

Mini Manners

Newsletter of Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls



Bertie the Bus

School Year 2010/2011: Issue 3

February 2011

Head's Headlines

It seems no time at all since Christmas, and already we're half way through the spring term. Returning to public examinations as we do for Years 12 and 13 after Christmas, and with a large number of controlled assessments and orals being scheduled for this period, the school has had its head down working. It's not a key time of year for extra-curricular activity either, with the cold weather and grey days – but then again, the pages of this *Mini Manners* record that we've not exactly been sitting still!

Looking forward...

As I write, we have two big school events still to look forward to before the half-term holiday. The first is the **school drama production**, which this year is a collection of short pieces under the title of ***Being a Girl***, which will be performed cabaret-style on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th February. I hope you have your tickets: it promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment! And the second is our celebration of World Book Day, which we are bringing a little earlier this year – to Friday 18th February. The staff have taken the theme of nursery rhymes this year, and we are all looking forward to seeing the whole school in costume to celebrate with gusto our love of books!

Looking back...

There are two events which took place at the very end of last term – too late for the December edition of *Mini Manners* – but which I would not like to go unrecorded: the Day of Celebration and the Decorated Classrooms. These two events represent in their different ways key aspects of the tremendous community spirit that we nurture at Shottery – the formal celebrations of the girls' wonderful achievements over the year, and the sense of fun that we enjoy sharing in the decorated classrooms.

This year's **Day of Celebration** broke with tradition in that it took place in the Levi Fox Hall at King Edward VI School. For the second time in three years, the RSC were unable to accommodate us in their busy winter schedule, since they still only had one theatre functioning fully, and were in the throes of opening the new theatre. Mr Bennet Carr, Headmaster at KES, very kindly extended an invitation to us to use KES's Levi Fox Hall, and we were very happy to accept. The KES site was rather busy on Wednesday 15th December, therefore, with the staff and pupils of both schools, along with our Year 13 Leavers, all there together, but everything worked really well. We are very grateful to all at KES for helping to ensure that our special day was a great success. It was, as always, lovely to see last year's Year 13 back with us, all full of excitement and stories following their first terms away – whether at university or busily engaged in gap years of various kinds. We duly celebrated their achievements, and indeed those of girls throughout the school. The performances on the day were of the very highest quality, from the Year 7 song through to the GCSE Performing Arts group – but special mention must be made of the Year 13 Theatre Studies group's dramatic re-telling of the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* using physical theatre techniques, which was first-class. Similarly spell-binding was the report on the visit to India which took place in October (reported in December's *Mini Manners*) – given in the form of photographs and poetry composed by the girls. The vote of thanks, given by Head Girl Beth Ferguson and her two Deputies, Olivia Bonner-Evans and Helen Ormrod, was also themed – to the story of Cinderella.

The previous day, Tuesday 14th December, was dominated by celebrations of a very different kind: the event that is unique to Shottery and which involves all girls in **Decorating Classrooms**. It was great, once again, to see how the girls throw themselves into the spirit of the event, transforming their classrooms so imaginatively into so many different scenes. It has become traditional to show photos of the decorated classrooms as part of the final assembly on the last day of term, so that girls can see what everybody else has done too, and the photos give perhaps a sense of the creativity, teamwork and fun ...





Admissions Criteria for the Sixth Form – from September 2012

We are currently consulting on the admissions criteria for entry to the sixth form from September 2012, in accordance with national requirements; and King Edward VI School are currently consulting on equivalent criteria for entry to their sixth form. Please see the school website (news section) for details.

Dates of August public examination results

Please make a note of the dates when GCSE and AS/A2 examination results will be published this year:

- AS/A2 results: Thursday 18th August 2011
- GCSE results: Thursday 25th August 2011.

These dates reflect a return to the usual pattern of GCE and GCSE results being a week apart. There was a different pattern last year, for one year only.

Parents' Evenings

We have introduced parent questionnaires to parents' evenings this year, taking advantage of the opportunity to seek parents' views on aspects of the school. We would be very grateful if you could take five minutes in the course of the evening to complete the forms and return them to the box on the signing-in table in the foyer. Thank you!

There has been some concern expressed – by both parents and staff – that consultations sometimes over-run. We do not wish to introduce bells, as some have suggested, as we think that would bring an unnecessary sense of pressure to the evening, but for the appointment system to work properly we need the co-operation of all parents as well as staff. Five minutes is the maximum amount of time that can be allocated to a consultation on these evenings. If the discussion between staff and parents needs to take longer than that, a further appointment should be made, rather than allowing the conversation to spill over into time allocated for others. Staff will make every effort to keep to the time of appointments, and we are asking parents to do the same. Thank you! Do please keep us informed about how you think our systems work – and provide feedback for us. We are always happy to receive suggestions and, indeed, to act on them if appropriate. It was following parents' requests, for instance, that we reverted in Years 7 and 8 to the traditional format of parents' evenings with subject teachers a few years ago, having tried a system of involving parents in interviews with form tutors.

