

Mini Manners

Newsletter of Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls



Sports Day

School Year 2010/2011: Issue 6

July 2011

Head's Headlines

Events in the second half of term

Activities Week is over for another year, and I can report that all expeditions have returned safely – including the newest venture, Operation Wallacea, which involved nineteen girls travelling to Madagascar to take part in scientific research. As I write, however, our World Challenge team this year is preparing to set off to South Africa – and we wish them all a great expedition! Meanwhile, back in Shottery, we are looking forward to the events of the last week of term, which include the KS3 Young Performer of the Year competition on Tuesday, the Sports Awards Evening on Wednesday evening, and our first ever House Festival during the day on Wednesday. This latter will embed the new Houses in the structures and mind-sets of the school, and enable us all to begin to think in terms of Cygnus, Orion and Ursa in readiness for the adventure of vertical tutoring to begin in September.

This second half of the summer term is always a busy one, and this year has been no exception. With the internal school exams taking place in the first week back after the Whitsun half-term holiday, in the middle of the public examination season, the whole school focuses on exams – and it's not until the end of June that the Hall can be cleared of exam desks. It's certainly good to leave exams behind then, to return to normal lessons, and to share in the celebrations of the past year and preparations for the future.

We have welcomed many of our international friends in this last half-term, and the summer term certainly does allow us to show the school – and Stratford – off at its best.

Our first international visitors came in the May half-term holiday: about a hundred and twenty junior high school pupils from our sister-school in Sano, Japan, in two groups – half spending their first three or four days in Stratford and then travelling to London, and half the other way round. Some of their most senior staff came with the first group, however, to take part in a special ceremony to celebrate the link: **Mr Susumu Urata, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of Sano Nihon Daigaku Secondary School, signed a sister-school agreement with Mr Jeff Downes, our Chair of Governors.** We chose the Council Room of the Town Hall as the venue for this momentous event, and the significance of the link between the two schools was underlined by the presence of various local educational and civic dignitaries.

Our **French exchange** partners joined us from Brittany for a week in the middle of June, and were followed by our **German exchange** partners from Solingen at the end of the month, both of them now well-established link schools, enabling another cohort of students to make friends across Europe and develop language use to the mutual benefit of all. FOS have hosted a **People to People** visit for a number of years now, and this year again Shottery parents welcomed young American visitors into their homes over a weekend towards the end of June, thus raising much-appreciated funds for FOS (thank you!).

And we also received another visit from some of our friends from **Japan** at the end of June, too. Professor Akihiko Haisa and Dr Hajime Terauchi have been carrying out research into the way that language is used in the classroom to encourage creative self-expression, and our classrooms have provided some of their research evidence. Their visit this June focused on a presentation of their findings to a group of interested teachers and students. With them came **Reika**, the dancer who gave a dance performance for us in 2009, and who this time gave a great workshop – and performance – to the Year 10 drama group.



Signing the sister-school agreement with Sano Nihon Daigaku Secondary School, Japan



Japanese visitors: Prof Haisa and Dr Terauchi (above) and Reika (below), with Year 10





We have been very lucky with the weather this summer, and have not had to call off any of our planned outdoor activities (although I believe the staff teams entered in the fun Town Regatta this last weekend got rather drenched!) Our summer celebration of the arts sponsored by FOS (Friends of Shottery), **Music and Arts at the Manor**, started the festivities of the end of term on Saturday 25th June in hot sunshine, and the strawberries and Pimms, tea and cake made very festive accompaniments to the Art and Design awards and the traditional Jazz Band concert on the centre lawn. It was also a great opportunity to view the Art and Design exhibitions indoors. This event really showcases the artistic talents of the girls well.

The week beginning Monday 27th June was **Induction Week** – we invited our new Year 7 girls into school with their parents on the Monday evening, and the girls themselves came for the whole school day on Tuesday; and then on Thursday and Friday the same week we welcomed our new Year 12s – with all the girls who will be joining us from other schools in September, as well as our own Year 11 returners. In between the two, the sun again shone for us on the evening of Tuesday 28th June, when we held our **Year 13 Graduation Party**. Sponsored and organised by FOS, this most enjoyable event sees Year 13 girls returning, with their parents, to take part in a little ceremony to mark their transition from pupil to old girl – or alumna. We will of course see the girls back in school in August for results and in December for the Day of Celebration (in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre this year!) but this was the day when we formally marked their leaving school. It was a really happy occasion, with almost all of this year's Year 13 girls returning – with their parents – for celebratory drinks and canapés on the lawn in front of the Manor. Each girl received a silver necklace as a memento of the school, and information about joining the Shottery Alumnae Association, as well as the very good wishes of the school for the future – leaving school, but always to remain a Shottery girl!



Numerous other activities have taken place in these last few weeks too: we celebrated the launch of one of our **Young Enterprise** group's *Much Ado about Cooking* recipe book in Waterstones, along with Nadhim Zahawi, MP for Stratford; the Year 10 Drama group have taken part in the **Theatrelink** event organised by the RSC; Year 7 have carried out Missions to Mars as part of their visit to the **Space Centre**; our **Carnegie Award Shadowers** have taken part in their reading marathons, shadowing the national awards; a silver **Duke of Edinburgh** assessed expedition took place over the last weekend in June; and we sent a lucky party of tennis players to **Wimbledon** – albeit as spectators, rather than players on this occasion! And then on Tuesday 5th July we held our **Open Day** for prospective new pupils and parents.

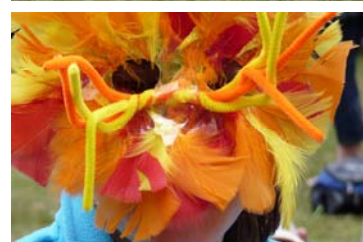


Our annual **Sports Day** took place on Wednesday 6th July this year – and again the sun shone on us! This was the last event held with girls competing in the old House groups – Austen, Brontë and Eliot – and again we repeated the very successful formula established last year, with Year 10 helping to organise the event as well as participating, and with some fun activities including such old favourites as the sack race as well as the more traditional field and track events. Further details are provided later in this newsletter.



Activities Week this year I think certainly provided what it is intended to: a wide range of enrichment activities for girls in all year groups – activities which move learning outside the classrooms, labs and studios of the school and develop a broad spectrum of skills in creative and unfamiliar ways. In brief:

- Year 7 have been in France – with the usual good range of cross-curricular activities;
- Year 8 have spent the week largely based in Shottery, with a circus of History-based activities centred on the Manor during the first two days (a Tudor barber-surgeon demonstrated his trade, and girls made both colourful masks and pastries and cakes to Elizabethan recipes), an outdoor activity day at Kingsbury Water Park on Wednesday, and then a circus of Creative Arts activities on Thursday and Friday, culminating in a wonderful fashion parade of garments made Bay, near Weymouth, getting involved in a wide range of outward bound activities, both water-based and land-based;
- Year 10 and Year 11 have both been undertaking their work experience placements; and
- Year 12 have had three days common to the whole year group: one focused on Higher Education and Careers; one at an RE Conference held in the Civic Hall; and a third on a visit to the London museums. On the other days, there were various activities organised by individual A level subject areas, including opportunities for girls to liaise with their supervisors over their Extended Project plans.



