new RSC theatre facilities are now open. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Year 11 are taking part in a backstage tour, exploring the theatre and discovering Stratford from a new perspective, at the top of the tower... we can't wait!

**The RSC Key is a new scheme for 16 to 25 year olds.**

**If you are aged 16-25, join The RSC Key today for free and unlock:**

- £5 theatre tickets
- 10% discount off all food and drink in the RSC restaurant, cafés and bars
- 10% discount off all books in the RSC shops
- Exclusive discounts and offers in various stores throughout Stratford-upon-Avon
- Invitations to special events for 16-25s
- E-newsletter with all the latest RSC Key news

**How do I join The RSC Key?**

- If you are aged 16-25, join for today for free
- Call 0844 800 1110 to join by phone
- Collect and fill-out a form at the Box Office when you are in Stratford-upon-Avon
- Once you have joined, RSC will send you your welcome pack and membership card in the post.



*S Barrett*

## **History, Politics and Government Department**

### **Galleries of Justice Museum, Nottingham**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November Year 9 visited the Galleries of Justice Museum in Nottingham to participate in two mock trials relevant to their studies in both History and Geography. The trip was a cross curricular endeavour and was accompanied by staff from both departments.

The visit was judged a great success by 9TB:

*"I can safely say that it was one of the best trips I've been on with school. The prison was very informative and I learnt a lot."*

*"The crime museum was an amazing educational experience. I enjoyed the Crime and Punishment Tour although there was an actor in the dungeons who was really quite scary."*

*"I found it really fun and the interactive tour was really good and brought it alive. I also enjoyed acting out the court case."*



A definite "must" both for next year and continued collaboration between the departments.

### **It's Your Story Project**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November the History department participated in a project organised by Warwickshire Museum Service which partnered us with Alveston Leys Care Home. The purpose of the project was to investigate how lives, beliefs and attitudes have changed within the lifetime of the elders at the home.

The day began with a visit from the Museum on the Move and Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the exhibition on memories. They also joined in a number of activities including drawing up questions to put to the residents during the course of the afternoon.

Four Year 9 students, accompanied by Mrs Harper and Mrs Curtis, spent the afternoon interviewing the residents and discovering how they had spent their lives. Wartime memories were a favourite including nursing during the Blitz in London and meeting Winston Churchill.

Overall, Georgia Hunt thought the girls had enjoyed chatting to the residents and had obtained some interesting information. Their interviews were recorded and will be kept at Warwick Record Office.



## Visit to the House of Commons

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November was a rather different day for sixth formers Emily Sara and Rhyanna Morris. Instead of a day of lessons, they joined a number of Stratford upon Avon District Councillors on a trip to the House of Commons and to sit in upon a Select Committee.

“The Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee was holding a debate,” write Emily and Rhyanna. “The Committee consisted of elected MPs and three business experts were providing evidence for the Committee.” The two students met with Stratford’s MP Nadhim Zahawi and his researcher; they enjoyed an excellent Parliamentary lunch and their verdict upon the day was “successful”.

*D Gillespie*

## Library

We are pleased to announce that following the huge popularity and success of the **Warwickshire Book Awards** scheme last year, we are opening this event to a larger number of Year 7 girls in 2010-11.

This award is given to the author of the winning title chosen by young secondary school students. The short list of titles, selected by the county’s school librarians, is taken from what is considered to be some of the best young people’s fiction to be published in the last year. A balance of styles and genres is included.

The emphasis is to encourage reading for pleasure and beyond one’s current experience.

This year’s short-list is:

- Sparks* - Ally Kennen
- The Crowfield Curse* – Pat Walsh
- Where I belong* – Gillian Cross
- The Boy Who Fell down Exit 43* – Harriet Goodwin
- Demon Strike* – Andrew Newbound
- Mortlock* – Jon Mayhew

More details to follow!

*K Tanner and A Curtis*

## Mathematics Department

### Senior Team Maths Challenge

After school on Thursday 18th November, four keen Year 12 mathematicians entered the Senior Team Maths challenge event at the University of Warwick. They enthusiastically completed the three rounds - a group round and two rounds where they had to split into pairs. The first paired round was the cross-number where each pair were only given half the clues!

