



Stratford upon Avon  
Grammar School for Girls

# Mini Manners

The newsletter of  
Stratford upon Avon  
Grammar School for Girls



“Decorated Classrooms”

## Head's Headlines

Once again I can report on a very busy and successful half-term at Shottery: the days may be colder and the evenings darker, but we're far from slowing down in readiness for hibernation – the half-term running up to Christmas has been as packed with activity as ever.

### The Future Development of the School

Our biggest news at the end of this term is that the governors of the school are planning to expand the school by one form of entry from 2013, with the intention that the school will grow over the following four or five years to accommodate and educate about 800 girls. This is, I think, excellent news, both for the school itself and for the local Warwickshire community. We believe that we offer outstanding opportunities for our girls, as evidenced by the excellent outcomes they achieve. And we also believe that we have the capacity to be able to offer these opportunities to more girls – while still preserving the caring community ethos of the school that is one of the foundations of our success, along with our excellent specialist academic and support staff who are able to support and challenge our bright and able girls to be the best that they can be. Expanding the number of pupils will expand revenue funding, and thereby strengthen the school financially at a time of cuts and economic uncertainty. A plan to expand pupil numbers needs to be supported by one to expand the school's facilities, and we have drawn up plans to grow the buildings of the school in a phased and affordable way.

Further details of these proposals, and the thinking behind them, are set out in the letter I will be sending to all parents in the last week of this term, as well as in the speech I will be making on the Day of Celebration. The letter is reproduced at the end of this *Headlines* article. We will be going out to formal consultation on the proposed new Admissions Arrangements shortly – information will be on the school's website – and details of how to respond, if you wish to, will be included.

### Overview of Activities this Half-term

It's been good to see a number of **new House events** taking place now that the new House system has been established: for instance, we came back after the October break to House Halloween masks and pumpkins; and competitions in chess and cooking have joined the more traditional sporting competitions such as cross-country. Miss Diana Brownhill, who stepped down from her role as Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form in 2010 and who is currently our Sixth Form Admissions and Post-18 Co-ordinator, worked hard to keep the House spirit alive in the school for many years, and our new vertical tutoring structure of course has the House system at its very heart. The school is now organised in three Houses, named after constellations: Cygnus, Orion and Ursa. A lively and friendly competitive spirit between the three Houses was engendered in the first House Festival which took place last June, and we will on the last day of this term be awarding the Brownhill Prize for the first time: a cup to be given termly to the House achieving the greatest number of house points.

The second **Extended Learning Day (ELD2)** of the year was organised on 16<sup>th</sup> November. While visits had been organised for most year groups on ELD1 (and the turning circle at 9.00 on that day resembled a busy coach station at the height of the tourist season!), enrichment activities were organised on site for most girls on ELD2.



turning circle at 9.00 on that day resembled a busy coach station at the height of the tourist season!), enrichment activities were organised on site for most girls on ELD2. The only exceptions were the Year 12 girls, who learned about the practicalities of university applications and student finance on trips to either Birmingham or Leicester University. Back at Shottery, Year 7 girls planned and prepared a tea party with entertainments and then welcomed some sixty or seventy senior citizens in the afternoon; while the

Year 13 girls were engaged in giving their Extended Project presentations to their supervisors and peers. And the rest of the school, Years 8 to 11 inclusive, were organised in a number of vertical groups, each of which produced a newspaper in the day, having had input from both Warwick University's student newspaper team and Touch FM. It was a busy and very worthwhile day for all!

A number of **curriculum visits** have taken place since the last edition of *Mini Manners*, too: from the Year 11 Geography residential field trip to Pembrokeshire and the Year 8/9 Hockey tour to Holland, both of which took place in the last week before half-term; through visits for all ages of girls from Year 7 going to see Birmingham Royal Ballet perform *The Nutcracker* to the Year 13 Biologists visiting Bordon Hill nurseries; to the annual German exchange visit to Solingen.

As for **music and drama**, the Christmas Carol Concerts launched the Christmas season for many of us with gusto, joyful sleigh bells and opportunities for a large number of our musicians of all ages and instruments to get involved; and a number of girls have performed on the stage in the Levi Fox Hall in KES's recent production of Euripides' *The Bacchae*. The Chamber Choir enjoyed a rather unusual engagement earlier in the term, too: singing at the wedding of Miss Louise Coates and Mr Tom Burdett at St Andrew's Church in Claverdon. It's not every year that a staff wedding takes place – especially one where both the bride and the groom are members of the Shottery staff!

We have entered **competitions** from the Bank of England Target 2.0 competition and the Mock-Bar Trial through to the Maths Challenge; and two Young Enterprise companies have again been busy and creative this year, with innovative products ranging from a calendar designed for the year of the London Olympics, with paired photographs of Stratford-upon-Avon and Stratford, London, to Shakespeare-themed aprons and Christmas cards. And our girls have taken part in a wide range of sports, winning a number of trophies and medals both for the school and individually, details of which can be found later in this newsletter.



Olympeare with Nadhim Zahawi, MP,  
and Martin Didlick, Peugeot

And the term is far from over yet: as I write, we still have our quirky decorated classrooms competition to come, as well as the Day of Celebration to look forward to...

### Staff News

We have welcomed a couple of new members of staff to the Shottery team this half-term: **Mr Iain Mackie** has joined the Biology Department while **Mrs Charlotte Doherty** is taking her maternity leave – and **Mrs Lorraine Green**, a qualified teacher who is one of our Senior Science Technicians, is also taking some lower school science lessons. And **Mr Kevin Robbins** has joined the site staff while **Mr Michael Vickers** is unwell.

And, as mentioned above, we were delighted to be able to celebrate a staff-room marriage this term – so I like to record in *Mini Manners* warm congratulations to **Mr and Mrs Burdett**.

### Governor News

Congratulations and welcome to our new Parent Governor, Mr David Morse. The breakdown of the ballot is as follows:

- David Best – 7votes
- David Morse – 8 votes
- Edwin Wadsworth – 4 votes

Four ballots were disqualified as they did not have the student's name on the front envelope and therefore eligibility to vote could not be confirmed.

