

Mini Manners

Newsletter of Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls



Operation Wallacea: Madagascar



World Challenge: South Africa

Head's Headlines

Welcome to the first edition of *Mini Manners* for this new school year – the first of our six half-termly newsletters in which we take a retrospective look back over the half-term. This time last year we published the newsletter electronically for the first time, and that was, I think, a big step forward into a more eco-friendly and efficient means of communicating our news – as well as a vast improvement aesthetically on the A5 black and white printed format we had used previously. However, we became aware during the year that attaching such a big document (with so many photos) to an email caused problems for a number of home computers, and hence the revised process this year. We hope that uploading the newsletter to the website and alerting you via Schoolcomms when it's there will prove to be even more efficient. This is part of our drive to achieve better school-home communications this year, and we would welcome your observations on how to improve things further (see below).



It's not long since I wrote to you last: as I write now, it's only two weeks since I sent out my September welcome letter, and we have just one week to go before the half-term holiday. Some of the more exciting highlights of the year so far have included the Spanish exchange outward leg to Sevilla, visits to London for the sixth form Classics and Art students and a Tudor workshop at Baddesley Clinton for Year 8. Closer to home, we have had the Last Night of the Proms concert (on Wednesday 14th September), the International Day of Languages, several theatre trips, coffee mornings for Macmillan (in school) and Help for Heroes (Saturday 1st October: the Alumnae Society), the PGL netball tour, the first Pupil Review Day of the year – and a whole school photograph. The Year 11 Geographers will be spending a large part of the last week of this half-term at Orierton in Pembrokeshire, studying river and coastal environments, and a group of girls from Years 8 and 9 are on a hockey tour in Holland for the week. The rest of the school will also have the opportunity to take part in learning outside the classroom this week, too, since the first Extended Learning Day of the year will take place on Tuesday 18th October: Year 7 will be visiting the Quentin Blake exhibition at Compton Verney; Year 8 will explore the Roman heritage of Cirencester; Year 9 will have Smallpeice Trust design technology workshops at school; Year 10 and the Year 11 non-Geographers will be visiting Oxford (Keble College and Oxford Brookes University); Year 12 will be looking forward (already!) to their post-18 options; and Year 13 will be working on their Extended Projects, undertaking Oxbridge preparation activities or visiting Hampton Court Palace. You will find further details (and photos) of many of these events and activities later in this newsletter – or, in the case of those happening in this final week of the half-term, in the next newsletter, in December. Other exciting reports that you will find in this newsletter include those on activities that took place too late to be able to publish in July's edition – especially the World Challenge expedition to South Africa and the Operation Wallacea scientific research expedition to Madagascar.

This enormous breadth of activity adds to the great richness of education at Shottery, to say nothing of the fun and extra stimulation to learning that such opportunities provide. But of course the good reputation of the school rests on its academic successes as well as on the breadth of the experiences that it offers girls. And in the context of academic success, it is of course the daily foundation of lessons that forms the core of learning at the heart of the school. That this core is sound has been confirmed by the excellent examination results this summer – see below. My thanks go to the dedicated and sterling staff of the school that enable us to do both!



*Exam Results: A-level (above)
and GCSE (below)*





Public Examination Results

I gave an overview of these in the September letter, but here it is again, in case you missed it...

We were delighted with our examination results this summer, which broke new records in the percentage of girls achieving the top grades at both GCSE and A-level. This led to the Stratford Herald identifying us as the Warwickshire school with the highest percentage of A*-B grades at A-level (86%) – including independent schools as well as state schools. And our A*/A percentage at GCSE (83%) was also a new record for us – as also the percentages of girls gaining five or more A*/A grades (91%) and even eight or more A*/A grades (74%). More importantly, however, the vast majority of girls were successful in securing places at their chosen universities, and results day was really very calm, despite the unusually fierce competition for places this year as the last year before the big rise in tuition fees. We were very proud of our girls! Both girls and staff are to be congratulated on their excellent performance.