Supervision before and after school

Parents are reminded that there is no formal supervision of pupils on the school site until morning registration at 8.50 in the morning – unless specific arrangements have been made for an extra-curricular activity. The school buildings are open earlier, however, as is the canteen – usually from 8.00am – and there are usually senior staff on the premises from that time who could be called on in an emergency. Student Services staff are available from 8.15. We would prefer those girls who arrive early to wait in the Dining Room for health and safety reasons.

Similarly, while there are staff on duty at the end of the day to supervise the girls' departure, pupils waiting for buses are not formally under staff supervision. Unless specific arrangements have been made for an extra-curricular activity, all girls are expected to be off the site before 4.15 as there is no formal supervision beyond this time. Any occasional requests for exceptions to this rule should be made in writing directly to the Headteacher.

Staff News

We welcomed two new members of staff to the Shottery team in January: **Miss Rachel Manders** has joined the English department, and **Mr Mike Ashley** has taken up a new role as Facilities Manager. We were sorry to say goodbye in February to **Mr Joss Clempson**, who has been a stalwart member of the ICT technician team for a number of years. **Mr Martin Woodger** will be joining the ICT technician team after half-term, and **Miss Kayleigh Hampstead** joins the catering staff at the same time. We hope that all our new staff will enjoy being part of the Shottery team.

Kate Barnett

Proposed Conversion to Academy Status

As you will be aware from December's *Mini Manners*, the governing body of Stratford Grammar School for Girls applied to the Department for Education (DfE) just before Christmas to become an academy under the Academies Act 2010. This article is intended to provide you with some information about the conversion process, and what being an academy will mean. Parents will also have received a letter before February half-term, inviting them to take part in the consultation process.

Will Shottery definitely become an academy?

The governing body has submitted an application to convert to academy status and is working towards a conversion in September 2011. However, the school will not be committed to becoming an academy until the contract between the governing body and the DfE (known as the Funding Agreement) is signed. Governors have not even begun to negotiate the Funding Agreement with the DfE yet, and would like to consult more widely with you as parents and carers, and with our pupils, staff and representatives within our local community, to inform their decision about whether they will sign it. We are therefore writing to you now, providing further information about what is entailed, and inviting your comments on the proposals, so that your views can inform the decision-making process. We have also held meetings with staff, and invited their comments; and we will be keeping students informed throughout the process, from the Student Council meeting on 16th February onwards.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the governing body before a decision is taken to sign the Funding Agreement. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

You might also like to know that the governors have also retained a specialist law firm to advise them on the conversion process, and the Funding Agreement will not be signed unless they are content that conversion would be in the best interests of the school taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications.

What is an academy?

An academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the Local Authority (LA) and receives its funding direct from central government. Education is still provided free to students. Previously academies have tended to replace schools which have poor results or otherwise needed to improve. Under the Academies Act 2010, however, all schools will be able to become academies, with those schools recently rated "outstanding" by Ofsted (including Shottery) able to convert first.

What are the advantages in becoming an academy?

The benefits are numerous:

- academies are independent of LA control – this means that they have more freedom about how they conduct themselves;
- academies receive their funding direct from central government – this means that academies receive more funding because none is retained by the LA for the provision of central services;
- academies have more freedom over the curriculum taught – this means that they do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider is appropriate for their pupils;
- academies can set their own pay and conditions of service for their staff –they have the freedom to alter the pay and conditions of their staff (subject to normal employment law protections for staff) and so can provide staff with better pay and conditions than previously;
- academies have more freedom to undertake innovative projects –they are companies and so have more freedom to undertake innovative projects.

The future for schools and education generally is uncertain currently, whether we become an academy or not, but we believe that taking on academy status would give us greater control over our own destiny, enabling us to take our own decisions for the ultimate good of our school and its pupils. As indicated above, academies receive their funding direct from central government, and the general principle is that they should be no worse off financially than they would be as schools under local authority control. Academies will receive extra funding in the form of the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant –

expected at Shotton to be in the region of £225,000 – which will enable us to buy in the services and support currently provided by the Local Authority. We are not convinced that we will be any better off financially as a result of this grant, but we will be able to seek out the best options for our own individual needs, and believe it will be beneficial to be able to determine for ourselves how our increasingly shrinking resources should be spent. We see this as an opportunity to improve the school for all stakeholders, especially our pupils – and to continue doing what we are doing for the good of our pupils. We also believe that the greater freedoms offered with academy status would be beneficial: greater curriculum flexibility would enable us to provide our bright and well-motivated pupils with the courses and pathways that best meet their needs, for instance; and greater flexibility in being able to offer extra incentives to staff would enable us to continue to recruit and retain the very best staff. Overall, it is our belief that academy status offers us the best opportunity to develop the school and improve standards further for our pupils.