Many thanks to all parents who put their names forward.

### Admission Arrangements for 2013: Consultation

Details of the proposed admissions arrangements for 2013 have now been published on the school website, in line with the statutory requirement to consult on them. The closing date for any submissions will be Friday 10 February 2012.



### Emergency Action - eg severe weather or flood

The school's policy in situations where emergency action might need to be taken to ensure the health and safety of members of the school community follows. It is our policy to remain open if at all possible as long as we can provide heating, meals and a safe environment.

Should the need arise to close the school before the start of the school day, information will be posted on the home page of the school website ([www.stratfordgrammar.co.uk](http://www.stratfordgrammar.co.uk)) by 7.15 am and regularly updated. This is the simplest and most effective way to communicate messages simultaneously to the whole school. However, other means of communication will also be used: an email will be sent via Schoolcomms to your registered Schoolcomms address and an announcement will be made on the school telephone (choose option 7 for "the weatherline"). Information about school closures is also published on the Warwickshire website ([www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures)) – and on that site you can also find details of how to sign up (annually) for a free text messaging service.

The need may arise to close the school early but after girls and staff are on site – eg as a result of severe weather. We would normally expect girls to travel home by their usual means, and would therefore release those who walk home or to the station as soon as school is closed. All girls will be expected to sign out with their tutor if leaving before the end of the usual school day. The buses will generally be called early in these circumstances, and girls waiting for buses can wait safely in school until their appropriate bus arrives. However, other means of transport home will be considered if appropriate (eg lifts with friends or staff). A sensible decision will be taken in consultation with your daughter. Please ensure that your daughter has emergency contact details, and also that the emergency contact details we hold in school are up-to-date. It would be very helpful if you could discuss with your daughter all the possible courses of action she could take in the event of such an early closure when the homeward journey could take much longer than usual. It might, for instance, be sensible to arrange to stay with a friend who lives nearer the school. Senior staff will stay in school until all girls have left. We would aim to post information on the school website as soon as practical; and information will certainly be posted on the school website concerning the following school day, whether school is to be open or not.

*Updated December 2011*

I do hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter. May I wish you happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Next term begins for pupils on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011, with lessons beginning at 8.55 as usual.

*Kate Barnett*



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Headteacher  
Ms K.J. Barnett M.A.

# Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents

## Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls: development plans

I am writing to all parents on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, the day on which we are holding our annual Day of Celebration in the RSC's Courtyard Theatre in Stratford, because I want all parents to know of governors' plans for the school, not just those who have been invited to the Day of Celebration, where these plans will be announced.

We certainly have a great deal to celebrate on this day! It has been a particularly momentous year in many ways. We became an academy in August, independent of local authority control and with greater control over our own destiny. And the exam results that we will be celebrating – the GCSE and A-level results of our Year 11 and Year 13 girls last year – were the best ever, as recognised in several of the national league tables, which placed us in the top 25 in the country. The girls who will be coming back to celebrate with us were successful in achieving places at some of the best and most sought-after universities in the country. And then we introduced a vertical tutoring structure in September, aiming to strengthen what we often refer to as the family values of the school and to enable further development of the pastoral systems, which have long been a strength of the school. This has been the latest development in our plan to continually improve the school – evidence of our determination to provide the best possible education for our students in the best possible learning environment, and to maintain our outstanding status.

The academy governors are rightly very proud of our school, and of the successes of all of our girls. They are keen that we should look to the future of the school as well as celebrating past success, however, and to this end have passed a resolution to expand the school by one form of entry in 2013, as well as expanding each form from 25 to 28. We currently have around 600 girls on roll, and this will mean extending the excellent learning opportunities of the school to around 800 girls in total as the extra form moves up the school – by about 2017. We all recognise that part of the strength of the school comes from it being a small community, where the staff can get to know all girls personally, but we believe we can successfully extend that ethos – which is so crucial to the character of the school – to the numbers proposed. We already have more than 25 in many classes, as a result not only of successful appeals, but also of decisions about setting in school. Vertical tutoring, furthermore, will help us to absorb the extra girls into the community quickly; and extra staff will be appointed gradually, as the need for them arises. We have drawn up plans to grow the buildings of the school in a phased and affordable way and have identified possible sources of funding for the necessary capital development.

This is a very exciting and major development plan which will take between five and ten years to follow through. One significant advantage that it will bring to the school is extra revenue funding, since state-



maintained schools are funded on the basis of pupil numbers. This will help us to counter some of the adverse effects of cuts in government funding, which otherwise would soon begin to threaten the range of courses we could offer and consequently the quality of staff we could recruit and retain. It allows us to plan for further curriculum development and expansion, instead of contraction at a time of budget restrictions. The current government is encouraging good schools to expand, and has passed legislation to enable such expansion. Shotton governors are keen to seize the opportunity.

We are not the only school to be considering such a move: the other four Warwickshire grammar schools are also planning expansion, too. The governors of King Edward VI School are extending the planned admission number (PAN) in Year 7 to 81 from 2013, and in Year 12 to 100; and they plan to admit girls in the sixth form too – up to 25% of the Year 12 entry. We have considered operating a co-educational sixth form at Shotton, too, but have decided that the single-sex nature of our school is a key factor in our success – as well as in our appeal – and therefore plan to remain a single-sex girls' school all the way through, although we are still keen to maintain collaborative links in the sixth form as at present. KES are also conducting a feasibility study to see if they can add a form of entry from 2014. Alcester Grammar School is planning to take another form of entry from 2013, as is Rugby High School; while Lawrence Sheriff School in Rugby is planning to formalise its PAN at 120. The headteachers and governors of all the grammar schools believe that widening access to grammar school education in this way is a good thing, and clearly in line with government and ministerial policy, as well as being beneficial to our local communities.