It's been a busy, productive and, I think, very happy week!

Year 8 Masks

Staff News

We welcomed three teachers back from their maternity leaves earlier this term: **Mrs Cherylin Preston**, **Mrs Deirdre Walls** and **Miss Valérie Jasserand**, and very warm thanks are due to the staff who very ably and enthusiastically covered their teaching during the months they were off: **Mrs Bonita Kendall** in the Chemistry department, **Mrs Alison Scott** in the PE department (who is actually continuing with us next year in a small part time capacity), and **Miss Suzanne O'Neill** in the French department. We recently said "au revoir" to **Mrs Gemma Brooks** as she started her maternity leave; and **Mr Simon Reid** will be taking paternity leave for two weeks at the very start of the autumn term. We wish all these colleagues every happiness with their new and extending families!

One very special person has fulfilled a unique role here at Shottery for the last two years: **Miss Lizzie Creedy-Smith** has been the Teaching Assistant for Pippa Massingberd-Mundy throughout Pippa's time in the sixth form, helping to ensure that Pippa's experience of the school was as close to that of the other girls – and as happy! – as possible. We are delighted that Lizzie's experience with us has convinced her that she wants to be a teacher herself, and we therefore wish her well for her PGCE next year.

A number of part-time staff will be finishing at Shottery this summer and I would like to record here our grateful thanks to them for their contributions to the team. We employ a relatively large number of part-time staff within the staff team here at Stratford Grammar School for Girls – and it is because of the flexibility that these arrangements provide that we are able to offer such a wide range of examination courses at GCSE and A level. So thank you, one and all! **Mrs Lorraine Mackey** has made a lively and much-appreciated contribution to the Geography department for nearly two years; **Mrs Lesley Lane** has given excellent service in the Mathematics department, particularly with the sixth form; **Mrs Christine Carpenter**, who covered Mrs O'Dea's maternity leave last year, helped us out enormously by staying on to teach a small timetable in the English department this year; and **Mrs Nahoko Mulvey** has taught Japanese throughout the year with enthusiasm and enormous commitment.

Mrs Mary Murrell needs a special mention, since she is retiring this year from her part-time post in the Design and Technology (Food Technology) department, having first joined us seventeen years ago! Many girls will have had Mrs Murrell to thank for enthusiastically developing their skills in producing pasta dishes, yule logs and assorted other culinary delights over the years.

We are very sorry to be saying "auf wiedersehen" to **Mrs Gabi Kindermann** this summer, who is leaving her post as Head of German to accompany her husband who will be the Head of Bedstone College from

September. Frau Kindermann has given a great deal to the German department over the past two years, including taking the sixth form on a visit to her home-town, Berlin, and we are very grateful to her.

Finally amongst the teaching staff, **Mrs Annie O'Dea** departs this summer, leaving not only her post as Second in the English Department but also teaching altogether. After ten very successful years in the school, she is returning to her studies, and taking a law course at Birmingham University. We would like to thank her for all she has done for the school, and to wish her well for her studies.

We will miss them all, and thank them all warmly for all that they have given to the school.

And finally, Shottery is losing two of its most senior support staff this summer: **Mrs Lyn Hobbs** is retiring from her role as School Secretary, and **Mrs Valerie Stenning** is stepping down from hers as School Business Manager.

Mrs Lyn Hobbs first joined the school in 1992 and has therefore given nineteen years of devoted service to the school. When I first joined the school in 2005, the administrative support team of the school was much smaller than it is nowadays, and the role of School Secretary was pretty all-encompassing. I believe that Mrs Hobbs had one part-time administrative assistant, and that was about it. As the expectations of the administrative and office functions of the school have grown, so too has the team, but Mrs Hobbs's role within that team has always been pivotal. And she has also undertaken the role of midday supervisor, too. Her knowledge of the school and its systems and structures has been encyclopaedic, and we will miss her enormously. We hope that she will enjoy her retirement – and the extra time it will give her to spend with her grandchildren.



Mrs Val Stenning has been a loyal and committed School Business Manager at Shottery for fourteen years – although she has done the job under several different titles over the years, such as Bursar. Just how big the job is, however, became clear when we put together the job description for her successor! The core of the job is to manage the financial operations of the school, but on top of that there is premises and facility management, human resource management and personnel, administrative management (including the school's management information systems and ICT), catering supervision and health and safety. And, since the Business Manager is a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT – with the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers), there is also an expectation of whole school leadership, including interacting with the students. It has never been entirely a “back-office” job in this school, though it can be in others. Mrs Stenning has managed all of this with integrity and a very firm hand on the purse strings, steering us through difficult times with clear foresight and wisdom, and taking a full part in the leadership of the school – and always with a great sense of humour.



Then came academy status. When in May 2010 the new government offered schools the opportunity to take up academy status, Mrs Stenning could clearly see the value of this for Shottery. However, she could also see the extra responsibility and sheer hard work that would come to the SLT (and particularly the Head and Business Manager) with the greater freedoms and autonomy of academy status – and opted to stand down. As things have worked out, our new Business Manager will not be able to join us until September 2011 – when we will already be an academy (see later article). And thus all the hard work of preparing for conversion has fallen to her anyway.

And I would not have wanted to go through that long process alongside anyone else. I am personally enormously grateful to her for seeing us through this process: she has given way beyond what might have been expected – and the school has been hugely lucky to have her. Thank you, Val.

And the extra good news is that, once her successor has been inducted, she will be staying on in the new post-academy part-time role of HR Administration and Payroll Officer.

We welcome a number of new members of staff next term:

- **Miss Abigail El-Bekai:** Teacher of English (part-time)
- **Mr Dominic Giles:** Teacher of History and Government & Politics

- **Mrs Fiona Horne:** Teacher of Design Technology (Food Technology)
- **Mrs Laura Insley:** Teacher of English (maternity cover)
- **Mrs Elizabeth Stringer:** Head of German and Teacher of French (part-time)
- **Ms Chiho Yoneyama:** Teacher of Japanese (part-time)
- **Mr Paul Day:** School Business Manager
- **Mrs Liz Wurtzler:** Administrative Assistant

And we welcome back **Mr Marcus Nemeshanyi** (albeit briefly!) to cover Mr Reid's paternity leave.