After a short break for refreshments, the final round loomed: the mini relay. With only eight minutes per round, this was a time-pressured situation. Each round had four questions and the answer to the first question was passed to the second pair to use in their question and so on. Overall the girls enjoyed the experience and were pleasantly surprised to be 8th out of the 16 teams. Some schools entered teams that included two Year 13 students so the team of Bethan Charnley, Zofia Ciepalowicz, Vicky Ewing and Jo Parsons (all Year 12) should feel very proud of themselves. Congratulations!

*S Bateman*

### Senior Maths Challenge November 2010

Many congratulations to the following students who gained certificates in the recent challenge. Thirty three of our students took part, with 65,000 entries from across the UK. The top 6% receive a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze. We are delighted with our results.

<b>Gold</b>	Naomi Sutton	Year 13
	Mary Dai	Year 12
	Victoria Ewing	Year 12
<b>Silver</b>	Anna Czumaj	Year 13
	Elizabeth Cawthorn	Year 13
	Victoria Winter	Year 13
	Alexandra Smith	Year 12
	Zofia Ciepalowicz	Year 12
	Joanna Parson	Year 12
	Milly Green	Year 12
	Julia Snodgrass	Year 12
	Laura Usselmann	Year 12
	Cara Davis	Year 12
	Mhairi Crinean	Year 12
Isobel Shaw	Year 12	
<b>Bronze</b>	Francesca Tromans	Year 13
	Steph Solleveld	Year 12
	Harriet Sanders	Year 12
	Bethany Ballantyne	Year 12
	Caitriona Pearsall	Year 11

You might like to see a sample question from this challenge:

The year 2010 is one in which the sum of its digits is a factor of the year itself.  
How many more years will it be before this is next the case?

*VJ Smith*

## MFL Department: Language College

### European Day of Languages 2010

On Friday 24th September 2010, it was European Day of Languages at Shotton. There were lots of different taster sessions available, but I chose to try out Italian. It was really interesting and we learnt quite a lot in half an hour. We now know how to say the basic greetings and most of the regions. It was a truly amazing experience and I would definitely do another taster session next year.



*Lauren Daniels (Year 9)*

For the European Day of Languages my two friends and I did Salsa dancing. We had to get into pairs, the taller of the two being a guy, so that we could practise basic steps. We started slow, then got faster and faster, adding more moves each time. After half an hour we could do a simpler, but very fun version of the dance, to music. It was really funny and embarrassing, but we all had a great time learning loads.

*Lucy Cross (Year 9)*

### German exchange to Solingen

On Wednesday 24th November ten pupils, Mrs Hyams and Frau Kindermann left school at 10:30am and headed for Birmingham Airport. We were all really excited about the trip, and happy to see our exchange partners again.

When we got to Solingen, we met our partners at the airport, and left for their houses to meet their families. We were nervous about this, but all the partners and their families were very welcoming and friendly, so we soon settled down. On the first night most of us watched films with our partners, chatted for a while, and then went to bed.

The next day, we had to wake up really early to go to our partners' schools, as they started at eight o'clock. We had a few lessons with them, all in German, and although we couldn't understand much, it was still interesting to see a school in a different country. We finished lessons at one o'clock, and after lunch, we went to one of the art rooms at the school to make some traditional German Christmas decorations. We had lots of fun, decorating pine cones, making paper angels, cards, stars and hearts, and eating lots of Christmas biscuits. We also decorated some mini fake Christmas trees, which we took back to England and are now in some classrooms. We then went to the school advent bazaar, which was where the younger classes, of ten and eleven year olds, sold their home-made Christmas decorations, gifts, and accessories. They had gone to a lot of effort, and the bazaar was really busy. Some of us took this opportunity to buy presents for our friends and family, before we went back to our partners' houses for dinner, followed by films, music, or other activities.