Are there any disadvantages to becoming an academy?

As an academy we will be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety, and property maintenance. However, as mentioned above, academies receive more funding from central government to help them meet these additional costs. Indeed, as also mentioned above, the governing body and senior leadership team at Shotton believe that it may be possible to obtain the services required more cost effectively than the LA currently does and so we may be able to make better use of the resources available to us. Governors are still seeking assurances about some aspects of the liabilities of the Academy Trust (eg local government pensions and property indemnity) and will not proceed to sign the Funding Agreement until these are satisfactorily resolved, but they do not consider that the staff and pupils will suffer any disadvantages if the school becomes an academy.

What will happen to the local authority and to the school's current partnerships and collaborative arrangements?

If Shotton were to become an academy, it would still continue to have links with the local authority. Warwickshire County Council has expressed its intention to continue to embrace academies along with other categories of schools, and to work with all schools equally (albeit with different funding arrangements as necessary); and the local authority will retain responsibility for strategic school provision, for targets, transport and SATs. It will also continue to have responsibility for standards. Many of the local authority's services are already traded (and we pay for them out of our own budget already), and the school will be able to continue to buy into these as it does now. There is considerable concern about how individual schools' decisions to become academies might impact upon the local authority and other schools, but the DfE maintains that schools who opt to stay within LA control will not be financially disadvantaged.

We intend to continue working in partnership for the benefit of our own and other local pupils through the various networks in which we currently play an active part. Such partnerships include the collaborative post-16 arrangements we operate with Stratford High School, Stratford College and KES, and which allow students from all Stratford post-16 institutions to access a wider curriculum in the sixth form. We wish to preserve the legacy of our specialisms in languages and science, and to continue to work in partnership with our local primary and secondary schools, including Welcombe Hills. And we intend to work ever more closely with the South Warwickshire Area schools and the local Stratford Extended Services Cluster. We think we benefit a lot from working with others and we see many advantages in continuing to do so.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

If Stratford Grammar School for Girls were to become an academy, it would retain its current admissions arrangements and would continue to be a selective girls' school. However, we would become our own admissions authority, as KES, Alcester Grammar School and Rugby High School for Girls are already (as voluntary-aided or foundation schools respectively). This means periodic consultation, and regularly publishing the academy's admission arrangements. Whether we remain as a community school or become an academy, however, we will continue to work with the other four Warwickshire Grammar Schools on admissions and seek to maintain the current common arrangements. Academies are responsible for setting their own PAN (Planned Admission Number) and other admission arrangements and for making decisions on which pupils should be offered places in accordance with those arrangements. In practice there will be restrictions on this freedom in that the academy will still be bound by the national Admissions Code, and Admissions Appeals Code. The current admission arrangements

will therefore remain in place, at least for the time being. If the academy wanted to change any aspect of its admission arrangements, consultation would be required.

Will staff leave?

Stratford Grammar School for Girls is currently a community school, and, as such, its staff are employed by the LA. If the school converts to an academy, all staff will automatically transfer to the new academy on their current pay and conditions. Although the academy will have more freedom to amend those pay and conditions in the future, the governing body does not intend to take such a step in the foreseeable future and, in any event, any change to pay and conditions would need to be consulted upon with staff. Ultimately, we wish to retain our existing excellent staff and will do everything we can to ensure that we continue to offer our staff the best pay and conditions that we can.

Will the name of the school change?

No. We are extremely proud of our tradition, inheritance and reputation and do not wish to change the school's name. We will remain as Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls. We want to remain connected with our community of former students, and we want all our staff and students past and present to benefit from the school's excellent reputation.

Will there be changes to the education my daughter receives?

We want to continue to be an outstanding school. We therefore do not intend to change, except in ways which we think will improve the school even more. For students, it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day to day school lives. Academies do have the power to vary the length of the school term and school day, but we do not intend to take any such steps at this stage. Both staff and parents have children in other Warwickshire schools, and would find it difficult, if not impossible, to juggle all their commitments if we were to change the current arrangements. Change could also jeopardise our partnership work. And many of our students depend on transport that is shared with other schools. However, if we did ever intend to make such changes in the future, we would consult widely with parents/carers, staff and students.

Will there be any change in the way transport is organised?