I wanted to let all parents know this good news before it is reported in the newspapers, as I think is likely this week. We will be going out to formal consultation on the proposed changes to the admissions arrangements shortly: details will be available on our website, and responses to the proposals are invited – to the Business Manager/ Company Secretary, Mr Paul Day, at school.

Because of the significance of this letter, I am sending it separately from *Mini Manners*, but it will also be published as part of my "Headlines" article in the December edition of the newsletter, which should be with you before the end of term. I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and to wish you and all your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Kate Barnett  
Headteacher

## Library News December 2011

This has been a very busy term in the Library. Over a thousand books borrowed during the holidays were returned in the first week alone.

The **Year 7s** have enjoyed several timetabled Library Induction lessons to get them using the Library confidently and effectively. Congratulations to Lizzy, Meg, Maria, Theo and Emma in 7F for winning the concluding quiz.

**Year 12s** were also warmly welcomed and attended an Induction session.

We welcomed our newly recruited **Year 12 Student Librarians** to join our happy team:

Anna Beaven, Emma Banks, Rebecca Butler, Liv Coldicutt, Imogen Flynn, Sarah Hardy, and Rebecca Malczewski. They complement our team wonderfully and it is lovely to see them enjoying their new role. (Thank you girls!)

As well as learning their new librarianship skills, they, together with the **Year 13 Student Librarians**, have been busy planning, developing and creating intriguing decorations, as we annually decorate the Library on an agreed theme for Christmas.

Following the huge popularity and success of the “**Warwickshire Book Award**” scheme last year, we have opened this event to an even larger number of **Year 7** girls. 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 on encouraging reading for pleasure and beyond one’s current experience. Thirty three girls have just started reading the short-listed books and meeting to exchange their reactions and views.

This year’s short-list is:

*A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness*

*The Midnight Zoo – Sonya Hartnett*

*Trash – Andy Mulligan*

*Mistress of the Storm – Melanie Welsh*

*The Poisoned House – Michael Ford*

*Night on Terror Island – Philip Caverney*

More details to follow!

*Miss K Tanner & Mrs A Curtis*

## PE Department

We have been blessed with the weather this term, no snow like this time last year. We have had two very successful tours and we are now an official London 2012 Olympic school. The end of term equals *Christmas Hockey and Netball Fun* where we have seen some excellent costumes. Public examinations begin next term and therefore all KS3 lesson will be outdoors, so please can we urge parents to send girls with extra layers, gloves and hats for PE lessons. We will go out in all weathers, and as the Norwegians say, *there is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing!* Also because of the examinations there will be no after school training for Years 10-13. Year 10 training will start back up in February as so many girls need to prepare for their GCSE short course. Seniors are welcome to come and train with them, but with the pressures of public examination and course work there will be no formal matches or training in the Spring Term.

### Beyond the school gates

Sophie Durbin is one of our new Year 7 pupils who has come to Shottery with a hidden talent: she is a brown belt Karate expert. In early November she took part in the National Championships and achieved the Silver medal which is outstanding considering she was fighting against older and more experienced competitors. She is now waiting to hear if she has been offered a place in the 2012 Japanese Karate Federation Goju Kai World Championships which will be held in Tokyo. Well done, Sophie!



Abi Riley in Year 8 has been recently accepted into the RS Feva North sailing squad. This is one of the feeder squads into the England and then GB team sailing squads.

Rosie Williamson in Year 8 is sailing in the winter league after her section to train in the National squad and in a recent National event finished fifth best girl, and 21<sup>st</sup> overall.

Elizabeth Billington, who was new into Year 12 this year, is an outstanding fencer and is part of the Great Britain Fencing Squad. Whilst I am writing this she is away with the GB team in Germany for an international match; we will update her progress in the next *Mini Manners*. Lizzie has also actively encouraged some of our younger pupils to have a go at fencing by joining the open club held at KES on Wednesday evenings. There are still spaces if we have any girls keen to follow (one day) in Lizzie's footsteps!

Caitlin McCarthy in Year 11, who is in GB Archery, has a very busy 2012 ahead with public exams, the Olympic Games and Team GB training. In her own words she has this to say:

"even though I am really excited for 2012, I and four of my other Young Games Maker team mates are in a GB programme preparing for future Olympics and (hopefully) medals. I am in the GB Development team; I have been to three camps so far, starting on Friday night and ending on Sunday. We do a variety of activities including, Shooting (obviously), Strength and Conditioning, Bio-Mechanical work and Mental Preparation—and the Olympic Head Coach Lloyd Brown has been coaching me recently! We also have free time for "team bonding", but the only thing we can think of is shooting so we had to compromise and do archery on a Wii instead. So after the excitement of London 2012, look forward to 2016 and 2020 for me again! "

### The Olympic Dreams London 2012

"Hi my name is Caitlín and I am going to be a Young Games Maker at the 2012 Olympic Games, so look out for me when you're watching! I am going to be collecting and returning the arrows at the archery event along with seven of my friends and we're all really excited. We went for a Test Event back in October, we were down at Lords Cricket Ground in London for a week and the first day involved a lot of free coffee and a tour round Lords. For the rest of the week we were taught how to stand by an ex-army guy, talk to the GB archers, have lunch in the Long Room and meet Im Dong-Hyun who made a new World Record that week! We've got some more training in March that will be at Wembley, a uniform fitting and then the Games will begin. We get provided with a uniform and travel around London, but that's it, so if you see a group of us in our "London Prepares" shirts fundraising pop over and we'd be really grateful of any help to get us to the London 2012 Olympics!"





## Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

It's not just the girls who are getting excited about the Olympics..... Mrs Lawrence our Data Officer and her husband have been accepted as official helpers for the 2012 Games. Both will be based in the Excel Centre in the Technology Department analysing results. Mr Lawrence is a team leader and has already been to a test event in London to see how it is all going to be set up. Mrs Lawrence will be attending her training in the new year. Both will receive an official uniform, free transport around London for the Games and free food.