There are also a number of internal changes of role next term:

- **Mrs Amy Stickels** has been appointed as Director of Sixth Form Studies. This is a new post, taking on many aspects of the old Head of Sixth Form or Head of KS5 roles, particularly those to do with academic leadership and guidance, including admissions, options, enrichment and UCAS – but within our new vertical tutoring structure, where pastoral responsibility for members of the sixth form will pass to the House Heads. Mrs Stickels will continue as Head of RS but this job will from September 2011 be shared with Mrs Steele
- **Mrs Karen Steele** has been promoted to share the role of Head of RS with Mrs Stickels
- **Mrs Fiona Macvie, Mrs Heather Bendle and Mr Andy Palmer** will become the Heads of the new vertically organised Houses: Cygnus, Ursa and Orion respectively. They will retain some of their horizontal responsibilities in keeping an oversight of KS2-3 transition, KS3-4 transition and KS4-5 transition respectively
- **Mr Tom Burdett** has been appointed as Assistant to the House Heads, with particular responsibility for overseeing House activities
- **Mrs Gemma Brooks** has been promoted to the post of Second in English, but, since she has now started her maternity leave, will only take up this post from the date of her return to work, which we expect to be around May 2012
- **Miss Rachel Manders** will take up the promoted post of Second in English (Acting) until the return of Mrs Brooks

Parent Governor Election

Only one nomination for the post of parent governor was received following the notification in the last *Mini Manners* of a vacancy, and thus Mrs Caroline Watt has been duly appointed to serve on the governing body from September 2011. Her daughter Abigail is currently in Year 10.

School Fund

The School Fund has always been very well supported by parents this year, and the staff and governors of the school are, as always, very grateful for this support. The fund directly benefits the girls at Shottery, and has enabled us to provide items that we could not fund from the school budget. Listed below just a few things that the school fund has supported recently:

- Black-out curtains for the Performing Arts Studio (PAS)
- Memberships and subscriptions to organisations such as the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the National Trust and the Engineering Education Scheme
- Netbooks for all form tutors, to enable us to roll out electronic registration across the school
- Counselling service for students (from Relate)
- First aid courses
- Library books – including extra resources to support the Warwickshire Book Awards
- Musical facilities and equipment
- Sports entries and match fixture costs
- Prizes for World Book Day
- Individual pupil support
- Student Planners, stickers and badges

These items are in addition to the huge sum of over £15,000 which has gone, as usual, directly into the departments last year for textbooks and other resources. As you can see, we greatly value parents' donations, and always spend it prudently. I would like to remind parents that governors decided last year to keep the School Fund it at its current level of £25 per term (£75 per year) in view of current economic circumstances – but that any parents who would like to give more are welcome to do so! Thank you all!

Update: Academy Status

The following is the text of a press release sent to the Stratford Herald and The Observer last week – though I've not yet seen the article in the press:

Governors at Grammar School for Girls go for Academy!

Governors at Stratford Grammar School for Girls in Shottery had their final meeting as the governing body of a Local Authority community school on Wednesday 6th July – and their first as the governing body of the new Academy Trust. They have taken their time to consider the coalition government's invitation to all secondary schools to take up academy status, and their decision to go ahead with the conversion, taken last week, followed careful research and thorough consultation. The students at the school, for example, were invited to become involved in the decision-making process, both through the Student Council and through a whole school assembly presented by a group of governors. Chair of Governors Jeff Downes welcomed the move, commenting "Overall, it is our belief that academy status offers us the best opportunity to develop the school and improve standards further for our pupils."

Headteacher Kate Barnett said, "These are times of uncertainty and shrinking budgets nationally, and we believe that we will have greater control over our own destiny as an academy. We will have the freedom and flexibility to take our own decisions for the ultimate good of our school, its pupils and the local community. And that includes choosing not only to work in close partnership with other local schools and the College, but also to continue to buy many services from the Local Authority, including the admissions service and the 11+ selection tests."

There are no plans to change the school's name or ethos, although the governors are proceeding with a much-needed extension to the school buildings, having saved the school's formula capital funding grants over the last few years. It is hoped that building work will start on the new Humanities Extension in the summer holidays, and the girls should be able to enjoy History and Geography lessons in four new classrooms from January 2012.

I can therefore report that all is in hand for a successful conversion to academy status on 1st August 2011. When the school reopens in September, therefore, it will be as an academy.

Update: Buildings Masterplan – the Humanities Extension and beyond

As you will have noted from the end of the academy press release above, plans for our new building are going ahead. Following confirmation of planning permission earlier in the year, we have now successfully appointed the project manager, the architects and the construction firm, and preparation work will be beginning in the last week of the summer term. We hope that the four new classrooms and two new offices will be ready for use in January 2012. These will form a compact unit on the end of the practical block, near to SAM, and will provide much-needed extra classroom space, which we plan to allocate to History and Geography. We are also planning to reorganise the use of rooms elsewhere in the school to allow for more sixth form study space – which is in particularly short supply in the school – and a little more suiting of subject accommodation. We plan, for instance, to use the large first-floor room in the Manor (currently the Geography Room) for desperately-needed sixth-form study space. This will enable the sixth form to make very effective use of even more of the heritage rooms of the school, now made more suitable for 21st century learning by the provision of wireless access to the internet throughout the Manor, as well as across the rest of the school site.

While we are delighted to be proceeding with it, the Humanities Extension is a relatively modest new build which will be funded entirely from our own resources (formula capital grants saved over a number of years, and other budget savings carried forward), and which will only go a little way towards rectifying the accommodation shortcomings of the school. We are all (staff, governors, girls, parents) still very sensitive

to the fact that much of our accommodation is cramped and inadequate – and that we still do not have a Sports Hall, for instance. It was very disappointing that our hopes for a new Learning Resources Centre were dashed earlier in the year following the withdrawal of the funding promised by Warwickshire County Council. But the governors are very keen to maintain the pressure on the government (national, now as an academy from August, rather than local, as in recent years) to provide accommodation suitable for the school, and so we intend to reactivate our campaign in the autumn term. Watch this space...

Advance Information for Next Year

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a number of events that will take place in the first half of next term – so that you can look out for them – and other key elements of next term:

- **Induction Day for Years 7 and 12:** Tuesday 6th September will be a full day in school for all girls in Years 7 and 12, and a programme of activities has been designed for each of the year groups to ensure an effective introduction to the school. School uniform or the formal sixth form dress code is expected.
- **First Full Day of Term for all:** Wednesday 7th September, starting with tutor-time at 8.55 am.
- **Music Events:** the first concert of the autumn term will once again be in the first full week of term: on Wednesday 14th September at 7.30 – so put the date in your diaries now...
- Please don't forget that all routine absence information, whether alerting us to absence known in advance (eg hospital or orthodontist appointments, music exams, or Open Day visits in the sixth form) or letting us know of illness on the day, should be sent via the **Schoolcomms** system from September, where it will be picked up by our Attendance Officer. Requests for authorised absence in exceptional circumstances – for family weddings or funerals, for example, or requests in exceptional circumstances for holidays in term-time – should continue to be sent in a letter to me
- And please also note that the internal **timings of the school day** will be changing from September, with lessons starting promptly at 8.55 am, and tutor-time/ assemblies coming later in the morning, at 10.40. We hope that this will enable us to make a brisker start to learning in the school day. Registration will continue to take place at 8.55 am in the morning and 2.10 in the afternoon, but it will be taken henceforth during periods 1 and 5 – by the subject teacher.