The LA retains responsibility for transport whether the school becomes an academy or not.

Will the uniform change?

A number of students have asked whether we would change our uniform if we became an academy. The answer in the short term is "No." In the medium term we might well look to review uniform with students and parents. We are, however, aware of the investment that parents and suppliers make, and any change would need to be phased in over time.

Will there be changes to the way that the governors operate?

The model Articles of Association (which can be downloaded from the DfE website) make it clear that the governing body of the academy can continue to have elected parent and staff representation as at present. The current governing body will be dissolved on the date that the school becomes an academy. The current governing body would make the necessary arrangements to form an Academy Trust (a charitable company limited by guarantee) with between three and six Members, who would establish the legal position and draw up the necessary Articles of Government. They would then appoint the Governors (also known as Trustees or Directors) who would manage the academy on behalf of the Members of the Academy Trust. Governors' key responsibilities would be to ensure the quality of education provision and to challenge and monitor the performance of the Academy (as at present), but also to manage the Academy Trust's finances and property and employ the staff. Governors' personal liabilities will alter very little if the school becomes an academy, but Governors are likely to be involved more fully in managing the business of the School, to have more responsibilities, and to become Directors. We anticipate that most, if not all, of our existing governors will transfer to become either Members or Governors of the Academy Trust (and, in some cases, both).

How can I find out more?

There is information on the school website – <http://www.stratfordgrammar.co.uk> – and you might also like to consult the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>. If your question is not answered in any of these places, please email us at the school, to admin4002@we-learn.com, putting “Academies” in the subject line of your email. We will endeavour to reply to your enquiry within a working week.

How can I make representations?

The consultation period opens on Wednesday 16th February 2011, and the closing date for representations to be made is **Thursday 31st March 2011**. Representations can be made in writing to: John Millett, Chair of the Governors’ Academies Working Group, c/o Stratford Grammar School for Girls, Shottery Manor, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9HA; or by email to admin4002@we-learn.com, putting “Academies” in the subject line of your email. All representations received will be considered by the governing body at their next meeting, which is on Wednesday 6th April 2011.

Will there be a meeting for interested parents?

The governors will be happy to hold a meeting in the week beginning 21st March 2011 if there are parents/carers from more than ten families who would like to attend. Please let us know if you would welcome such a meeting by emailing us at the above address.

Thank you for your continued support for the school, and for your interest and understanding.

Kate Barnett

English Department

Poetry Live!

On Tuesday 8th February Year 11 went to Oxford to a “Poetry Live!” presentation in order to hear about and listen to the poems they are studying for GCSE, spoken by the poets themselves. Among these poets were Gillian Clarke and Simon Armitage, as well as Carol Ann Duffy, the Poet Laureate. It was a chance for us to gain perspective and interpretations of the poems straight from the horses’ mouths, so to speak – an opportunity which was invaluable in preparing us for when we come to be examined on these poets’ works in the summer.

Carol Ann Duffy was second to speak, providing us with the stories behind her best works and what they meant to her when she wrote them. Also speaking that day was an AQA examiner, who gave us useful advice as to how to get the best grades, but also how to read the poems for ourselves rather than rely on other peoples’ analysis. After wishing us good luck for the summer, he introduced Simon Armitage. Armitage was a welcome contrast to the solemnity of the examiner, joking and sharing anecdotes as he spoke about his poems. He told us how he had pierced his ear with nothing more than a safety pin, how he had only pursued poetry as a career to spite his teacher who hadn’t rated his poems when he was younger, and how he liked the name “John”, which put him at the top of Mr Gallagher’s list of favourite poets.

After a short lunch break we went back into the massive lecture hall along with the many other schools from all over Warwickshire and the Cotswolds, and heard a bit from some poets that we weren’t studying. Despite this, it was still interesting to hear their poems and to hear them speak. Another talk from the AQA examiner, and then Imtiaz Dharker came to the stage and we heard a bit about her life – her books, her drawings and her documentary film-making. She then read a couple of her poems, one of which was drawn on her work with UNICEF.

“Poetry Live!” provided us with advice, ideas and tips that will hopefully help us a lot in our exams. It was a very useful and worthwhile day out and we hope that Year 11s in following years will enjoy it too.

Sarah Hardy (Year 11)

Food Technology Department

GCSE Food Technology visit to the Good Food Show

On November 24th 2010 a group of Year 10 and 11 Food Technology students went to the Good Food show at the NEC in Birmingham. When we arrived we went straight to a cookery demonstration by James Martin. It was a very funny and interesting show in which James Martin made two delicious winter desserts and handed out various free gifts including cookbooks. After this we were able to explore the exhibition for several hours until the early afternoon. This was not difficult as the exhibition was enormous and contained stalls selling everything from oil to aprons and mops to saucepans. As well as being an ideal opportunity for the Year 11 students to buy innovative ingredients and equipment for their coursework, we were also able to indulge in the many free products available to taste and admire the new products and huge selection of cookbooks. Eventually it was time to leave, and we returned to the coach happy but with full stomachs and aching feet. Over all it was a great trip and it was fascinating to see the selection of cookery products available today. All the products tasted were delicious and we all really enjoyed the trip.