On Friday, we met at the ice rink in Solingen, near to the school, where we went ice skating for an hour. Some of us had never been ice skating before, and we





were put to shame by our partners, and the ten year olds who were on the ice at the same time. However, we thoroughly enjoyed this part of the trip and many of us would like to go ice skating again in England, despite some of the bruises. After the ice skating, we went on several buses and trains to get to Cologne. It was really pretty and we visited the Cathedral there, where the relics of the three kings from the nativity are said to be. We then walked through the town, and visited the chocolate museum. It was actually very interesting because we got to taste chocolate, buy chocolate and play chocolate-related interactive games. After the museum, we walked back into the town, where we were allowed three hours to look around the town's Christmas markets in small groups, eat lunch and go shopping. We all found this really fun and bought presents for our families, clothes or traditional German food to eat. We got back to Solingen at six, after which some of us went to see an ice show at the same rink we went to earlier, or went to a party.



Over the weekend we spent time getting to know our host families. Many of us went shopping in Düsseldorf and baked traditional Christmas biscuits. Also, some people went rock climbing or horse riding at the weekend – there were many different activities, but everyone had fun. As it was the first Advent Sunday, it was Disney Day on German TV, and some people stayed at home watching Disney films in German, which was very funny. We all thoroughly enjoyed this part of the trip as it was a great chance to really get to know our partners, and relax after three hectic days.

On Monday morning, we changed into white t-shirts and black shorts for a football match against our German partners. We were beaten twelve-four but the match was really funny due to our inexperience, so nobody took it that seriously. Next, we had a maths lesson in German about percentages. The teacher was really nice, and we played games in German, and, although we had some trouble understanding, we still managed to learn some new things. We then went to see 'Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part One' in German. It was quite odd to hear the spells and names in a different language, but most of us had seen the film before so there wasn't too much trouble understanding the storyline. We also were given three free large bags of popcorn due to being 'special English guests', so it was a great day.



On Tuesday, we went to Münster to see the town, Christmas markets and churches. On this occasion our exchange partners came with us, which was great fun. We visited the Rathaus where the first peace treaty in Europe was signed. Then, we went shopping which was great – although, as it was snowing, it was also very cold. It was Mrs Hyams' birthday so

we bought her a card and a piece of cake and sang happy birthday to her on the coach trip home.

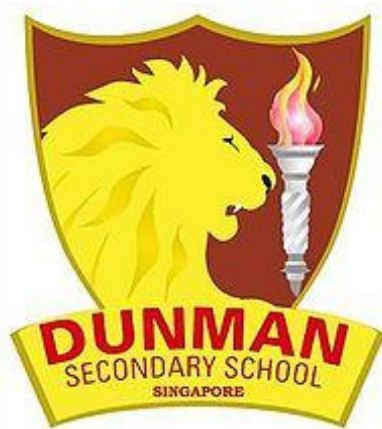
On our last day, we visited the Haribo factory shop where some of us spent a lot of money on sweets. This was one of the best parts of our trip as we all love Haribo sweets. We then went to a restaurant and ate traditional German Waffeln (waffles) or Apfel Strudel. We all found these really tasty – but we were very full at the end! We then went home with our German partners, packed our suitcases and went to the airport. We were all really sad to go and there were some tears as we said goodbye to our German partners. However, our plane was delayed by two hours so we had to wait to get on our plane home and were very tired when we arrived at 11.30 at Birmingham airport. Although we were sad to leave Germany, we were also very happy to come home to England and our friends and families.

We all really enjoyed the trip and would like to also go on the exchange for a second, or in some cases a third, time. We also all really got on well with our partners and loved the opportunity to experience German culture, especially German food and biscuits. We would also like to thank Mrs Hyams, Frau Kindermann and all the other members of staff who made the exchange possible.

FRÖHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN!