And finally...

I wish you all a very happy summer!

Kate Barnett



Art and Design Awards



Sports Day



Japanese dance workshop

Activities Week

Year 8 - A Staycation

Year 8 were Shottery based for the majority of their Activities Week this year but that did not stop them from experiencing a wide variety of activities that allowed them to develop their teamwork as well as their creative and practical skills. Monday and Tuesday were spent creating masks, a Tudor feast, learning about Medieval medicine from a barber surgeon and investigating Shottery's past. Tuesday ended with a masquerade on the front lawn and, with much hilarity, old fashioned team games.

Wednesday we travelled to Kingsbury Water Park where the girls were able to demonstrate their skills both on and off the water.

Thursday and Friday allowed them to explore the world of fashion – or in this case Trashion! As a result of the Creative departments' inspired leadership the girls were able to stage a fashion show where the clothes were entirely made from recycled materials.

Proof that sometimes staying home is best!

J Cornell



Drama Department



Theatrelink Project

At the start of term, Year 10 were invited to watch a performance of *The Tempest* at The Swan Theatre. We then worked on a creative response to a given scene from *The Tempest* which we then performed at The Swan as part of a Theatrelink Project in conjunction with the RSC and local Primary Schools. This was a real highlight for the Drama Department. Year 10 worked together fantastically well and were a credit to the school.



Year 8 Creative Arts Days

During Activities week, Year 8 were involved in two Creative Arts Days where their brief was to create an outfit from recycled materials to be worn during a catwalk fashion show on Friday afternoon. The fashion show would be accompanied by music that they'd created themselves, involving 'fashion statements' learnt in a drama workshop and moves choreographed in a movement workshop.

This was a huge success. The photos speak for themselves!





Comments from Year 8:

I really enjoyed the two days, especially making all the outfits for the groups...We were given a chance to be free and creative...I thought the whole experience was great. I had loads of fun making the outfits, creating the music and staging the show...It was great fun to work in groups to create something to be proud of!

Japanese Dance with Reika

We were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Reika, a 'Moving Art' Practitioner from Japan. Reika taught the Year 10 Drama group some dance steps which they choreographed into a routine before adding their own creative moves inspired by the work of Japanese artists. They then performed the entire sequence and were treated to a solo performance by Reika. A very successful and inspiring afternoon!



Comments from Year 10:

"It was really interesting to try something new, even though I found it difficult...Reika was lovely and her passion rubbed off on us...I loved watching Reika dance and I thought the whole session was an enjoyable experience...It was a really positive experience and I learnt a lot about the construction of a piece of dance...Reika was inspiring as you could see she really loved what she was doing...I thought Reika's performance was really good and a great ending to the day."

Year 12 Joint workshops with KES

The Year 12 Theatre Studies group have had a number of joint workshops with the Year 12 group from KES. Initially, we looked at the text: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Brecht before a joint theatre visit to the production. We were then able to share our A Level Practical pieces with each other and receive useful feedback in advance of our moderation. Our latest workshop was based around the work of Antonin Artaud and resulted in Shotton and KES working together to create an Artaud-inspired piece of theatre based around the theme of fear. It has been a very useful and rewarding opportunity to work with students from our neighbouring school and we thank Miss Talbot, the Head of Drama at KES for her creative input.

S Barrett

Geography Department

Geology Fieldtrip to Iceland

On 28th May, four Year 9 and five Year 10 Geology students, along with Mrs Collins and Mr Richardson, set out on a five day trip to Iceland. The journey to Gatwick Airport and flight to Keflavik were uneventful. On arrival we were taken to one of Iceland's most popular attractions, the Blue Lagoon, where we were able to relax in the hot, mineral rich waters surrounded by a strange landscape of black lava.

The next day we were met by our guide and started our exploration of the geology of the area with a visit to Hekla, one of Iceland's most active volcanoes. We were able to view the volcano rising into the clouds and learn more about its history at an interactive centre. From there we went to view some of the deposits from previous eruptions as well as a reconstructed farm showing what many of the farms destroyed in the 1104 eruption had been like. This was our first lunch stop and here started a wonderful tradition for the whole trip when our guide brought us some traditional Icelandic food to try. After lunch we visited a waterfall around which were some superb examples of columnar basalts and finally stopped at a viewpoint to see over the whole area we had travelled during the day.



Our second full day was spent visiting a number of sites popular with tourists but also displaying some superb examples of the geology of the region. We started at Þingvellir where the mid-Atlantic ridge separating the European and North American tectonic plates could be clearly seen. From there we journeyed to Gullfoss, a powerful waterfall that dropped dramatically over two levels and then on to Geysir. Here we were able to view the eruption of Strokkur every five minutes, with columns of water being thrown 30 metres into the air. Our final location on this day was a large volcanic crater at Kerið. The crater, now filled with a lake, was once a volcano which collapsed after it had erupted all its magma reserves from inside.

Our final day took us close to the site of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption, evidence of which could still be clearly seen. We started the day in the town of Hveragerði where we viewed the hot springs, many of which opened up after an earthquake in 2008. We were able to experience this for ourselves with a very realistic earthquake simulator in the local post office. From here we travelled to the Stora-Dímun volcano which we climbed to view the evidence of the glacial outburst from last year's

eruption. We were then able to view the edge of the Sólheimajökull glacier and see evidence of the retreat of this and many other glaciers during the last 100 years. Our final visit of the whole trip was to a very unusual waterfall with a path going behind which we were able to walk along. The unusual perspective looking out through the waterfall made getting so wet worthwhile. Having said good-bye to our excellent guide and driver, we spent the evening packing in preparation for our flight back to Gatwick early the next morning. Overall the trip was a huge success and gave many opportunities to view the Geology we had been learning about during the GCSE course.



J Collins



Library

Carnegie Medal for Young People's Literature 2011

The Shottery Shadowers

This has been a busy half-term, with a group of Year 9 girls taking part in the Warwickshire Schools Carnegie Shadowing Scheme. The girls had just a few weeks to read the six shortlisted titles. We met weekly to discuss the books and exchange views and the girls wrote perceptive and personal reviews.



Our lunchtime meetings culminated in our Final Voting Lunch. Our three favourites were:

- First *Out of Shadows* – Jason Wallace
- Second *Prisoner of the Inquisition* – Theresa Breslin
- Third *White Crow* – Marcus Sedgwick

On June 23 we attended the Warwickshire Schools Final Celebration Event at the Avon Valley School, Rugby. This is always a terrific event, and this year did not disappoint. We performed very well in the team quiz on the shortlisted books and authors and Rosie Wright won a prize for her book review. Each



school presented the results of their voting (à la Eurovision Song Contest). Tas Pope and Clara Theil represented Shotton in fine manner.

The runaway Warwickshire winner was declared to be *The Ask and the Answer* (Patrick Ness).