Clara Theil (Year 10)

Humanities Department

Trip to Houses of Parliament

Year 12 and 13 students studying Economics, Politics, Geography and Business Studies recently enjoyed an excellent visit to the Houses of Parliament. The trip was arranged with the help of Stratford District Council as the final part of a programme on the role of national and local government. The programme, designed to inform our students about some of the difficult issues and decisions facing the country, included a very interesting talk from Nadhim Zahawi, our local MP, and an open meeting with two leading local Councillors, Sue Wixey and Hazel Wright. All three events proved to be very informative and stimulating, proving that our students have a real desire to be involved in politics.

One of the group of thirty six students, Harriet Cole, has written the following account of our visit.

H Ellis

At 8.15am on Tuesday 8th February, a group of thirty six girls were sleepily wondering why they had applied to go on a trip to the Houses of Parliament! However, after a three hour journey, the whole group were very excited as we waited in the freezing Westminster Hall for our guide. When he arrived, he was certainly enthusiastic, with a presence described by Mrs Whan as "a sweetie". He proceeded to take us through Parliament, including the House of Commons, House of Lords and the Royal Robing Room.

The tour was very interesting, made even better because of our guide's love of the history of Parliament and its buildings. We finished our tour in Westminster Hall which, like all the other rooms, has plenty of interesting history but was particularly special because it is the oldest part. Although the timber roof was not as old, it had extra interest for us when we found out that it was completely self-supporting with no screws, nuts or bolts! This may not sound impressive until you realise that its design was similar to that of a Viking ship!



At the end of the tour we had lunch, met up with a Shotton old girl who was working as an intern for our MP and got ready for the second half of the day: the House of Lords in action! Before we went into the House we watched one British parliamentary tradition, the procession of the Speaker into the House of Commons, which was good to see even if it was over very quickly. After this we proceeded to a full House of Lords and there, to our excitement, was Lord Sugar! After our whispering died down we tried to understand what was being discussed – sometimes a little difficult although they were all very polite to each other! Towards the end of the session there were several votes. It was very exciting to see Parliament in action, even if some of the Lords seemed to be falling asleep!

Then we were ready to go home. The day had been great and to top it all off we saw Nick Robinson walk past as we made our way to the coach where Mrs Ellis, Mrs Whan and Mrs Gillespie had a well deserved flask of tea! Everyone agreed that a good day was had by all.

Harriet Cole (Year 12)

And this was one of the applications we received for the trip:

Houses of Parliament is one of London's greatest sites
On the banks of the Thames, oh what a sight
Up I look, to see Big Ben
Showing we have arrived just after ten
Every MP has a point of view
Some support David Cameron through and through

Opportunities to learn new things
Fundamental for whatever my university course may bring

Politics is the main debate
All the parties working till late
Rules which keep our country in line
Laws are passed & history is made over time
In the House of Commons and House of Lords
All matters discussed about here and abroad
Members of Parliament I may see
Even my local MP!
Nadhim Zahawi will be a great tour guide
Teaching us about Laws we must abide

Emily Green (Year 13)

Library

Twenty four very enthusiastic Year 7 students, supported by the Library staff, are currently taking part in this year's **Warwickshire Book Award** scheme. The girls are reading and meeting to discuss a shortlist of six novels of a wide variety of genres and styles which have been published in the last year. And what fantastic discussions and fun have we are having!

After the half-term break we will all meet together to vote for our own Shotton winner and later in March we will attend the Final Celebration Event at the Bridge House Theatre, Warwick. Here there will be competitions and prizes, and we will meet two (maybe three) of the short-listed authors. We will vote along with other Warwickshire Secondary Schools to find the overall Warwickshire Book award Winner 2011. Thank you to all the wonderful Year 7s who are taking part.

K Tanner and A Curtis

PE Department

January and February have not been as cold as predicted and certainly not as cold as before Christmas; however this term we have trialled PE lessons down at the Leisure Centre for Year 8 and 9 Games afternoons. Despite what some girls felt was a very long walk to the centre, lessons have been very successful and it has allowed us to continue to teach the syllabus without the worries of freezing temperatures. This half term has also seen more matches for the girls as we head towards Tournament season in March. This last week has also seen the arrival of Bertie – not only the school's first ever minibus but also the PE department's secret weapon at fixtures; oh, and our new lucky mascot!! We are all looking forward to using it soon.