Welcome to new staff – and staff in new roles

I trust that all parents received a copy of my September letter which included a warm welcome to all parents and girls joining the Shottery community for the first time. The only people that I have yet to welcome formally in print, therefore, are the new staff – although they were of course welcomed to the school in assembly at the very beginning of the year! Stratford Grammar School for Girls is very fortunate in its staff: they are an incredibly committed, caring and dedicated group of highly-qualified professionals, and I am very grateful for all that they do for the girls. We are therefore very pleased to welcome the following new staff to the team:

New Teaching Appointments

Miss Abigail El-Bekai	English (pt)
Mr Dominic Giles	History and Government & Politics
Mrs Fiona Horne	Food Technology (pt)
Mrs Laura Insley	Teacher of English (maternity cover)
Mrs Elizabeth Stringer	Head of German and Teacher of French
Mrs Chiho Yoneyama	Teacher of Japanese (pt)

Support Staff Appointments

Mr Paul Day	School Business Manager
Mr Bob Hampton	ICT Technician
Mrs Liz Wurtzler	Administrative Assistant and Clerk to the Governors

We also have a number of existing staff who have taken up new roles this September, and we congratulate them on these new positions:

Teachers moving post

Mrs Heather Bendle	Head of Ursa House (in addition to SENCo)
Mrs Fiona Macvie	Head of Cygnus House (in addition to Assistant SENCo)
Mr Andrew Palmer	Head of Orion House (in addition to Head of DT)
Mrs Amy Stickels	Director of Sixth Form Studies (in addition to Head of RS, now job-shared with...)
Mrs Karen Steele	Head of RS (job share)
Mr Tom Burdett	Assistant to the Heads of House
Miss Rachel Manders	Second in English (Acting)

Support Staff moving posts this term

Mrs Lesley Frazer	Administrative Manager (as well as Head's PA)
Mrs Jane Pearson	Attendance Officer
Mrs Val Stenning	Personnel and Payroll (pt)

We said goodbye to three further members of staff after the last newsletter was published: Mr Paul Brayford (Teacher of History and Government & Politics), Mr Martin Woodger (ICT Technician), and Mr Greg Whan (Assistant Caretaker). We would like to thank all three for their service to the school.

International Links

Developing an international perspective across the work of the school in as many ways as possible has long been important for Stratford Grammar School for Girls, and that we have been successful in achieving the prestigious International Schools Award not just one but twice, is testimony of this too. This half-term has once again been important in developing and extending our global perspectives and international links. There is a report elsewhere in this newsletter on this year's highly successful Spanish exchange visit and on our celebration of European Day of Languages – which in this school is always more of an *International* Day of Languages. And, as already noted above, we will have girls on tour in Holland before half-term.



*Left to right:
Mrs Nikkie Whan, Mrs Prabhjot Masih,
Ms Kate Barnett and Mrs Carol Monthero*

We have also this last week welcomed to the school two colleagues from St Columba School, Mumbai. Principal Mrs Prabhjot Masih and International Co-ordinator Mrs Carol Monthero have been working with us on joint curriculum projects which the two schools have devised, supported by funding from the British Council. I first took part in an exchange visit with Mrs Prabhjot Masih in 2008/2009, when the foundations were laid for partnership as part of an area-based Warwickshire link with Mumbai. Then in 2010/2011 the partnership was further developed when two teachers took part in exchange visits: Mrs Monthero came from Mumbai, as a History teacher, and exchanged with Mrs Whan from Shotton, a Geography teacher. These visits have led to the development of joint curriculum work between the two schools: Year 7 students sharing autobiographical writing in English, Year 8 students looking at historical perspectives, and Year 9 students working together on views of globalisation in Geography – and, in turn, to the award of the