As a school we are now officially part of the GET SET London 2012 educational team. A plaque has been on display outside the Exams Office in the community building since November, and we can official use the London 2012 Education logos. Through this network we have also received numerous resources and access to competitions. All of these things will be used to help in the preparation for our own Olympic Day in March. We are also looking in to the preparation with Stratford Council to support the torch procession through Stratford on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Further details will be given in the new year.

If any girls or parents have any further Olympic Dreams connected to London 2012, please email me and then we can share everybody's experiences. [Griffiths.m4@we-learn.com](mailto:Griffiths.m4@we-learn.com).

## Hockey

All teams have been busy this term with matches and training. We have had some good wins with the Year 7 team who are starting to find their feet in hockey and have seen the last few matches with our seniors. All teams have had Christmas Hockey Fun with some excellent dressing up from the lower years in particular. A big thank you must go to Grace Jaynes and Alex Millar for giving up their time to support the junior hockey teams. The end of the spring term will see several tournaments for Years 7 and 8, so attending training in January and February will be crucial.





Thank you to the Year 8 parents for the hot chocolate and cake after Christmas Hockey Fun.

### Holland hockey tour 2011

Yet again this was a very popular tour with 31 girls from Years 8 and 9 spending a week training and playing matches with our Dutch friends. We went back to Valkenberg, a beautiful village just outside Maastricht. We had three good days of two hour morning training and an evening match for both teams. Unfortunately this year the weather was not with us, and we all got totally soaked on the first morning. This did not dampen our spirits as the Year 9s went on to win that evening's game: an outstanding result. In the afternoon girls could just relax in the hotel, or go laser questing, tobogganing or shopping. The final evening was spent at a traditional coffee house eating pancakes. This was an excellent week where the girls showed significant improvements in their hockey.



Everybody on tour (including the teachers) got a chance to learn new skills





Lots of match play and the chance to make new friends with our Dutch counterparts.



Time for fun...



## Holland Tour 2011



## Rowing

Yet again rowing club has proved to be very popular with our new Year 7s; more than 40 girls have signed up to attend taster session this school year. Again a huge thank you must go to Andy Roe and his team for accommodating our girls and coaching them to such a high standard.

There have been several winter 'Head' matches which have seen some excellent successes by our girls. Gabi Jones in Year 12 has had an excellent winter season so far winning in the single sculls at Worcester, Stourport and Wycliffe. She combines the singles with rowing in the quad alongside Lizzy Collins and Jenny Carus plus a girl from SHS to win the Wycliffe quads. Phoebe Winter and Imogen North in Year 9 are also rowing well this winter with a gold medal in the double at Wycliffe.

## Netball

This time of year is always hard on our Netball teams with limited facilities from October until March. We do therefore thank all the girls who have made the effort to train in our school Hall to keep their skills up. However our Year 8 and Year 9 teams are still unbeaten in the league and with only a few matches left they could be bringing home the silver wear at the end of the season. All teams in Years 7-10 have tournaments in the second half the of spring term, so keep training, it will all be worth it in the end.



Christmas Netball Fun with Year 8

### PGL Netball Tour

The highlight of the netball calendar for this term has been the weekend netball tour to Liddington PGL centre. We left on Friday night and after a lot of traffic eventually made it to Liddington in Swindon. Saturday morning started with many matches for the Year 8 A & B teams with the Year 9 team ably supported by Miss Manders having a go at various outdoor education activities. In the afternoon it was the turn of the Year 9 team to play netball, supported by three Year 8s (thank you J) and then the Year 8 teams went zip wiring and abseiling. Saturday night was a torch lit game of hide and seek followed by *The X factor* and bed. Sunday saw the competition get a bit more serious, and our girls did not disappoint. The Year 8 A team finished third overall in the Cup competition, the Year 8 B team took part in the Plate competition and finished first and the Year 9 team finished second overall. Very well played everyone!





Year 8 B team  
collecting winner  
medals



Year 9 team with  
runners up medals



Year 8 A team who finished third in the cup.

### **Swimming**

Congratulations to all girls who took part in the fun gala at Saint Martin's School. We fielded five teams and even though both the other schools competing have their own swimming pools, we won the competition. Well done, and a big thank you to Mr Wright for helping with the team organisation.

### **Cross Country**

Congratulations must go to Alicia Roberts in Year 7, Sophie Wouter in Year 9 and Tas Pope in Year 11 who all competed for Warwickshire in the Inter Counties race on a damp cold November Saturday. They finished 29<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively out of field of over 50 runners from across the Midlands for each of their age groups.

Finally I wish you all a restful and happy Christmas Holiday and thank all girls and parents for all of their support this term. Next year is going to be one of the most exciting years in British sporting history, and Shotton will be there all the way, from creating our own home grown talent to (hopefully) see the torch past our threshold.

*Miss Griffiths*

*Head of PE*

**Bring on 2012, the year of Sport!**

## Economics, Business Studies and Young Enterprise

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our two Young Enterprise companies, Olympeare and Prosper, so far this year. The two groups, comprising Year 12 students, were only set up in September but they have already succeeded in producing excellent products for the Christmas markets.

Olympeare, excited by the Olympics next year, have been inspired by the links between their home town and the other Stratford in London, the home of the Games. The fourteen students have produced a fantastic calendar for 2012 which includes photographs of similar places in both locations on each month's page. Their ideas cover Theatre to Theatre, Aqua to Aqua, Canal to Canal and even Pub to Pub. Olympic events have been included under the appropriate date and other important events, such as Shakespeare's birthday celebrations, have been added.

The team has been successful in winning many sponsorship deals, including Peugeot, DHL, Vision Express, Murphy, Salisbury, Barbers Flooring and Morton Springs Coarse Fishing. Last Friday, a launch Party was held at the School which was attended by our MP, Mr Nadhim Zahawi and Mr Andrew Didlick, Director of Communications at Peugeot UK who presented a cheque for £500 to the team. Another scoop has been the inclusion of good luck messages from James Roe, our local member of Britain's mixed adaptive coxed four and David Bailey, the Shakespearean actor who starred in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Gladiator*.