Thank you to the Year 9 group (Holly Reaney, Millie Dick, Lottie Green, Rebecca Foreman, Charlotte Heath, Georgia Hunt, Ingrid Laubscher, Rebecca Hawkins, Grace Jaynes, Hannah Cockle, Izzie Cumming and Yusra Shammoun for being fantastic Shadowers and great company!

Farewells and Welcomes to the Student Librarian Team

At the end of May we said our emotional goodbyes and thank yous to our wonderful team of outgoing Year 13 Student Librarians: Betty Fisher, Rosie Warnock, Marifa Heapy, Alice Knox, Charlotte John, Grace Troth and Erin Foley. We will really miss you.

Thank you also to our Year 12s: Milly, Steph, Laura, Ellie and Issy, for their commitment, professionalism and team spirit this year. We look forward to continuing to work with them in September.

Finally, congratulations to our new Student Librarians joining our team in September: Rebecca Malczewski, Imi Flynn, Sarah Hardy, Anna Beaven, Olivia Coldicutt and Rebecca Butler.

K Tanner and A Curtis



MFL Department: Language College

Year 7 Normandy Trip 2011

77 Year 7 pupils spent a very enjoyable four days in Normandy last week, staying at the lovely village of Bernières-sur-mer. They all returned tired but happy after having visited markets, museums, local towns and cities, a cider farm and of course the D-Day landing beaches. I would like to congratulate the Year 7 pupils who took part for their excellent efforts to speak French. I also received many compliments on the pupils' behaviour when we were out and about on excursions, which is always a pleasure to hear. Many thanks to Mrs Smith, Mrs Macvie, Ms O'Neill, Mrs Collins, Mrs Bradshaw, Mr Burdett and Mr Madden who worked hard to ensure all the pupils had a great time, but really enjoyed themselves too!

T Couliou



A Arromanches



A la ferme



Le "variety show"



A Honfleur



Sur le pont de Normandie

Music Department



Some of the Year 13 Leavers on tour with Jazz Band

The Music Department has had another busy and successful year!

The autumn started with a send off for a wonderful group of musicians at our *Last Night of the Proms* event. Many of these leavers have gone on to study Music at university and we were proud to give them a final performance opportunity at Shottery.

The term flew by and soon it was the busy Christmas season, with carol singing in the town, Day of Celebration in the Levi Fox Hall, two Christmas Concerts and a Christmas Service!



Sleigh Ride featuring Senior Orchestra and Father Christmas!

As ever, Chamber Choir was central to many of these events, and it provided a good performance opportunity in preparation for their upcoming tour...

The hard-work paid off for Chamber Choir in Paris over Easter, where they were very well received and praised for their professionalism by Disneyland and Chartres Cathedral (with very different repertoire!)



Chamber Choir in Disneyland Paris

One of the most rewarding features of working with Chamber Choir is the opportunity to see girls from every year group sharing a common interest, and forming long-lasting friendships.

Whilst there, we also took the opportunity to do a spot of sight-seeing, shopping and a surprise backstage tour of the Paris Opera House, with its famous legends of the Phantom of the Opera!



Chamber Choir sight-seeing in Paris

After the tour, several new members successfully passed the audition process and performed with the choir at the recent Open Evening.



Alongside a busy Music department this year a new subject course completed its first cycle: GCSE Performing Arts. The enthusiastic and talented first cohort worked tirelessly on their portfolios throughout the year, and also devised and produced a performance showcase at the Civic Hall, based on the theme of *Alice Through The Looking Glass*.

The course provided them with a huge range of skills both on stage and backstage and in the final showcase they were able to bring these all together as a company. Feedback from the exam board was very positive and encouraging.



Performing at the Civic Hall

In the summer term the focus always shifts onto Jazz Band who perform several public gigs every year. This year was the first time for our new rhythm section (who took over from the Year 13 leavers) and they have made an excellent impression and set the standard high for the rest of the band. Well done to Fran, Mollie and Joy for their skill and commitment – even during GCSE study leave!



The annual event Music at the Manor brought good enough weather, albeit a tad windy on Saturday 25th June, so Jazz Band were out in force on the centre lawn to accompany the strawberries, Pimms and celebrations of artistic achievements!

The final event for the year is the KS3 Young Performer Competition on Tuesday 19th July. The competition itself is watched by students during the school day, and then by parents at 7pm that night. The current holder of the trophy, Anna Snodgrass, will return to open the evening performance. New for this year: all category winners will be awarded House points as an added bonus and incentive. By the time this edition is published, the competition winner will have been announced; with so many talented entrants in the Senior and Vocal Solo categories, and some strong Duets and ensembles, it will be interesting to find out the result.

Looking ahead to September, we will have our next *Last Night of the Proms* concert, and as with every year this requires a Saturday rehearsal due to being so close to the start of term. The concert is on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm; if you are involved please check the rehearsal schedule below for **Saturday 10th September**.

Time	Hall	SAM
10am	Senior Orchestra	
11	Senior Orchestra	
12	Jazz Band (+Soul Band)	
1	Main School Choir	
2	Chamber Choir	
3	Year 7 Choir	String Ensemble & Tutti Fluti
4pm	Year 13 leavers	

PE Department

It has been an action-packed summer term with lots of girls involved in lots of sports – and then the whole school was involved in Sports Day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who have helped out and supported their daughters in after school matches and with the constant ferrying to and from training sessions.

The last Wednesday of term saw our annual Sports Personality of the Year contest. This year our guest speaker was former pupil Ciara Horne, who is an international cyclist with Ireland and is hoping to be part of the squad for the Olympics in 2012. She brought in her bike to show the girls and parents and talked about how she had got into cycling and her hopes for the future. The winners were as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ○ Year 7 Sports Personality of the Year | Sophie Stone |
| ○ Year 8 Sports Personality of the Year | Akira Madams |
| ○ Year 9 Sports Personality of the Year | Sarah Murphy |
| ○ Year 10 Sports Personality of the Year | Holly Thompson |
| ○ Senior Sports Personality of the Year | Fran Mills Baker |
| ○ Junior Team of the Year | U13 Tennis Slams team |
| ○ Intermediate Team of the Year | U15 indoor rowing team |
| ○ Senior Team of the Year | U18 Midlands girls' tennis team |
| ○ Joe Whitaker Award | Emily Sara |

Sport Beyond the School Gates

Tilly James has continued her excellent year in Sailing and in July represented Great Britain at an international regatta in Ireland. Tilly sailed very well and finished 11 out of 149.

Annie Cox this summer has been to several triathlon competitions. The highlight came in the Inter regional qualifier held at Eton Lake in Windsor. Annie performed very well and finished 4th out of the West Midland girls and 13th nationally. Annie is also taking part all summer in a league series where she currently lies 2nd in the triathlon and 3rd in the aquathon.

Tennis

It has been a great season for tennis, with a lot of girls have attending training and playing matches. The highlights have to be the tennis slams and the trip to Wimbledon.