*Becky and Rachel Cannon (Year 10)*

## Visit from Dunman Secondary School, Singapore

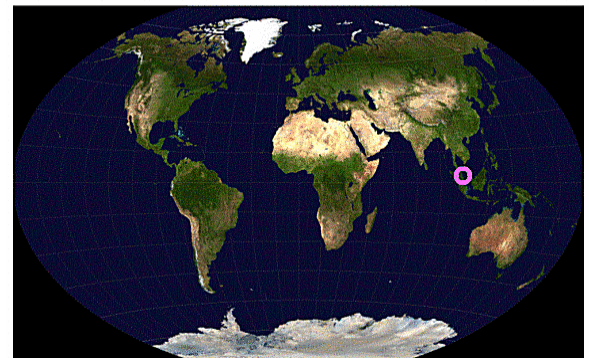


On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 26 students and four teachers from Singapore visited our school in order to share our differing experiences of school life. First of all we showed them a presentation outlining the English education system. We also gave them a tour of the school which they found really interesting as our unique school environment is significantly different from their own. They were particularly impressed by the “snazzy” fingerprinting system in the canteen. We were also given the opportunity to sample a snapshot of their culture as well as the Singaporean education system. We ate lunch together and whilst chatting we were amazed to discover that despite the fifteen hour flight between us we actually had a lot in common.

*Elizabeth Cawthorn, Alice Knox, Lauren Orrock, Gemma-Paige Reynolds, Felicity Box, Charity Mhende, Emily Sara, Stephanie Wilson, Amelia Harrison-Hall and Mr Couliou.*



SINGAPORE



*T Couliou*

## **PE Department**

This term has turned dark and cold – very cold – and therefore our sporting activities change somewhat from our early autumn programme. The snow and ice in the last few weeks have increased our search for funds to build a sports hall: Sport England have a fund called Iconic Facilities which is based around the Olympic Bid idea of leaving a legacy for sport after 2012; we have submitted a bid after many hours of research and networking. A huge thank you must go to Jackie Hyams for her help with the bid. I will let you know more in the spring term. Despite the weather damping our opportunities it has not affected our girls' enthusiasm for sport or their successes on the pitch.

*M Griffiths*  
*Head of PE*

### **Hockey**

All teams have had a mixture of matches with some wins and some losses, but also some excellent performances. The highlight of this term has been the U13 squad, which split in two for the South Warwickshire Hockey Tournament. Both teams played extremely well with the B squad beating Alcester Grammar school to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> and the A team beating the other Alcester Grammar school team to become champions. Well done to both teams!

### **Holland Hockey tour**

The week before half term, 30 girls travelled by coach with Miss G, Mrs Casement and Ms Harper to Valkenberg, near Maastricht in Holland. Once we had arrived, the girls soon settled into the accommodation before a sight-seeing visit around the town. We had an evening meal followed by a tactics talk before bedtime. The next few days all started with a short coach journey after breakfast to the Scoop Hockey Club where we had expert coaching by Dutch coaches. In the afternoon we had opportunities to go tobogganing, shopping or just relaxing in the hotel. Of an evening we travelled to play matches against local teams. The U13 team played 11-a-side hockey for the first time, and whilst they did not win any matches they learned a lot about hockey which will help them once they are back home. The U14 team played very well on tour winning one, drawing one and losing only one game. This is very good as they were playing against girls who had seven years' hockey experience compared to our two years of experience. The tour ended with our final evening at a pancake house. We then had the long journey home. This tour is always a very successful one where girls learn a lot about hockey as well as having fun at the same time. Next year's tour is being planned as I write this and will be launched in April to the current Year 7 and 8 girls.

### **Cross Country**

This term's weather has meant that a lot of girls have been practising their cross country skills! However our U13 team are proving to be a very successful and talented group of runners. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November, the U13 cross country team travelled to Warrington for the Midland Team Cup finals. After a very long journey, we arrived on a fairly warm and sunny afternoon. The team of six, made up of one Year 8 and five Year7s, ran very well over a muddy and undulating course. Congratulations must go to Sophie Wouters for her outstanding individual performance: she finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 72 runners.

### **Table Tennis**

Our newly-formed table tennis club has been a hit with Year 8 girls to the point that we entered them in the South Warwickshire U13 table tennis tournament in November. The girls played as individuals but their points went to the team performance. Overall they won 14 out of 16 games and are therefore area champions! They will now go on to the County finals. Congratulations and good luck for the next round.

### **Swimming**

This is a sport in which we only have a few opportunities to shine and on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, on a very cold and foggy night, the U14 swimming team went to Daventry swimming pool and took part in the National Relay regional rounds. The team had to swim a medley relay and a free-style relay. The team

swam superbly and won both of their races. Whilst their times were not quite good enough to get to the national finals they should be very pleased.