British Council Global Curriculum Project grant. The intention has always been to build the partnership in order to enable students to travel across the globe between the two schools, and the British Council Global Curriculum Project award will enable us to do just that. As Mrs Masih said: "This long-term and well-planned working partnership gives us a fantastic opportunity to maintain and sustain friendships across borders. The aim is to encourage our students to indulge in life-changing experiences to enhance their own personal development and in the process become global citizens – and perhaps even global women leaders." The project is being co-ordinated at the Stratford end by International Co-ordinator and Director of Language College, Mr Tom Couliou. As well as having a busy week in school, the Indian teachers took part in visits to Stratford upon Avon College and Welcombe Hills School, in addition to centres of local interest such as the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Symphony Hall in Birmingham. Mrs Masih has recently received a gold medal from the Indian Solidarity Council for outstanding achievement in the field of education, as well as a further award from the International Institute of Education and Management. One delightful extra link that we have discovered between the two schools is that the mother of two of our current Shotton pupils, Niki and Tania Shukla, was actually a pupil at St Columba School, Mumbai, herself – and it was lovely to be able to invite Mrs Ritu Shukla to have lunch with Mrs Masih and Mrs Monthero.



Mrs Masih and Mrs Monthero in English

And some final messages and reminders...

There were important notices in my September letter about girls arriving on the school site before 8.30 in the morning and staying later than 4.10 in the evening – and also about parking. I do not want to repeat them here, but would ask you to check that letter (it's on the school website, for instance, accessible through the parents' area) if you are not aware of these notices.

Requests for holidays in term-time

I would like to remind all parents of the guidelines regarding holidays in term time. Full details – and a copy of the Warwickshire form – are included in the Key Stage Handbooks, which are available on the website. In brief: some parents arrange family holidays during term time, which can lead to problems for all concerned:

- your child's education suffers;
- lessons and extra curricular activities are missed;
- continuity of project work is lost;
- there is often no opportunity for teachers to set additional work or to assist a child in catching up on their return from holiday;
- the class is generally disrupted; other pupils suffer as a result;
- you may be in breach of your legal obligation to send your child to school.

There is a common misconception that any pupil is allowed to take ten days holiday per academic year in term time. This is not true. In certain circumstances the parent or parent(s) with whom a pupil normally resides can request leave of absence of up to ten school days for an annual family holiday, and this may be authorised by the school. Only in exceptional circumstances can any more than ten days be granted. The DfE expects us to actively discourage all holidays in term time.

If you are unable to avoid requesting absence during school term, an application must be made directly to me enclosing an application form (available from Mrs Frazer, the Head's PA). This should be not less than six weeks before the absence is due to start. A response will be sent to you within 14 days of receipt of your request. If your request is refused, but the child will still be absent from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and *may* be reported to the LA for legal action.

In short, any unauthorised absence is damaging to your child's education as well as reflecting badly on the school. Please consider this matter very carefully before making a request for absence during term time.

Communications: Schoolcomms

As already mentioned above and in the September letter, we are making greater use of the Schoolcomms system for communicating on a regular basis with parents this year. We are working towards much greater consistency and regularity in communications, and aim to have all letters to parents posted on both the parents' (password-protected) area on the website and the student area of the Moodle. And, in order to be sure that you know they are there, we will send you a Schoolcomms message giving you the link, username and password, and telling you what to look for. We will aim to do this on Thursdays, although there may sometimes be a need to communicate on other days too. On rare occasions or with very important messages, we will send a longer message via Schoolcomms (or, very rarely, add an attachment to the Schoolcomms message). But that will be unusual: the standard method will be to send a simple message via Schoolcomms to alert you to look on the website for the information. Hard copies of letters will not normally be sent out, although girls can always ask Student Services for a printed copy of a letter if, for example, your home printer is not working. I trust that parents will find this helpful. If you have further suggestions of how we might make the system even more efficient and helpful, please do let us know.

Privacy Notice

Please note the information contained in the notice which is appended to this edition of *Mini Manners*. In order to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, schools are required to issue this Privacy Notice to parents and pupils summarising the information that is held about pupils, why it is held, and the third parties to whom it may be passed.

Uniform

Thank you to all parents for helping us to maintain high standards in the uniform for both main school and sixth form girls. We are delighted to see so many main school girls looking very smart in their new skirts with the school logo; while the vast majority of sixth form girls look really good in their formal business suits. Please continue to support us in our continued drive to raise standards in this area. In this context, therefore, I would like to remind parents and girls that main school girls should be wearing black opaque tights when they return to school after half term, and that socks, neutral tights and Ugg boots are not part of the winter uniform; while Ugg boots are similarly not acceptable for the sixth form. Thank you.