Netball

This half term has seen matches for all age groups with the Year 7 a and b teams proving to be very successful, winning all of their games. The U15 team took part in their county tournament and faced some very strong opposition at the start but proved themselves later on, drawing with AGS and beating Kingsley to finish 8th overall in Warwickshire. The U18 team took part in an invitational tournament at Malvern St James all against private day or boarding schools, and, despite gale force winds and opposition a foot taller the team performed very well and narrowly missed out on a place in the semi finals.

For the diary: there are Saturday Netball tournaments for Year 8 on the 12th March from 9.00 am till 12.00 noon and Year 7 on Saturday 26th March from 9.00 am till 12.00 noon. Please girls make every effort to be available and parents please do come and watch: we need your support.



U18 Netball team

Hockey

This has been a term of consolidation in training as there have not been many matches; however this training will all be important after half term as U15, U14, U13 and U12 all have tournaments to compete in. Parent support for these tournaments will be much appreciated, and the cheers from the side line can motivate weary legs to run faster and score goals!

- U12 Wednesday 2nd March South Warwickshire; Saturday 5th March Warwickshire finals
- U13 Thursday 17th Feb Warwickshire Rounds; Wednesday 9th March Warwickshire inals;
Thursday 17th March National Cup Round one
- U14 Thursday 17th March South Warwickshire
- U15 Thursday 3rd March Warwickshire Rounds; Wednesday 16th March Warwickshire finals.



On Friday 28th January we hosted St Luke's School from Argentina, and a mixture of players from Year 12 to Year 10 played in an end to end game which saw all the goals scored in the second half.

We took the lead, but then St Luke's got two back, and in the dying seconds of the game a goal which was generated in the backs and saw Immy Flynn score, meant the final score was 2-2. This was our best ever result against foreign opposition. Well done, girls!

Senior Hockey match against St Luke's, Argentina

Cross Country

On a very cold Saturday morning in mid January Miss Griffiths and Mrs Casement along with nine girls and their parents braved the Moreton Morrell cross country course for this year's Warwickshire Championships. Jessica Saunders from Year 13 missed the senior race because of public examinations; however we are hoping that previous performances will be taken into account for her to run at the English schools finals in March. Tas Pope from Year 10 took part in the Intermediate race that was for Year 11 and 10 girls and finished an excellent 4th overall and is guaranteed a place at the English Schools Finals. Sophie Wouters (Year 8) finished 8th in her race and we will wait to here if she makes the English Schools finals; however she led the rest of the team of Ingrid Laubscher 15th, Lucy Wood 17th and Georgia Hunt 27th to finish 3rd overall in the whole of Warwickshire. The Year 7 team managed to go one better and came 2nd over all with Annie Cox coming 13th, Maya Rogers 14th, Lamorna Jarvis 23rd and Tess Eastgate 29th. Well done to all girls and I hope all the parents have now thawed out!!

Indoor Athletics

The Year 7 and 8 teams took part in this year's competition with plenty of enthusiasm, despite missing some team mates due to illness and injury. There were some excellent performances from Sophie Stone in triple jump; Immy North in speed bounce; Maya Rogers in the six lap race and Sophie Wouters in the six lap race. With all of the results in after a long evening of competition the Year 7 team finished 3rd and the Year 8 team finished 5th. Well done to everyone.



Year 8 football team

Football

For the first time ever we entered both a Year 7 and a Year 8 team into the girls' football competition: a six-a-side event on the astro at the High School. The Year 7 team played three games, winning one, losing one and drawing one and finishing 3rd overall. The Year 8 team won all of their games scoring six goals and conceding none and were crowned South Warwickshire Champions. Well done, girls!

Hattie Rowe Year 8 football captain with the winning trophy



Year 7 football team



Rowing

More Year 7 students have had the chance of training with the legend that is Andy Roe! They have been put through their paces on the ergos. Meanwhile the older girls continue to train hard both on the ergos and with the occasional Head race; yes they were breaking the ice in January before they could row! This is all in preparation for the schools' head competition in March and then the normal regattas in the summer (minus the frozen lakes!) including the Ball Regatta held at Dorney Lake, the London 2012 Venue for rowing. Good luck, girls, and keep the hard work going.

Sports Tour to Australia & Singapore in 2013

Australia is a wonderful place, which I have fortunately already been privileged to visit. I now want to take Shottery girls there to join in what our cricket boys have done this year and beat the Australians at sport in their own back yard! But it's more than just a sports tour: this trip will also allow girls to visit an amazing country, and see world famous sites and unusual animals. However, the highlight of all sports tours is meeting the locals and sharing in some of their customs and way of life. If your daughter is in Year 8-10 and willing to play some hockey or netball, and have a trip that will give her memories to last a lifetime, get in touch with me and I can pass on more details.