However, the production of the calendar has not been without its problems! Working under pressure to get the calendar to the printers in time, the students had a very busy day taking photographs in Stratford, London – an area which they had never visited before. Fortunately, they had employed a professional photographer to help them with the daunting task. They have also had to obtain agreement to the calendar from the Olympic Committee, another major feat, due to the laws relating to protection of the Olympic brand. Fortunately, after many discussions, they received the 'go-ahead'!



The picture shows the two Managing Directors of Olympeare, Imogen Flynn and Emily Prince, with the MP Nadhim Zahawi and Andrew Didlick, the Director of Communications at Peugeot UK who presented the team with a cheque for £500 as sponsorship for the calendar.

Our other Young Enterprise company, Prosper, has also used the Shakespeare theme – this time producing Christmas cards and cooking aprons which are printed with cartoon drawings of the Great Bard himself – the work of one of their team. The use of another professional printing company has ensured that the cards and aprons are of a very high quality, so much so that the RSC has just placed an order for 100 aprons which will be sold in the theatre's shop.

Both groups will be delighted to sell their products to you. The calendars are just £7.00 each, the cards are £3.50 per pack of six, or £10 for three packs and the aprons are £9.99. All can be obtained from the School.

Young Enterprise is a national charity which gives students invaluable practical experience in setting up and running a company over the course of one academic year. Its mottos are 'start something' and 'learning by doing'. Students elect a Board of Directors from amongst their peers, raise share capital and market and finance a product or service of their own choice. The programme gives students many opportunities to develop a wide range of skills and abilities, preparing them for the world of work.

#### **TARGET 2.0 - Year 13 Economics**

Many congratulations to our excellent Target 2.0 team of Hanna Lewis, Anna Massey, Katharine Ritchie, Chloe Solanki and Georgie Mackey who won the first round of this prestigious and highly academic national competition, run by the Bank of England. The students were required to 'act' as the Monetary Policy Committee, analysing the state of the economy and the problems it faces, in order to recommend the base interest rate and the level of quantitative easing best suited to achieve 2.0% inflation - yet economic growth as well! A real feat! Their presentation, together with intense questioning from the Bank of England judges was said to be the clear winner against teams from Bromsgrove School, Malvern College, King Edward VI Stratford, and Worcester and Hereford Sixth Form Colleges. It was a wonderful experience for our economists who have learned a great deal from it. So, now it's on to the semi-final in February - and yes, there is hope for our economic future with students such as these!

*Mrs Helen Ellis  
Head of Economics & Business Studies*

## Year 8 Latin trip to Corinium Roman Museum



Year 8 visited the Roman Corinium Museum in Cirencester: an enjoyable and enlightening day. Here are some of the group dressed as Romans, during a session where we “brought to life” some of the town of Corinium’s Roman inhabitants.

Some of the girls’ comments about the day...

“My favourite thing in the museum was the mosaics because they were stunning and beautiful.” *Sophie Perry 8USLB*

“The visit was a very good day and I would definitely go back again!” *Annie Cox 8CVJ*

“I enjoyed looking at the tombstones. It was fun learning about the different people, and interpreting things like “How did they die?”” *Rachel Cameron 8CVJ*

“I liked looking at the jewellery. There were brooches with dogs, hens and horses on – nothing like what we wear today!” *Emily Wright 8ODSG*

“One of my main highlights was playing the Roman board game called Tabula.” *Eve Peet 8UCP*

“It was really fun, and I want to go again.” *Zoe Bone 8OCS*

“When we went to Corinium my favourite things were the tombstones, as they explained a lot about Roman life and deaths.” *Tabby Groves 8ODSG*

“It was great fun and we learnt a lot about Roman Britain.” *Amber Mahmud 8OAEB*

*Mrs A Hipwell*

## Music

The Music Department has had another busy and successful term! We started with a send off for a wonderful group of musicians at our *Last Night of the Proms* Concert. Several of these leavers have gone on to study Music at university and we were proud to give them a final performance opportunity at Shotton.

Chamber Choir rehearsed with eager anticipation of a special event back in November! The girls sang so beautifully and received countless compliments from all the family and guests. We have already thanked them, but to reiterate again; *thank you Chamber Choir for making the day even more magical!*



The term has flown by with various performances for Jazz Band along the way – setting up their reputation ready for the big spring/summer performance season.

The Christmas Concerts always keep us busy from half-term onwards. It is always lovely to see girls from across every year group performing and supporting each other.



We are now gearing up for the last week of term: *Day of Celebration* and our *Christmas Service*. It is very exciting to be back in the theatre for our awards ceremony; the whole of Year 7 perform a song together, and it is one of those Shottery memories that will stick with them for a long time.

Also at this event, Chamber Choir will sing the musical ballad "*Take Me As I Am*", but the real highlight has to be Soul Band and the team of Dancers led by Ellie Richardson. Performing on the RSC theatre stage is a real achievement, and demonstrates yet another opportunity for the creative subjects to bring together students from across the whole age range...here in the Music Department we've been "working vertically" for years!

*Mrs L Burdett*

## Biology

### Year 13 Bordon Hill Nurseries Biology Visit

On the 2nd of November, the Year 13 biologists took what seemed to be a never-ending hike to Bordon Hill Nurseries. We were wearing our most attractive outdoor clothes, to learn about the mass production of plants that are grown for the wholesale market to supply the supermarkets chains, especially the poinsettias for Christmas.



Once we arrived, we were greeted with lots of enormous greenhouses and our tour guides. We began the tour of the nursery with the most important part of the production of the plants, their water supply and how they filtered their spring water and the economical and environmental advantages of recycling it. As we were taken around the site, we were shown their reservoir and inside the greenhouses. They explained the ways that they controlled CO<sub>2</sub>, water, humidity and the light intensity to ensure optimum growth of these plants to their desired state for sale. The biologists also had a talk about pest control measures that take place at Bordon Hill Nurseries.



We would like to thank the staff at Bordon Hill Nurseries for a really informative visit. Even though there was a lot of walking involved, we all learnt a lot about mass producing plants and the control measures that need to be put in place so that a business can economically gain but also be environmentally aware.