Kate Barnett

World Challenge South Africa 2011

On the 17th July 2011, twelve pupils from Stratford upon Avon Grammar School for Girls undertook a month long World Challenge Expedition to South Africa. This was the result of nearly two years of planning, preparation and fundraising. World Challenge aims to promote personal development in young people through exposure to a new culture, project work and a series of challenging treks. Pupils also had to raise the significant funds required to cover the cost of the expedition.

We flew into Durban, South Africa from London Heathrow, via Johannesburg and after a five-hour delay, finally stepped out on South African soil. We were tired and excited, eager to see what the next month had in store for us. We were not disappointed. We spent our first couple of days in Durban. We explored the surrounding area, familiarising ourselves with our new environment. This was also an opportunity to make preparations for our initial trek. We took in the sights and visited the Moses Mabhida football stadium, riding a lift to the roof and taking in the dramatic view of the Durban coastline. We had met a number of local people during our initial days and were Port St Johns – a six hour drive southwest of Durban. The trek took place along the Wild coast, with a varied route taking us through beautiful coastal paths, up hills, down into inland valleys and out again. We had the pleasure of overnight stays in local villages en route and always enjoyed a warm welcome and hospitality from our hosts. The two day trek proved challenging but prepared us well for our main trek several days later.

Our time in Port St Johns had come to a close. We departed, bound for Khotso Horse Farm near Underberg – an inland town close to the Lesotho border. The farm became a much-loved base location for a significant portion of our expedition. We were welcomed with a traditional South African Braai, one of many! After a two day delay due to heavy snow we started our main four day trek on the awe-inspiring Giants Cup Trail in the southern Drakensberg mountains. The melting snow on the surrounding mountains presented us with a rare and beautiful view. The landscapes were vast and appeared to be infinite. Throughout the whole of the trek, we never failed to be inspired. We were lucky enough to be able to sleep in huts and traditional “Rondavels” en route. The facilities were basic, as expected, but were a welcome sight on the horizon at the end of a day’s trekking.

The Project phase of the expedition followed on from our trekking. We were based in the remote rural village of Mavuka in Lesotho, accessible via a six-hour horseback ride through the Drakensberg mountains. We worked at Mavuka Primary school repainting classrooms in bright colours and creating murals. We also brightened up the school kitchen which was originally bare breezeblocks. We were lucky enough to be able to teach some lessons and interact with the children. The joy of the children as we handed them something as simple as balloons was profound. This proved to be a real highlight for many team members. Unfortunately due to another incoming snow front, we had to cut the project short after three days. On the positive side, Mr Majooro, the Headteacher, commented that we had achieved a week’s work in our time there!





On our return to Underberg we were keen to continue working with communities in need and made arrangements to visit an AIDS orphanage. The orphanage was run by a local woman, Sister Abigail, who after retiring from her work at a local orphanage established her own. We put on a BBQ for the children, brought games, and sang and danced with them. At the end of the day we walked back into town and the children walked alongside us, holding our hands. Many of us found this to be a very moving experience. We have brought back our experience of the orphanage to World Challenge and hope that project work with future teams will be a possibility.

Moving on from our time in Underberg we set up camp in Dundee, an old mining town, in order to spend some time exploring *Isandlwana* and Rorke's Drift. Our guide and local historian brought the history to life as he told of the battles which took place in the area.

As we moved towards the final stage of the expedition we reflected on all we had experienced over the past few weeks. We were taken aback as to how much we had achieved. We were now looking forward to the rest and relaxation phase of the trip.

After our time in Underberg we departed north east in the direction of St Lucia. St Lucia is an area rich in wildlife which hosts a number of game reserves. We were determined to make the most of our opportunities in St Lucia and went on safari in the Hluhluwe / Imfolozi game reserve. We rose early and whilst witnessing a majestic sunrise over misty hills saw up close our first zebra of the day. We explored



the area with our expert guide, tracking animals in our open-top truck and stopping to view them – from a safe distance when required! We were lucky enough to see black rhinos, giraffes, a pride of lions, water buffalo, baboons, wildebeest, zebras, impalas and waterbucks – to name but a few.