Then on November 30<sup>th</sup> we were invited to a friendly swimming gala at St Martin's School in Solihull. We entered teams for Years 7, 8 and 9, and a senior team. All girls swam very well with the senior team winning their age group. Overall we came 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Solihull School and ahead of St Martin's. There will be a few more galas next term, so if there are any more budding swimmers who would like to take part, please see Miss G.

## Rowing

Rowing is as popular as ever and now the new Year 7s are getting in on the act and going training on a Wednesday night down at the club. In mid November we attended the National British Indoor rowing held at the NIA, in Birmingham. All girls rowed very well with some girls competing in both the Individual and team events, the results are as follows:

### WJ12 Team

9th (Melissa Nelson, Rachel Stratton, Georgia Pilkington, Harriet Solomon)  
19th (Niamh Mackey, Sofia Condes, Jasmine Sheehan, Eleanor Stretton)

### WJ13 Team

**2nd Silver** (Kate Matthews, Phoebe Winter, Imogen North)

### WJ14 Team

8th (Ellie Wells, Yasmin Choudry, Georgia Holden, Izzy Coupe)  
12th (Maire Gould-Yates, Megan Cove, Julia Grogan, Alice Carter)

### WJ15 Team

**2nd Silver** (Maddy Jones, Lizzy Collins, Tas Pope, Clemmie Holden)

### WJ13 Individual (109 Entries)

9th Imogen North  
24th Phoebe Winter

### WJ14 Individual (84 Entries)

11th Georgia Holden  
25th Ellie Wells  
55th Yasmin Choudry

### WJ15 Individual (83 Entries)

4th Maddy Jones  
8th Clemmie Holden  
14th Tas Pope  
23rd Lizzy Collins

### WJ16 (35 Entries)

8th Frances Mills-Baker  
12th Gabi Jones

Finally a big thank you must go to Mr Wright for helping with swimming, Mr Roe for coaching the rowing teams, Mr Davies for coaching the table tennis team, Miss Carvel for coaching the Street Cheer team and the PE department for all their hard work. Have a great Christmas and a good rest ready for a busy spring term.

*M Griffiths and the PE department*

## Science College

### Year 13 Biology Visit to Bordon Hill Nurseries

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Year 13 Biologists put on their wellies and set off to visit Bordon Hill Nurseries in Stratford upon Avon. The purpose was to see how Biology works on an economic scale in a commercial business. We were made aware of the solutions the Nursery has come up with to make the business more efficient.

We met Malcolm who showed us around the site. One of the company's biggest expenses is water, so they have come up with ways to conserve it. They use water from a natural spring as well as a reservoir which collects all of the roof water from the nursery.

Next, we got to experience Bordon Hill Nurseries laboratory, which plays a vital role in reducing any pests and diseases that may be affecting the plants. We were able to look at different parasites and bugs under the microscope, to see how they work as biological pest controls, instead of using chemicals.



After that, we went into the greenhouses where we were faced with a sea of red. This was because they were producing Poinsettias on a massive scale, ready for shops to sell at Christmas. This concluded our tour of the nurseries.

Even the hike up Bordon Hill, and the slightly adverse weather conditions could not put a dampener on our day!

*Rebecca Devine and Caitlin Gibb (Year 13)*

## Mock Bar

### Report on the Mock Bar Trial Competition

After many weeks of practising in our Wednesday afternoon Curriculum Enrichment sessions, the Shottery Mock Bar team of fifteen Year 12 girls took on fifteen other teams from all over the Midlands in the Regional Mock Bar Trial competition at Birmingham Crown Court.

Since September, we had been preparing two criminal court cases, centred on theft and common assault respectively, and on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November we were finally able to enact these cases against other schools. Between us, we took on the roles of barristers, witnesses, ushers and court clerks and performed the cases in exactly the same format as a real criminal trial, complete with wigs and gowns for the barristers.

At the start of the day, we were convinced that all the other teams would be much better than us, but, to our very great surprise, we won each of the three preliminary rounds. In fact, despite our initial doubts, by the end of the day everyone had become very competitive and involved and we were all very disappointed when we learned that we had not scored sufficiently to reach the Final.