*Mae Yee Chek 13USB*



## German Exchange November 2011

On Wednesday 23rd November 2011, fifteen Year 9 and year 10 pupils, along with their teachers, Mrs Stringer and Mrs Hyems set off for Solingen, Germany to stay with exchange partners from our partner school, 'Gymnasium Schwertstrasse', in Solingen.



Everyone was really excited and very much looking forward to meeting up with their exchange partners who had already been to Stratford in June. Of course there was also an abundance of nerves but these all proved to be unfounded and everyone was greeted at the airport with huge smiles and hugs from their host families who were equally excited to be meeting the English girls



Whilst they were in Solingen, the group experienced a variety of activities including, making Christmas decorations whilst eating homemade cake from the German families, ice-skating, a visit to WDR, Germany's biggest broadcasting company in Cologne and of course a visit to the famous cathedral in Cologne followed by shopping and the delightful Christmas market.



On Monday after a lovely weekend with the families where the girls all had a variety of wonderful experiences, we all met in the school library, where the girls all related the stories of their weekends. We then took the opportunity of all going into the city of Solingen to practice some German in the shops.

Girls also experienced a variety of lessons with their partners and got a real feel for a German school. One of the teachers even gave the girls a Maths lesson in simple German. This was followed by a football match which has become a bit of a tradition. Unfortunately the Shottery team conceded a goal in the last minute but next year the trophy will be ours! We then all went with the German hosts to watch *Breaking Dawn* in German at the cinema.



We also had a joint trip to the city of Aachen where we visited the Christmas markets and took in the atmosphere of Advent. This was followed by a trip to the Lindt factory, where eyes were large when we went in and bags were heavy when we left!



On the final Wednesday we all made our way to Solingen Gräfrath, which is the old part of Solingen. On the way we stopped off at the Haribo factory shop most girls purchased their body weight in 'Gummibären'



Everybody thought that Gräfrath was extremely beautiful as we wandered through the cobbled streets before we went to eat waffles with hot cherries and cream, which is a traditional meal in this part of Germany.



We finally made our way to the airport early evening. Everyone was so sad to be leaving their partners and many tears were shed however it was clear that for many it was merely an 'Auf wiedersehen' as they will definitely meet up again, having formed friendships that could last a lifetime.

I have to say that this was a wonderful trip and I couldn't have wished for a better group of girls to have taken with me. They were all enthusiastic and very keen to try out the German they had learnt. I felt very proud to be their teacher and to be accompanying them and I look forward to the exchange next year.

*Mrs Stringer*

*Head of German*

'Going on the German exchange was an amazing experience! The family were so welcoming and friendly and the trips were really good. It was fantastic to experience the German culture and it really helped my German.'

*Rebecca Foreman 10USLB*

'I absolutely loved it! It was such a brilliant experience and a lot of fun. The family I stayed with were so warm and welcoming; they really gave me a taste of a beautiful and Christmassy Germany. Their schools are so different to ours, which was very interesting. I think it helped my German a lot and I got to see a lot of Germany! '

*Lottie Green 10SLB*

'It was amazing I am so happy that I went. I had a great time and my exchange partner and her friends were all so nice. I absolutely loved it.'

*Olivia Bath 10OMG*

'The German exchange this year was especially fun as the school organised a lot of activities for us and it was amazing. I loved it and would definitely recommend it to anyone taking German.'

*Mariella Bucci 9OES*

*'I found the German exchange a new and exciting experience, where you can learn about the different cultures of a country and make new friends. I would definitely recommend that anyone taking a language participate in an exchange as I think it is a wonderful opportunity where you can learn new things and meet different people.'*

*Ingrid Laubscher 10USB*

## **Mock Bar Trial Competition**

On 26<sup>th</sup> November a group of girls in Year 12 set off for Birmingham on the 7.00 am train to participate in the regional Mock Bar competition, along with around twelve other schools from around the Midlands. Mock Bar is a chance for students interested in pursuing law as a career to act out the various roles within the legal system. We were supported in our preparation by Lydia Pemberton, a local barrister, who came into school in the weeks running up to the competition to show us the ropes!

Several girls had the opportunity to take on the role of barrister for the day, and went head to head with the other schools' teams. Others acted as defendants (maintaining their rather dubious innocence throughout the trials) witnesses and court officials.

The competition took place rather too bright and early for a Saturday morning, at Birmingham Crown Courts and the team sailed through to the finals. We were beaten into runner-up position by another all-girl team from Rugby High School. It was a nerve-racking experience at times, but it gave us a real insight into the inner workings of the justice system. We were a little surprised to find ourselves in the finals, but were pleased that the Judges had enjoyed our cases so much.

Although we did get a little competitive towards the end and wished we had won, we really enjoyed the day and the opportunity to compete in the final. For any budding lawyers, we would definitely recommend the experience!

*Mock Bar Team*

## Drama Department

### Enrichment Day 2

Earlier in the term, the Drama Department joined forces with the DT, Food Tech and Music departments alongside Year 7 to create 'Afternoon Delight' – an afternoon of performance, scones and merriment for grandparents and guests over 60! Our theme was 'Memories' which incorporated songs and poems from different eras. The morning saw girls rehearsing performance Poetry and learning new songs. In Food Tech, girls were busy baking as many scones as they could and preparing tables ready for our concert in the afternoon. In the DT department, girls were shown the art of making Christmas Decorations and ornate Christmas cards which were handed out to our guests in the afternoon. The concert was a superb success. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we've had many lovely letters of thanks from our guests expressing how much they enjoyed it too. Here are some comments from Year 7 explaining what the day meant to them:



'The bit I enjoyed the most was talking to the ladies – they were all so nice. I really had great fun!' *Holly Ives 7OES*

'I loved acting on the stage and creating a happy atmosphere. I loved chatting to and waiting on our guests. I wish it could have gone on for longer.' *Leah Wadsworth 7ONW*

'I enjoyed using the stage, welcoming the guests and working with my friends.' *Jess Southwell 7ODSG*

'I had fun practising and asking our audience about things. I found out lots of interesting facts about them.' *Jasmine Key 7CVJ*

### USLB

In early December, USLB paid a visit to Briar Croft Residential Home where we performed a selection of carols and spent time chatting and sharing mince pies with our appreciative audience. Well done everyone – it was a lovely morning and a great opportunity to work together as a team.