We had reached the conclusion of an extraordinary expedition. The only thing left was to travel back to Durban for one final group meal then depart for the airport. We took with us positive experiences and lessons we will carry for many years, perhaps even a lifetime. We were exposed to totally different cultures and pushed ourselves to work outside of our comfort zones. Through this we learned the value of teamwork and forged a greater understanding of ourselves and each other.

J Drinkwater

Drama Department

Drama Clubs

It has been a great start to the new term. Our extra-curricular activities are already up and running. Year 7 Drama Club takes place on a Monday lunchtime and is ably run by Eve Farmer and 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.

After the success of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in the summer, the Year 8 Drama Club is preparing to audition for a performance of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* which will rehearse on a Friday lunchtime. Thank you to Cara Davis and Bella Roach assisted by Izzy Cutts and Cora James for running the club with such enthusiasm.

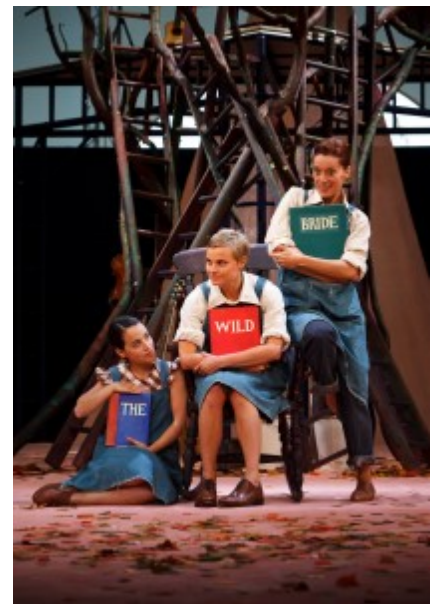
Theatre Trips

We have had a number of successful theatre trips already this term:

***The Wild Bride* by Kneehigh Theatre Company**

We saw *The Wild Bride* at Oxford Playhouse. It was a vibrant and passionate depiction of a traditional Grimms Tale. Kneehigh used many different techniques to portray the drama, especially dance, rather than speech. It was interesting to find out in the post-show discussion that everyone in the company, including the actors, had an input into every aspect of the production. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

(Cora, Lucy and Katie, Year 12)



***The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter**

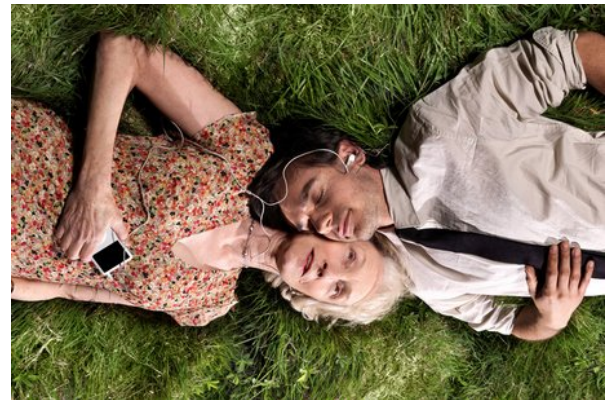
The Homecoming was performed at the RSC as part of their 50th Anniversary season. It is an intriguing play, where to begin with, the characters seem quite normal and innocent, but throughout the play, they reveal disturbing sides to them which shock the audience and leaves an imprint on your mind. Most of the story is more about what is not said, so it is largely left up to your imagination and your interpretation is always going to be different, involving the audience and making it slightly more personal to you.

(Steph and Holly, Year 11)



***Lovesong* by Frantic Assembly**

This week, we are due to see *Lovesong* by Frantic Assembly at Warwick Arts Centre.



Theatre in Education Project 2011

For the eighth year running, we are embarking on a Theatre-in-Education Project with Shotton Primary School. Last week, we had a visit from Year 5 and 6 who participated in a Drama Workshop organised by the Year 11 GCSE Drama Group. This was a very imaginative and enjoyable experience which has left us with further knowledge of our target audience for whom we will now write short plays to perform on the return visit in December.