Tennis slams

On Friday 10th June eight girls from Years 7&8 went to the Priory Tennis Club to play in the Warwickshire tennis finals – playing at the same time as the Ladies Classic Quarter finals. We played schools from all over Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, and sailed through our group games, only dropping one match out of twelve. In the final we face King Edward's Camp Hill Girls, a very strong grammar school in Birmingham. It was a very close final with both schools winning two matches each; but on points scored we won 27 to 25. This is an excellent result and the girls should be very proud of their achievements. Well done!



After the girls won, they got to go onto centre court to watch the professional ladies for the rest of the afternoon.

Wimbledon 2011

On Saturday 2nd July, ten girls Miss G and Mrs Casement travelled down to London to watch the Ladies day. For some girls (and Miss G) it was their first time ever to the Wimbledon tennis championships. We started the day watching the boys finals on Court One; and then in rotation girls took it in turns to sit on centre court and watch the Ladies Finals. After a late lunch we all ventured to court 18 to watch the boys doubles finals. We ended the day on centre court as a whole group watching the ladies doubles final. It was a very long day as we left school at 8am in the morning and did not get back until after 10pm at night. However it was the most memorable day of the school year and all of us thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



Tennis leaders

Six girls have been following the tennis leaders course which started in May Half term. The girls have learned how to lead groups, run competitions and umpire matches. They took part in several local competitions as organisers. The Warwickshire LTA were so impressed with their leadership skills that we were formally invited to run the grand final held at Warwick University indoor arena. Again the girls were outstanding and received much praise from everyone. Well done to Akira Madams, Izzy Taylor, Becky Casement, Becky Harris, Holly Thompson and Amy Warren.



Rounders

This half term has seen matches against local teams including King's High Warwick. We have also had two more tournaments. The U13 team who were unbeaten up to the tournament, played in a tough group and narrowly missed out on the final, finishing 3rd. The U12 team had had a season of mixed results and went to their tournament a little nervous, but after the group stages they made the semi final where they played AGS and convincingly beat them. The final was against a very strong Henley High

school team. However our team kept their nerve and won the tournament and were crowned champions. Well done, to all!



Cricket

The second half of the season saw the U13 plays Princethorpe School in the quarter finals of the Warwickshire schools cup. After a low scoring game, under damp skies, we narrowly lost. The U15 team played in their respective quarter final against last year's winners Rugby High School. Rugby were a class outfit who had been playing cricket for a long time. We lost the game but we learnt much from the experience. Our final game of the season was a mixed game with the KES boys on Open Evening. This was an excellent event with the girls and boys playing very well together and sharing tips. However the highlight has to be when Becky Harris cleanly bowled on the first ball the KES Year 8 captain and the school's best player in KS3! (sorry Fred!)

This has been a very good first season for cricket and, now we have proper bats and pads, next year looks even more promising. Well done to all the girls who played.

Athletics

This term saw the U13 team take part in the Midlands finals. Schools from Northampton, Leicestershire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire all arrived in Solihull, 32 schools in total. The team performed very well and we finished 5th on the day.

This year's South Warwickshire Competition saw us join up with KES to take on all the other schools in the area. After many notable victories and good performance, from Zoe Evans, Emily Stone, Immy North, Immy Horton and Lucy Strange. The Year 8 team finished second overall, and combined with KES we finished second overall.

This year we had a friendly fixture against Tudor Hall; this was an excellent evening allowing more girls to compete for the school who had not competed before



Sports Day 2011

Despite the well timed showers, this was an excellent event, run and managed by the leaders of Year 10, who were just outstanding. This was the last house event in the old houses, and in true tradition Brontë won the whole event. The Victrix Ludorum went to Sophie Stone in Year 7, who beat her sister Emily by one point! The age group winners were as follows

- Year 7: Sophie Stone 1st, Maya Rogers 2nd, Annie Cox 3rd
- Year 8: Immy North 1st, Zoe Evans 2nd, Kate Barney 3rd
- Year 9: Emily Stone 1st, Ellie Stevens 2nd, Ingrid Laubscher 3rd
- Year 10: Tas Pope 1st, Clemmie Holden 2nd, Amy Spackman and Becky Harris 3rd



Autumn term 2011

Sports Clubs for next term will run as follows and it would be greatly appreciated if your daughter's age group training and matches could be accommodated into family programmes... The fixture list will be on the Moodle in September along with team lists.

Monday	4.15-5.15pm	Year 8 'A' Squad and All Year 9 hockey players
	5.15-6pm	Year 10-13 (warm-up starts at 5pm on the track!)
		There can be matches for any hockey team on this night.
	4-6pm	Mini tennis for Year 7 (this will be a paid activity and on rotation)
Tuesday	4.15-5.30pm	Year 8 'A', Year 9, Year 10 netball teams
		There can be matches for any sport on this night.
Wednesday	4.30pm-5.30pm	Year 7 rowing club (this will be a paid activity and on rotation)
		Senior Fixtures (often start times can be in the afternoon)
		There can be matches for any sport on this night.
Thursday	4.15-5.30pm	Year 8 social netball and all Year 7 netball.
		There can be matches for any sport on this night.
Friday	4.15-5.30pm	Year 8 social hockey and all Year 7 hockey
		There can be matches for any hockey team on this night but mostly just Years 8 and 7.

There will be training on Friday 9th for all Year 9-13 hockey players who are in the tour match on Monday 12th September against St Alban's from Argentina.

PGL Osmington Bay

All of Year 9 travelled to the south coast in Activities Week for a week of high adventure both at sea and on land. Here are the three form's accounts of the week.

9MG

All the activities were exciting and different experience and opportunities from home. Each activity was a challenge and threw us out of our comfort zones in a new and amazing way.

There were some amazing instructors with some strange nick names, like snake!

Here in 9MG we shared some excellent experiences and have memories that will last for ever.

9TB

9TB thought Osmington Bay was challenging, awesome, amazing, inspiring and fun. It helped us to realise what we could achieve with our friends supporting us. At times we were scared but it was a great feeling to be able to do an activity. Overall we thought it was a great experience and we would recommend it to anyone.

9SR

Our PGL trip was a new and enjoyable experience with a wide variety of activities and exciting challenges. Most people's favourite activity was raft building because it involved the whole team and bought us to work all together – and it was great fun getting wet too. Our other favourite activity was GIANT Swing . This is where your whole group pull you up as high as possible and then you release the rip cord and fly through the air! We all enjoyed the disco at the end of the week and we left having had a great week which really brought our whole year group together.





M Griffiths

Science College

Madagascar 2011

The Year 12 and 13 Madagascar expedition group arrived safely back last Friday after an amazing two week experience. The first week at the terrestrial sites was spent taking part in lemur surveys, small mammal trapping in pitfall traps, day and night herpetology walks recording snake and chameleon species, and collecting data on forest birds. The team also conducted forest structure surveys, recording canopy cover, number of saplings and tree size along specified transect routes. The second week at the marine site gave the team a chance to gain their diving PADI qualification and take part in daily lectures on reef ecology, supported by practical sessions identifying corals and fish species. A full report on the expedition will be in next term's *Mini Manners*.