'I enjoyed preparing the Christmas cards and the Christmas decorations because we could be creative.' *Vanshika Saxena 7OHE*



'I enjoyed meeting and talking to our guests and learning about their lives because it was interesting to see how their lives are so different to ours. I think the audience really enjoyed it and they felt welcome and looked after. It was amazing to know that people appreciated it – I think it might have brought back lovely memories for our guests.' *Ella Dunkerley 7ONW*

'I enjoyed making the scones...and eating them!' *Rosie Coyle 7USLB*

'It was nice to put a smile on people's faces!' *Simran Gill 7ONW*

### KES Production



Congratulations to our Year 12s Lucy Hiden and Katie Lester who took part in this year's KES production of *The Bacchae*. They were a credit to the school.

### School Musical

Rehearsals are very much underway for the school musical production: *The New York Experience*. A huge thank you to Cora James, Olivia Coldicutt, Izzy Cutts and Ellie Richardson for directing and choreographing the cast in a very professional manner. Our performance dates are **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.00 pm at The Civic Hall**. Everybody welcome!

### Moderation Date

The Moderation date for the GCSE Practical Performances (Year 11) has been set for **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March** from 10.00 till 12.00 noon.

### Drama Clubs

Our forthcoming production of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* has now been cast and rehearsals, ably run by Cara Davis, Bella Roach, Izzy Cutts and Cora James continue on a Friday lunchtime. Meanwhile Year 7 Drama Club continues on a Monday lunchtime run by Tash Clark. The club is very well-attended and a lot of fun! There is still time for Year 7 to join if they'd like to.

*Mrs S Barrett*

## Food Technology: Make it with Mince Challenge 2011

As part of the GCSE Food Technology course students were invited to develop their design ideas for the Make it with Mince challenge. Led by celebrity chef James Martin, the competition is designed to engage, educate and inspire students to get cooking and appreciate the importance of good nutrition and quality ingredients. Students had to submit an original recipe, which could have been adding a new twist to an old classic, or creating something totally different, and all recipes had to be developed and cooked from scratch. During Food Technology lessons students tried out their design ideas, tasting and evaluating to create a successful product. The most creative design ideas were entered into the competition

In November we were delighted to hear that Charlotte Heath had been chosen to represent the school in the Midlands Region final to be held at Edgbaston High School in Birmingham.

### Charlotte writes:

The day of the competition dawned, and I leapt out of bed early in order to practise my dish, Lamb and Date Patty Pan Tagine, for the final time. Over the previous two weeks I had practised it so often ... I could even do it in my sleep! In fact it was a relief that the competition was finally about to take place. The journey up to Edgbaston High School for Girls in Birmingham was a tense one and I was full of excitement going over the recipe again and again in my head. We finally arrived and I was the first competitor there, eventually the other six competitors arrived, and then James Martin and his team entered! In real life he is very tall and friendly. We were allocated bays and I set out my equipment and ingredients as I'd rehearsed so many times before. Then the cook-off began!

In the room there were James, his assistant Denise and two photographers. I cooked more than I needed in order to select the best of the onion squash for presentation. All I can remember is the need for speed and attention to detail with absolutely everything. I set out two plates one for tasting and one for the photography. I then left the room after 55 minutes and was the first to finish. Over the next ten minutes, everyone else finished



and James Martin gave us all a set of chefs whites, which he signed. We busily put these on whilst he and Denise left the room to taste and judge.

The atmosphere at this time was electric, and although people were chatting amongst themselves it was fairly tense. Eventually James reappeared and asked us to go back to the kitchen where it had all been laid out and photographed. We were then able to look at other people's dishes and I must say they looked awesome! One finalist had used edible flowers in his dish; there were meatballs, fresh pasta, parmesan crisps. The stakes were pretty high! James and Denise then came down to announcing the top three places, and in my heart I was hoping not to come last and that was all. Third place was announced... then second, and at that point I'd completely dismissed the idea of getting a place. Then James said the person who had come first was...ME! I just stood there with a look of 'Are you joking?' and he said, "Yes, I mean you!" I just couldn't believe it! I was living a dream... this wasn't happening! I had to try and compose myself as the photographers were snapping away at me as he handed me my prize. As he left he looked at me and said "Might be seeing you in London then" referring to the prize for the national winner as this round was just the Midlands heat.

*The next week I got a text from my mum telling me I'd won the nationals!*

*I couldn't believe it then and I still can't believe it now! But I wouldn't have got to where I am now if Mrs Luck hadn't insisted on sending in my entry, or if my parents hadn't supported me by eating the same meal for two weeks!*



**James Martin said:** "Charlotte excelled during the regional finals and impressed us with her innovative recipe, attention to detail and passion for cooking. Charlotte's Lamb and Date Patty Pan Tagine was delicious, well presented and nutritious and the standard of catering was extremely high. With so many fantastic entries this year choosing our National Champion was tough, however Charlotte really shone and I'm thrilled to name her our National Champion 2011".

### **The winning prize**

The prize, which has been tailor-made by James Martin, will see her enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to London where she will go backstage to watch the filming of *James' Saturday Kitchen* show and meet the guests. Charlotte will then enjoy both lunch and dinner with James at two of the capital's top restaurants.

The Food Technology department received vouchers for cooking equipment and we have used them to buy a food processor, mini chopper, blender, mini quiche tins, ravioli cutters and other small equipment.

*Mrs B. Luck*

*Head of Food Technology*

## Charity News

### December 2011

We have enjoyed a variety of fund-raising events during this half-term and are once again grateful for the support of students, staff, families and friends.