However, we all still had a great day: we learnt a lot about how the Criminal Justice system works in real life, and about public speaking in general. Mock Bar was a very valuable and enjoyable experience; I'm sure we would all love to take part again and we'd all like to say thank you to Mrs Heming for supporting and advising us throughout.

*Rachel Hunter (Year 12)*

## Charity News

This has been another busy term of fundraising and we are pleased to share these results with you:

Sale of Revision Guides for CAMFED	£143.70
MacMillan Coffee Morning (Staff)	£100.51
MacMillan Coffee Morning (Sixth Form)	£124.85
Jeans for Genes	£573.00
9TB Cake Sale for Help for Heroes and Combat Stress	£160.20
Children in Need: 10 DG Pud's Café	£250.00
Children in Need: Sixth Form Fair	£134.30
Young Enterprise Cake Sale	£218.89
Operation Wallacea Cake Sale	£127.00
Lepra Appeal (Year 7 and a few others from KS3)	£592.00

We have also supported the *Crisis for Christmas* appeal for socks with a non-uniform day on 30th November (see below); and Year 7 have taken part in the Lepra Appeal, enjoying Street Dance in their Monday Games lesson. Their total of £592 is enough to cure 27 children of leprosy and is an excellent total. Thank you to students, friends and parents for all your support!

*VJ Smith*

### Pud's Café

On Thursday 18th and Friday 19th November 10DG held a café in their form room. We called it Pud's Café and did a roaring trade in biscuits, cakes and drinks. Entertainment was also provided in the form of music and games. Guessing how Pudsey lost his eye attracted a large number of entrants and some very original ideas. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £250 for Children in Need.

*Alyce Markham and Issie Lander (10DG)*

### 9MG's Carol Singing

9MG have been charitable with their tutor time this term and put on a fantastic carol-singing session for the residents of Briar Croft.

*M Griffiths*

### Shottery has Socks appeal!

The girls showed they had "soul" this week when they collected a massive pile of pairs of new men's socks as part of fund-raising efforts for the charity *Crisis at Christmas*.

The girls at Shottery "paid" in socks to take part in a non-uniform day at the school. The socks will be sent to the charity to distribute to homeless people staying in their shelters over the three-day Christmas period.

The girls have been raising money for this charity for several years. In addition to the socks, they will be sending a cash contribution from money raised by a cake sale and quiz.

*R Barton*



## FOS News

We are delighted to hear that an order is about to be placed for the new **school minibus** which is to be bought with FOS money. This is a great achievement for FOS and the many parents who have supported our efforts in the last couple of years. Your daughters and the public at large will see due recognition of this on the body of the vehicle when it comes in to service.

On a different scale FOS was again delighted to sponsor a prize and flowers at the **Day of Celebration**. This underlines the many different purposes for which FOS funds are used and the variety of ways in which FOS plays a part in school life.

We are grateful for the number of parents who helped with and supported our **Festive FOS** efforts on two evenings in the penultimate week of term. Once again our Christmas Hamper raffles and seasonal food and drink proved very popular. A big thank you to everyone who donated items for the four hampers, something that we depend on for a successful raffle. This year the stalls were all organised by the girls to raise money for their various activities and it was impressive to see so many imaginative ideas on display.

Next term will see some important events in the FOS calendar which we very much hope you will be able to support. Our **Burns Celebration** on Saturday 5th February is always a very enjoyable event and at the same time one of our major fund raisers. There will be a four course meal, a piper, and a ceilidh band and caller for the traditional dancing which follows. Later in the term on Saturday 19th March we will be holding our second **Murder Mystery** evening in the atmospheric surroundings of the Manor itself.

With well over 100 youngsters attending this term's **Years 7&8 and Years 8&9 discos**, we were very grateful to everyone, and particularly a fine selection of new parents, who signed up to help. Next term's disco for Years 7&8 will be on 11th February and for Years 8&9 on 1st April.