D Wilmott

Year 12 Biology Field Trip to Brandon Marsh

On the 11th of April Year 12 Biology students were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to visit Brandon Marsh, a conservation wildlife centre. We were fortunate enough to be able to use scientific sampling equipment to measure the biodiversity of a range of different habitats, including fields and ponds. This was very beneficial for our biology studies and we thoroughly enjoyed our day. All the staff at Brandon Marsh were lovely and very pleased with our enthusiasm of the subject.



Susie, Anna, Chloe and Molly (Year12)

Year 12 Biology visit to Warwick University

On 7th July 2011, the Year 12 Biology AS students had the privilege of spending a day at Warwick University, attending a lecture and using their laboratories.

After a somewhat bumpy bus journey, we were met by Dr Ken Flint who gave us a useful talk on what it's like to study at Warwick, and informed us on what we'd be doing during our visit. Our primary focus was to take part in a degree-level experiment on the induction of beta-galactosidase in *E.coli*. It was a real pleasure to use the university facilities, and we enjoyed investigating repression and induction of the 'lac operon' in *E.coli* bacteria to a much deeper level of detail than possible in school.

As well as the fascinating lab work, we were also treated to a state of the art 3D projection display, used to show complex protein structure in stunning definition (complete with embarrassing 3D glasses!)

We all really enjoyed our day, and learnt a lot. We'd like to thank the Shottery Science Department, and the undergraduates at Warwick University on behalf of all those who went on the trip, for making the day so valuable and interesting for everyone involved.



Sarah Margetson and Lorna Hirst – Year 12 Biology Students

Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On Thursday 19th May, four lucky Year 8 pupils, Lucy Wood, Kate Matthews, Sophie Wouters and Lily Watson, went on a trip to Birmingham University to take part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry. I can safely say we all had a great day.

After finally finding the right building in the huge University campus we quickly got prepared for the first practical of the day. We had two hours to complete the task which included being forensic scientists investigating the murder of Flossie in a local drama rehearsal. There were seven unknown salts which we had to experiment with to help us determine who the murderer was from the samples found on the suspect's clothes. To do this we had to perform two experiments. The first included adding various solutions to the salts and seeing if they reacted in any way to find the non-metal part of the salt. The second involved heating a wire, coated with an acid and the salt, over a Bunsen burner and seeing what colour the flame turned to determine what the metal part of the salt was. I really enjoyed the morning as it was really interesting to work out who the murderer was.



We then had a well deserved lunch before moving onto the second practical of the day. This time we only had five colourless solutions, five test tubes and five stirring rods. The idea of the practical was to distinguish what solution each was. As we were yet to study acids and alkalis, this task proved itself quite hard but we enjoyed it all the same and were pleased with how we used our other scientific knowledge to overcome problems.

Last on the agenda was a magic science show. A professor gave us a lecture with a difference. Liquid nitrogen, green fire and fire from water amused us all and it was one of my highlights of the day as I saw how some of the techniques we had used earlier could be used to make different colour flames and liquids.

Overall I had a great day and I think everyone enjoyed it. I would just like to say thank you to Mrs Kendall for driving us there and supporting us and Mrs Collins for organising it as I had a wonderful day.

Lucy Wood (Year 8)

Sixth Form

Year 12 Leadership Training Day

Before Year 12 officially started back after exam leave, the newly elected student leadership team spent a day in school, which was both enjoyable and inspiring. The 2011-2012 team, comprising the new head girl team, the senior prefect team, the house captains and the school prefects, met for a course of leadership training. The day was facilitated by an external professional, and highlighted the many elements entailed within roles of responsibility and good leadership, including personal development, strong communication skills, planning and teamwork.

We took the opportunity to embrace our new roles, and consider our positions and responsibilities around the reformed house and tutor systems, within which the student leaders hope to play a central role. The day started with introductions, and we were greeted with professionalism and equality by the presenter, who was keen to involve us as far as possible, giving us a day of hard work, but equal satisfaction and inspiration. We each carefully assessed our individual goals and aspirations for the future, completing a detailed mind map, which we each shared openly with the group. We were also impressed by the tips given for powerful speaking, and to improve memory by using Loci, a technique which can be applied to any performance, such as public speaking. Advice on resolving difficult situations was provided, such as how to respond to bullying and other sorts of unreasonable behaviour, as well as improving our general knowledge on what it means to be a leader. The information and practical advice given was very useful and interesting in helping us to develop skills, including initiative and diplomacy, within both a school and an everyday environment.

Our day was interspersed with physical wake-up routines, which made an amusing sight of Year 12s doing various stretching and coordination exercises in the Data Lab, but soon got us back in the zone for more thinking and planning. In the afternoon we thought up different ways in which we could enhance relationships throughout the school, and ideas which could potentially develop an even stronger sense of community at Shottery (the idea for a whole school production of 'Shrek the Musical' is still in its planning stages).

Overall, the leadership team really benefitted from a day of bonding amongst each other, understanding better ourselves and our new roles as leaders within the school, and working together to think of ways in which we could promote an even stronger and more effective community at Shottery. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Sophie Clarke (Year 12)

Young Enterprise

Congratulations to this year's Young Enterprise group, 'One', which won Best Company at the Stratford Area and Coventry & Warwickshire stages of the national competition, with their excellent and beautifully illustrated cookbook *Much Ado About Cooking*. Sadly, despite winning the Marketing Award at the West Midlands round, they didn't progress to the national final, but decided to carry on selling their product which is now stocked, not only at Waterstones, which put on a Launch Party for us, but at the RSC. The second edition has the addition of a glossy front cover and spiral binding – not to mention a Foreword by Dame Judi Dench, so, if you would like to buy a copy, just let us know. At £7.99, the cookbook makes an ideal present.

Very well done 'One'! Each and every one of you would have won the Apprentice hands-down!

Economics/Business Studies Department



As part of the Year 12 trip to London, the Economics and Business Studies students visited the London Metal Exchange and the Bank of England before joining the rest of the year group at Covent Garden. Unfortunately, due to heavy London traffic, we missed our time slot at the LME but the students were able to see the sale room where dealers buy and sell metals from all over the world – supply and demand in action. Lunch was taken on the steps of the Royal Exchange when we, and City bankers, were treated to a tune on the outdoor piano by Eva Brittin-Snell. Some young ladies then visited De Beers and Boodles inside the Exchange to try on some very expensive diamond rings – setting their sights high for the future! At the Bank, academia took over – an interesting museum on the work of the Bank, an informative lecture on inflation – and a chance to lift a

real gold bar, although some were not strong enough, reeling from that day's price which has since increased again!. Obviously, some students felt very at-home in the City, and, knowing them, they will make it there in the near future!

H Ellis

Work Related Learning

Xtend

A huge congratulations to all of the Year 10 students who completed their Xtend courses at Stratford and Warwickshire Colleges this year. Studying an additional subject in your own time is a huge achievement and I hope that the results in the August reflect your hard work. A special mention to Olivia Adams (10AL) who studied GCSE Law and received an award for being the most outstanding student: truly impressive.