- Nov 1<sup>st</sup> : Young Enterprise group 'Prosper' Halloween cake sale £170.00
- Nov 15<sup>th</sup> : Help for Heroes Cake Sale £118.00
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup> : Children in Need Spotty non-uniform day £570.00
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> : Sponsored silence by Sarah Lee ( Year 7) for Birmingham Children's Hospital, where her cousin is being treated £33.98

Mrs Bradshaw has also inspired an appeal for spare spectacles for Vision Aid Overseas. An encouraging number of pairs have been collected and taken to Specsavers, who will then send them on for re-use in various parts of the world.

As part of the ongoing House assembly programme several tutor groups have highlighted the work of several charities including 'Sense' and ' Help Harry Help Others.'

Well done everyone!

*Mrs VJ Smith*

### Feed The Children UK

USR decided this year to support Feed The Children UK, this term as their House Assembly project. Every form in Ursa House filled two shoeboxes; one for a boy and one for a girl. The shoeboxes were filled with toys and everyday necessities such as toothpaste, soap, bowls & cutlery etc. The boxes were then delivered to Feed The Children in Worcester for distributing to the needy across the world. Thank you to Ursa for supporting this worthy cause!

*Simon Reid*

*Head of ICT & E-Learning*

## Shottery Amnesty Group



Saturday 10th December was UN Human Rights Day. Shottery Amnesty group celebrated the occasion by running house assemblies during the week. Sixth formers organised the assemblies, explaining to girls that Amnesty was running a "Write for rights" campaign. They are asking people to focus on ten human rights abuse cases and to write to both the people and the authorities concerned.. Details can be found on the Amnesty website . <http://www.amnesty.org/en/individuals-at-risk>

Girls organised letters to be signed and on Wednesday 7th December raised funds by selling cakes and badges. Shottery Amnesty group meets every Tuesday lunchtime during term in the Science Tech. room and any girl from Year 10 upwards is more than welcome to come along and get involved.

*Mr D Giles*

## House News

As the roaring began and the chanting of Orion, Cygnus and Ursa increased we knew the house system had set in. This memorable happening occurred at the house festival, which took place at the end of the summer term. Students participated in many house related activities such as making a house crest, dance and awards. Everyone came together to round the day off in an assembly where a public speaking competition was held and the day's creations were presented. It was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all and for us it felt this was the start of something exciting and new.

Let us rewind a little and introduce ourselves: we are the new house captains - Lydia, Bethan and Victoria (Orion, Cygnus and Ursa respectively). We are led by the new Heads of House Mr Palmer, Mrs Macvie, Mrs Bendle and the House co-ordinator Mr Burdett. It is a role that we have enjoyed very much so far as students have engrossed themselves in the new system which is supported by the introduction of vertical tutoring. There is a greater sense of community around the school as girls are mixing between years and house assemblies allow us to join together as houses to raise money for various charities or discuss topical events.

The first house event of the new academic year, the house quiz, received an incredible

day' activity and the infamous Shoterly Christmas classroom decorating thoroughly enjoyed all round it is clear to all that the restructure of the house system has been embraced by all members of the school and it definitely has the potential to expand even more to benefit all year groups.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for getting so involved in every aspect of the new house system and I'm sure we'll see you all soon!

Lydia Heynes, 13OHE Orion House Captain

Bethan Charnley, 13CSJW Cygnus House Captain

Vicky Botting, 13USLB Ursa House Captain

## History, Politics and Government Department

This has been a very busy term for the Department. We are very pleased that Mr Dominic Giles was able to join us in September to teach History, Government and Politics. He has thrown himself into the Department most enthusiastically and is already planning exciting trips for the sixth form next term.

The well established Year 8 History Day at Baddesley Clinton took place in October. It proved to be as educational and enjoyable as on previous occasions. The highlights for Year 8 are illustrated by the following comments.



"My favourite part of the trip was learning about weapons. It was fun because there was a lot of role play and Mr Hall was hanged, drawn and quartered."

"The nurse told us about medicine and the weird cures! Crocodile powder, herbs, sugar and powdered Egyptian mummies. It was really interesting and so different from today."

Year 8 all agreed it was a brilliant day out and that sentiment was shared by the year 13 historians who visited Hampton Court Palace at the end of October.



real sense of the power and size of King Henry V111 and his court. This impression was gained especially from visiting Henry's kitchens and the Chapel Royal. Characters in Tudor dress added to the occasion and the girls had the opportunity to petition the king directly.

The highlight of the day for the students included becoming lost in the maze unlike the staff who rose to the challenge and successfully navigated themselves to the centre and back again. A pony and trap ride around the amazing gardens was also greatly enjoyed.

The day may best be summed up by Rachel Hunter who found it "inspiring, sensing the strength of the Tudor dynasty."

Many thanks to all the staff who contributed to the success of both days and to the continuing enjoyment of History.

*Mrs D Gillespie*

## FOS News

Coming next from  
our ever popular...



# Pamper Evening

**Friday, 3 February 2012**

The perfect antidote to the mid-winter blues! Come and treat yourself to a fabulous array of 'feel good' therapies, including.....

Manicures, Pedicures, Mini-facials, Eyebrow Threading, Hand and Arm Massage, Indian Head Massage, Reiki, Hot Stones, Reflexology and much, much more.....

Plus therapy gift stalls, the Pamper Raffle and a licensed bar for those who need alternative treatments!

**Tickets will be on sale early in the new term. Look out for the application forms either on the School Website or through email.**

**School term and holiday dates for 2011-2012**

Last day of term Thursday 15th December

**Staff Training Day Friday 16th December**

**Spring Term 2012 3rd January - 30th March**

**Staff Training Day Tuesday 3rd January**

First day of term Wednesday 4th January

**Staff Training Day Wednesday 25th January**

Half term 13th-17th February

Last day of term Friday 30th March

**Summer Term 2012 16th April - 20th July**

First day of term Monday 16th April

May Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

Half term 4th-8th June

Last day of term Friday 20th July