You may still have some Christmas gifts to find and buy. If you are tempted to do this online using one of a wide range of mainstream retailers such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, House of Fraser, M&S, TescoDirect, etc please consider using the **easyfundraising website**. It will take a few seconds for you to register Friends of Stratford Grammar (FOS) as your chosen charity. After that, every time you place an order with a retailer by accessing their site through the [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) portal, FOS will receive a percentage of the retailer's price at no cost to you. Just looking at some famous names beginning with the letter A that percentage is 2.5% with Amazon, and as much as 4% with Argos, Apple, Avon, APH, Accorhotels, Asda Entertainment .... the list is huge. Think of a familiar name selling online and there's a good chance they're on the list. Having done this quite a few times I can say that it is very uncomplicated and, more to the point, easyfundraising will advise you how much you have earned for FOS. Any of us shopping online should be thinking of helping a charity in this way. Our request is simply for you to consider choosing FOS.

The **Year 11 Ball** group is already well on the way with preparations for the Summer Ball (celebrating the end of exams) at the Stratford Manor on 1st July. The girls themselves are well represented and their ideas are playing a huge part in shaping the occasion as they would wish. They were busy at Festive FOS raising those extra funds to make it an occasion to remember. Any girl or parent who would like to be included in these preparations should contact Claire Henley on [grogan.henley@btinternet.com](mailto:grogan.henley@btinternet.com).

Another group is looking ahead to the **Leavers' Celebration** on 28th June. Once again the ideas of the girls themselves are most welcome, particularly when it comes to deciding on this year's choice of memento. Any girl or parent who would like to be included in these preparations should contact Liz Harrison Hall on [liz.hh@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.hh@btinternet.com).

Finally, January will see the first of our **200 Club** draws. Your support for the 200 Club would help enormously. Details of how it works and an application form can be found in this edition of Mini Manners.

It remains for me on behalf of FOS to wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Ian Frost*  
Chair of FOS

# Future FoS Event



## Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 5th February 2011 at 7.00pm

£25 per person,  
includes a four course dinner and entertainment

FoS invites you to an evening of food, fun and dancing. Join us as we celebrate the life and genius of the Scottish Bard. Banish those winter blues with Shottery's own version of this traditional event and try your hand at some highland dancing.

### Menu

Leek and Potato Soup

\*\*\*

Haggis with traditional trimmings

\*\*\*

Poached Salmon / Mozzarella Tart (v)

\*\*\*

Dessert / Cheese selection

\*\*\*

Coffee & Mints



Piper, Scottish songs, traditional toasts & dancing  
to *The Glorishears*  
Licensed bar throughout

Why not put the date in  
your diary now and email a provisional  
reservation to [fos.stratford@gmail.com](mailto:fos.stratford@gmail.com)

# An appeal from FOS



FOS urgently needs more parent helpers for the Year 11 Prom Summer 2011

It is **not** essential – and possibly even a good thing **not** – to have a daughter (or son at KES) in Year 11.

If **you** could lend a hand in some way please email:

[dellamorris@mailboxesuk.com](mailto:dellamorris@mailboxesuk.com)

**Your help really would make a difference!**

***The monthly FOS 200 Club Draws will start in January  
and there's still time to join***

***This year's FOS target is to raise £10,000 to optimise the  
standard of new classrooms to be built for primary use by  
Humanities students.***

***We are therefore looking to increase our numbers this year  
and would particularly like to welcome new Year 7 and  
Year 12 parents.***

***What is the 200 Club?***

It is a mini lottery with a very favourable chance of a win. Under **200 Club** rules a generous 50% of all income is paid out as prize money and there is no limit to the number of times you can win. The other 50% of course will go towards this year's fundraising target of £10,000.

For an investment of only **£20** per annum your name will be entered into a series of six draws commencing in January 2010, with the final draw in June. At each draw there will be four prize winners who can take home cheques for anything up to **£150**. The more members we have, the higher the prizes. We welcome grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends too!

In short, assuming we achieve our target of 200 members, the Club will raise **£2,000**, nearly a fifth of the way towards our target, and the total winnings paid will also be £2,000.

***How can I join?***

To join the Club all you have to do is complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it before the end of December to Hilary Mills Baker via the red **FOS** box in Student Services at school or to the address given. This will enable you to take part in the first draw in January 2011. Once your slip is received you will be sent a confirmation note with your membership number. Winners will be notified direct although we will place the winning numbers in the parents' newsletter.