Insight Events



Fourteen of our Year 8 students attended the **Healthy Lives, Healthy Living** Careers Fair at Aston University on 7 July and were given an insight into a wide range of medical and social care related careers including optometry, paediatric nursing, medical research, psychology, phlebology, forensic pathology and occupational therapy.

Five of our Year 10 students took part in the Rolls Royce Enterprise Challenge at Aston University on 19 July to design, produce and sell a product made from plastic cups, foil, masking tape, string and card. We were very proud of how we ranked!



Breaking the Mould Conference



Six Year 12 girls joined me at the Financial Mail Women's Forum in London March 2011 at the Royal Institution in Mayfair. We heard from women who at the top of their game in a range of business and science environments although Caprice was possibly the most entertaining speaker! Experience it first hand at <http://www.fmwf.com/media-type/news/2011/04/watch-it-here-footage-from-our-breaking-the-mould-2011-careers-conference-for-girls/>.

Year 10 Alternative Careers Fair

In March girls heard from a range of professionals on careers in marketing, market research, fundraising, law, psychology, journalism and retail.



Medicine

Eight Year 11 girls interested in medicine attended the NHS Careers Day at Warwick Hospital where they heard from consultants in a range of fields including psychiatry, renal care, ITU and emergency medicine. They also had the opportunity to talk with medical students and get hands on with some of the models used to teach clinical skills.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards groups have both had successful years with twenty six girls completing their Bronze expedition and four girls completing their Silver expedition in June. Twenty one girls have completed their whole award during the year and, in March, three of them attended the Warwickshire award ceremony at Alcester High School where they received their awards from the footballer Dion Dublin. Congratulations to all the girls involved.

Bronze Award

Lilli Taviner	Lily Russell-Wilks
Millie Smith	Lise Van der Poll
Anna Beaven	Belou Fox-Furniss
Hannah Frost	Sarah Hardy
Hannie Knox	Rebecca Malczewski
Chloe Stepney	Joy Stevens
April Wall	

Silver Award

Maite Perez-de-Albeniz	Naomi Sutton
Laura Zhang	Sophie Clarke
Ellie Drabble	Sarah Margetson
Jo Parsons	Julia Snodgrass

J Collins



Charity News

Summer 2011

With so much of the summer term taken up with exams and special events our fund-raising efforts have been rather curtailed. However, thanks go to Lorna Topp and her 10AS friends who raised £76.50 for The Riding for the Disabled organisation with an excellent cake stall.

A staff coffee morning also raised £60.50 for Water Aid, with a second staff event focusing on the collection of groceries for food parcels to be distributed to needy families here in Stratford. Thank you very much everyone for your generosity.

VJ Smith



School Kitchen

Karen Hampstead and Team

Gold Award!

The school's catering team have achieved a Gold Food Hygiene Inspection Rating: this celebrates excellent standards in hygiene and safety, and confidence in management.

Congratulations ladies – it's good to know we are in safe hands!

FOS News

In the last few weeks we have rounded off the year with a number of landmark events and we can draw a great deal of encouragement from the fact that, in the face of these testing economic times, we were still able to reach our target of raising £10,000 for the fitting out of the new humanities block which we hope to see nearing completion towards the end of the (calendar) year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **People to People** homestay which was again admirably supported by parents this year. The organisers tell us that the American youngsters were very enthusiastic about it and many saw it as the 'grand finale' to their trip. It provides considerable financial benefit to the School through FOS and a great experience for our own students. This year the group came from a greater variety of US States than usual. A big thank you to Cathy Atkinson and Keith Hicks for all their hard work in liaising with the Programme and matching visitors to families.

We were delighted with the success of **Music and Arts at the Manor** on a very pleasant June afternoon which meant most importantly that most of the activity could take place in the open air. As usual the music led by Miss Coates was perfection in itself and all the musicians and vocalists did themselves proud. Once again we were fortunate in having the added dimension of art and design exhibitions and the presentation of art and design awards. A good number of the winners were present to collect their certificates and awards. It was an occasion when the School could be seen at its best with lots of talent and achievement on show. If you weren't there then you missed an outstanding day in the school (and FOS) calendar.

Another great outdoor occasion was the **Graduation Garden Party** for our Year 13 leavers which was held in the Manor Garden on 28th June. This was a festive occasion which the girls will surely remember for a long time to come. An excellent photographic record is available which can be accessed by a link from the school website along with the photographer's details for those wanting to place an order. The presentations of a leaving present from FOS were accompanied by canapes, drinks, strawberries and music. All this was laid on by Liz Harrison Hall and her impressive team and we are very grateful to them for the detailed planning which made it such an enjoyable evening for over 250 guests. Without doubt this event has become a very important fixture in the summer calendar. We will be starting to plan for next year virtually straight away so would like to hear from Year 12 and Year 13 parents who would be prepared to join a small organising group which plans to meet very occasionally over the year.

Over 150 girls and boys looked the part at the **Year 11 Summer Prom** and this was by far the largest number of Ball goers we have welcomed so far. A lot of attention had been given to the 'Grammys' theme and the tables were expertly decorated to match it. We were delighted to hear from so many girls that it was all far more exciting than they were expecting. Our upcoming Year 11 can certainly look forward to something special next year. Our thanks to the inspired group of girls and parents, led by Claire Henley, who planned the event, many of the touches having originated from the girls themselves, and to the teachers and parents who attended on the night.

Let's not forget the importance over the year of six well attended discos enjoyed by large numbers of students from Years 7 to 9. All our parent helpers would probably agree it was a couple of hours well spent.

Thank you for your support this year.

Ian Frost
FOS Chairman

Alumnae News *from D Brownhill (overleaf...)*



**Shottery Alumnae Society
Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls**

A very warm welcome to everyone including
your family and friends to a

***Coffee Morning
Cakes and Raffle***

in aid of

**HELP for HEROES
SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER
10.30 – 12.30**

CIVIC HALL, ROTHER STREET, STRATFORD UPON AVON

Do come – the Farmers' Market is that day too.
Parking in the multi-storey opposite and in
the Rother Street car park next to the URC Church.

School term and holiday dates for 2011-2012

Autumn Term 2011

Staff Training Day

Induction Day for

Year 7 and Year 12

First day of term for all

Staff Training Day

Half term

Last day of term

Staff Training Day

Monday 5th September - Friday 16th December

Monday 5th September

Tuesday 6th September

Wednesday 7th September

Thursday 6th October

24th-28th October

Thursday 15th December

Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2012

Staff Training Day

First day of term

Staff Training Day

Half term

Last day of term

3rd January - 30th March

Tuesday 3rd January

Wednesday 4th January

Wednesday 25th January

13th-17th February

Friday 30th March

Summer Term 2012

First day of term

May Bank Holiday

Half term

Last day of term

16th April - 20th July

Monday 16th April

Monday 7th May

4th-8th June

Friday 20th July