This really is a once-in-a-lifetime school trip, that can't be missed!

Summer sports

Summer is just around the corner and we will be playing summer sport in curriculum time after half term, so please dust off the tennis rackets and bring out the cricket bats. Lunchtime clubs will start straight after half term with summer sports and week beginning 28th March all after school clubs will also be switching to the summer sports, so the following are dates for the diary:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning			Fitness MG		
Lunch time 1.20pm-2pm	Badminton GCSE Rounders Y7 & Y9/10	Circuits GCSE Athletics Y7- 10 Tennis Y7-10 coaching	Netball GCSE Athletics Y7- 10 Y8 Rounders Tennis Club	Dance/Gym GCSE Cricket Club Tennis Club	Stool Ball Club Running; Tennis Club
After school Feb & March	Y9&10 Hockey Club	Y7&8 Netball Club	Y8-11 Street Cheer Y7 Rowing	Y9&10 Netball Y8-11 Lacrosse Table tennis	Y7&8 Hockey club
After school Mon 28 th March~ 7 th July	Y8-10 Tennis	Y7-10 Rounders	Y7-10 Athletics Y7 Rowing	Cricket Club Y7 tennis	

GCSE PE

This year has seen the introduction of GCSE short course PE to Year 10. The forty girls that have chosen to take the course have been outstanding with their keenness to practise their sports and learn about

different training methods and principles. The month of March will see all forty girls perform two different sports each to make up 60% of the course and this will be followed in May with a written exam. For March some lunchtime clubs will be handed over to just GCSE practice, so, girls, I do urge you to take full opportunity of this extra practice time. Monday Badminton; Tuesday Circuit training; Wednesday Netball and Thursday Dance and Gym.

Any Year 9 who wants to know more about GCSE PE see Miss Griffiths or ask one of the forty Year 10 girls!

Finally the PE department would like to thank all girls for their constant hard work and commitment to sport. We would also like to thank parents for the repeated collecting and ferrying of girls. Have a restful half term and be ready for a busy second half of the spring term.

Thank you.

M Griffiths

Science College

Physics Olympiad

Six Year 13 Physicists entered for the Physics Olympiad this year and, following excellent performances in the challenging preliminary round, four moved on to the next stage of the competition. These were Sushma Datla, Naomi Sutton, Francesca Tromans and Rozemarijn Wesby. Here they again showed strong performances, all gaining Commendation awards, and particular mention should go to Naomi Sutton who just missed out on a prestigious Bronze award. Very well done to all who took part.

*K Richardson
Director of Science College*

Charity News

I am pleased to report the following final figures for our Christmas Fundraising:

Crisis for Christmas: £260.00 together with a large shipment of men's socks, with the delivery generously arranged by Mrs Shephard's husband

Shakespeare Hospice: £94.95 Staff donation in lieu of sending Christmas cards

Make A Wish: £88.84 raised by 8CP with a cake stall and sponsored activities

The staff have also recently sent £35 to the **Eve Appeal** for ovarian cancer and Mrs Bradshaw has begun a series of activities to raise money for the **British Lung Foundation**, for which her daughter will be running the London Marathon in April. This charity will also be the focus for this term's non-uniform day. It will have a red theme and will take place on Friday 8th April.

Thank you again for all your support.

VJ Smith

FOS News

Good news first. I'm delighted to say that the **new school minibus**, purchased by FOS, arrived at the school on February 10th – and can be seen on the front cover of this newsletter. All our girls can expect to be making trips in it at some point and our hope is that it will provide much greater flexibility for the organisers of a wide range of out of school activities.

Disappointed but not disheartened...as you may have seen on the school website, we had to cancel our **Burns Evening** earlier this month when it became clear that we did not have anywhere near enough people to make it a successful event. Our losses were about £350 but if we have a decent measure of support from parents for our future events we can soon put this behind us. At some point when the economic climate is brighter I'm sure the Burns Evening will return.

It has certainly not deterred us from forging ahead with our **Murder Mystery Evening** which we will be holding in the atmospheric surroundings of the Manor on Saturday 19th March (please see our flyer). Our own girls will be taking on the role of "suspects" and our own team will be providing a two course meal of the usual high standard.

If you have any ideas or preferences for another type of event we would like to hear from you. We are always on the lookout for something different.