If you wish to set up a standing order or change one, so you can enrol yearly over your daughter's school career, please contact Joe Dostal, the FOS Treasurer, preferably by email at [joe.dostal@links4business.com](mailto:joe.dostal@links4business.com) or leave your contact details in the **FOS** box in Student Services at school.

This is an excellent way for you to help us in our efforts to raise money to provide better and newer facilities for all our girls. Each year we set ourselves deserving and ultimately beneficial objectives for our fundraising focus. Even if you cannot regularly attend **FOS** events, this is a chance for you to really help the school and get a bit of a buzz when you win!

We very much hope you will join us so that we can meet our target of 200 members. When you do... Good Luck!

## Examinations Office

### A QUICK SUMMARY OF EXAM INFORMATION

Final exam timetables for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have now been issued and signed for along with the Exam Information Guide.

Read the Information Guide thoroughly as there are important rules and regulations that all students must adhere to.

Signing for the Information Guide means you do **not** have any excuse for not knowing how exams are run at this School, what equipment you need (black pens, clear pencil case, pencils, rubbers, ruler etc), what to do in the event of illness and so on.

Please arrive at the exam venue **15 minutes** before the start of an exam. Exams **will** start on time. If a problem arises and you cannot get to school on time, please ring the main school number on 01789 293759 and ask for an URGENT message to be passed to the Exams Officer.

Morning exam sessions will start at **9.15am** and afternoon exam sessions will start at **1.30pm**.

Memorise your candidate number as you will need to write this on every exam answer paper.

Check your exam timetable every day and try to remember your seating position for each exam.

**Year 11** will be in isolation at 9am on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January in PAS due to a large number of students sitting exams at the same time and there not being enough space to accommodate everyone. You must all report to **PAS at 9.00 am** where you will be registered and mobile phones will be collected in. Teachers will be supervising you until a member of the Exams team collects you to escort you to the Hall around 10.15 am. If you fail to attend PAS at 9.00 am you may not be able to sit the exam as the isolation rule must be adhered to.

Please be mindful when leaving the exam room as there may still be other exams going on, leave quietly and do not make any noise until you are well away from the exam venue. Students will not be allowed out of an exam early for any reason.

Leave all bags, coats, mobile phones, iPods etc in a secure area well away from the exam room. If they are left lying around in the vestibule they will be removed.

If you are in isolation for a length of time, which will be indicated on your timetable, remember to bring in food and drink. You will be allowed to read or revise but will not be allowed access to your mobile phone or internet.

Do not hesitate to contact the Exams Officer if you are unsure of anything to do with your Exams.

Good Luck!



## School term and holiday dates for 2010-2011

<b>Autumn Term 2010</b>	<b>Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December</b>
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Monday 6th September</b>
<b>Induction Day for</b> <b>Year 7 and Year 12 and</b> <b>Pupil Target-Setting Day</b> <b>for Years 8-11 and 13</b>	<b>Tuesday 7th September</b>
First day of term for all	Wednesday 8th September
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Thursday 7th October</b>
Half term	25th-29th October
Last day of term	Thursday 16th December
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Friday 17th December</b>
<b>Spring Term 2011</b>	<b>Tuesday 4th January - Wednesday 13th April</b>
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 4th January</b>
First day of term	Wednesday 5th January
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 26th January</b>
Half term	21st-25th February
Last day of term	Wednesday 13th April
<b>Summer Term 2011</b>	<b>Wednesday 27th April - Friday 22nd July</b>
First day of term	Wednesday 27th April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May
Half term	30th May-3rd June
Last day of term	Friday 22nd July

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Please enrol me as a member of the **FOS 200 Club** for 2010/2011.

Name.....

Daughter's name and form.....

Address.....

.....

Email address.....

FOS would like to keep you informed by email. Please supply this if at all possible.

Tel.....

Please send this form with a cheque payable to FOS for **£20.00** to Hilary Mills Baker, FOS 200 Club  
Organiser via the red FOS box in Student Services at school or direct to:

33 Carters Lane  
Tiddington  
Stratford upon Avon  
CV37 7AP

Upon receipt you will receive your membership number for the six draws in 2011.

A big thank you and **Good Luck!**