200 Club News: the January and February 200 Club winners are as follows:

January	1 st No 3 – Sue Roberts
	2 nd No 60 - Simon Ewing
	3 rd No101- I & J Reid
February	1st No15 – Linda McCormick
	2nd No 65 – Kate Devereux
	3rd No 34 - Harry Owen

We are building up our returns from the **easyfundraising** idea as more and more parents are registering as Shottery supporters on the *easyfundraising* website and using the portal to make purchases from a wide range of mainstream online retailers such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, House of Fraser, M&S, TescoDirect, etc. It will take a few seconds for you to register *Friends of Stratford Grammar (FOS)* as your chosen charity. After that, every time you place an order with a retailer by accessing the retailer's site through the www.easyfundraising.org.uk portal, FOS will receive a percentage of the retailer's price at no cost to you. Just looking at some famous names beginning with the letter A that percentage is 2.5% with Amazon, and as much as 4% with Argos, Apple, Avon, APH, Accorhotels, Asda Entertainment the list is huge. Think of a familiar name selling online and there's a good chance they're on the list. It really is an easy and painless way of helping FOS and hence the school.

The **People to People** visit will be from 25th to 28th June this year when we will be inviting parents to host our American guests. We do not as yet know from which part of the US this year's group will come but more information should be available shortly.

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

Another group is looking ahead to the **Year 13 Leavers' Celebration** and garden party on 28th June. Once again the ideas of the girls themselves are most welcome, particularly when it comes to deciding on this year's choice of memento. Any girl or parent who would like to be included in these preparations should contact Liz Harrison Hall on liz.hh@btinternet.com

Ian Frost
Chair of FOS

Alumnae Society

Cambridge Reunion

Following the recent reunions of the Shottery Alumnae in Stratford-upon-Avon starting in 2008, this event, at the end of January 2011 in Cambridge, was the first one to be held outside the home town and was such a successful gathering of undergraduates who were educated at Shottery, that we feel encouraged to plan the next one in another city/town where there are lot of former students living in the area. Students from Anglia-Ruskin University and Cambridge University colleges were invited to meet at The Eagle between 5.00-7.00pm for a drink. Most of the twenty four students were able to manage to meet at different points during the evening and it was so very good to see them all looking well and very happy with student life. It was also beneficial for them, enabling students from different year groups and different subjects to meet each other and network - some were meeting for the first time in a social capacity across the year groups. It was a really merry occasion and all of them reflected on how happy they had been at Shottery and felt they had been supported so well at every level of their school life. It was a worthwhile pilot to have a 'satellite' reunion and it is the committee's intention to network, through the former head girls, in planning the next reunion somewhere in the UK perhaps later in the year.

The alumnae in the photograph from left to right are Hafsa Zayyan, Annabel Butcher, Hannah Owen, Laura Stevens, Clare Kitteringham, Felicity Davies, Anna Jacka and Miss Brownhill (Alumnae chair) and in the back row, Julia Petrenko and Natasha Perks.

Forthcoming events include a Reunion Dinner at Le Bistrot Pierre, in the Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford on Friday, 8th April at 7.30pm: all details to be found on Facebook. This will appeal to those alumnae of all year groups who live locally. There is a choice of menu rather than a set meal/price (see the information on Facebook) and replies plus cheques need to be in school by 1st March. We do hope that parent alumnae feel encouraged to come, as well as former Shottery pupils from the surrounding towns and villages.

The AGM, followed by a Garden Party and Music in the Manor will be on 25th June this year - further details to be announced later.

D Brownhill





**invite you
to a**



SATURDAY 19TH MARCH

7.00 P.M. IN THE MANOR HOUSE

TICKETS £12 TO INCLUDE SUPPER

(WITH VEGETARIAN OPTIONS)

BAR AVAILABLE (TO CALM THE NERVES)

✂-----✂
To book your tickets please complete this slip and return to the red FoS box in
Student Services. Please mark your envelope "MURDER MYSTERY".

Please reserve.....places at £12 each - Vegetarian meals required.....

Teams can be from 2 - 10 people

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to FoS

Signed..... Name (please print).....

Daughter's name and Class.....

Email address**

Thank you for your support - we look forward to seeing you there!

**to confirm booking & advise of future FoS events

School term and holiday dates for 2010-2011

Spring Term 2011

Staff Training Day

First day of term

Staff Training Day

Half term

Last day of term

Tuesday 4th January - Wednesday 13th April

Tuesday 4th January

Wednesday 5th January

Wednesday 26th January

21st-25th February

Wednesday 13th April

Summer Term 2011

First day of term

Bank Holiday - Royal Wedding

May Bank Holiday

Half term

Last day of term

Wednesday 27th April - Friday 22nd July

Wednesday 27th April

Friday 29th April

Monday 2nd May

30th May-3rd June

Friday 22nd July

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