School Musical

Auditions have been well-attended for this year's school musical production: a selection of songs from shows set in New York. After the success of using a student-director team last year, we are delighted to welcome Olivia Coldcutt, Cora James and Izzy Cutts into PAS for lunchtime rehearsals with the cast. The school musical will be performed at The Civic Hall on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February 2012.

Moderation Date

The Moderation date for the A Level Practical Performance (Year 12 and 13) has been set for **Wednesday 2nd May** from 2.00 – 5.00 pm with a performance to parents on Monday 30th April 7.00 - 8.30pm in PAS.

S Barrett

English Department

The English Department is a hive of activity, with new faces on the team and new courses on the agenda. Miss El-Bekai and Mrs Insley are both well into their first term at Shottery and filling lessons with their enthusiasm and knowledge. Miss Manders is Acting Second in Department during Mrs Brooks' maternity leave and is skillfully steering Year 10 and Year 11 through the new GCSE courses.

In particular, we have been finding the best way to stage the Controlled Assessments tasks that have replaced the old coursework folders, giving the girls the same chance to shine in these tasks as they do in exams and in speaking and listening work. This summer's results saw new records for A-A* at GCSE, with over half the girls achieving the very top grade for English. Full marks were scored on twenty Sections A or B over the two English exams and a further nine in the Literature exam. Year 11 have therefore every reason to be optimistic and aim high as they prepare for their GCSEs next summer.

The new English Language GCSE is also giving girls their first real taste of advanced language study; and those who enjoyed the Spoken Language Study, for example, can find out more about our highly successful English Language A-level at the Pre-Sixth Open Evening. This course saw its first A* at A-level this summer, so again girls can aim high.

Literature students remain well catered for, after our record-breaking AS results in the summer and excellent A2 results that included full marks on the exam or for coursework for several girls. Sixth formers with a love of literature are running their highly successful Purple Poetry club at lunchtimes which welcomes new visitors for those who are interested. Subscribers to *The English Review* are expanding their horizons with challenging articles on set texts and wider reading of new poets or a broader range of classics. Anyone interested in getting this who does not currently should contact Mr Gallagher, including girls in Year 11 who might be thinking of English at university.



Mr Gallagher teaching Y10 during the visit of Mrs Masih and Mrs Monthero

With Miss Manders organizing the Year 7 trip to Birmingham Royal Ballet in December and plans for a House Debating Competition to follow the hugely enjoyable balloon debates in the summer's House Festival, there is lots to look forward to whatever year you are in.

J Gallagher

MFL Department: Language College

European Day of Languages

On 27th September we celebrated the European Day of Languages by offering the girls the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops. These taster sessions included Chinese cooking, Japanese, Galician, sign language, Mandarin, Dutch and salsa dancing.

Over 100 girls took part in the activities, underlining the strong international ethos of our school.



Sevilla 2011 – Year 11 Spanish Exchange



Sevilla, La Giralda

On September 28th (Wednesday), a party formed by sixteen Year 11 girls from Shottery and fourteen boys from KES went to Sevilla (Spain) on our annual Spanish exchange. Our host school is I.E.S. Cavaleri, situated in the residential area of Mairena del Aljarafe, a large residential village situated five miles away from Sevilla and very well connected by tube. Three members of staff, Mrs Whorlow and Ms Rivas from Shottery, and Mr Henderson from KES, accompanied the group.

During our stay in Sevilla, our host school organised a series of day trips to show us the highlights of the city and some surrounding areas. SGSG girls and KES boys were very lucky indeed to have all their Spanish partners released from some of their lessons and joining us in many of the activities that had been prepared for us.



On board the cruising ferry English and Spanish together



Four-seater bikes at the Parque María Luisa

We all, Spanish and English, went on a cruise along the Guadalquivir river in Sevilla and enjoyed the city's architectural lavishness in the mixture of Christian, Muslim and Jewish styles in some of its most renowned buildings, such as the cathedral and its famous tower *La Giralda*, from where we enjoyed magnificent views of the city.

Temperatures were well above 30°C all week, so we also had a chance to have a fabulous picnic in *Parque del Alamillo* on the Sunday, when all the families brought typical Spanish *tapas* and dishes, and where part of the fun in the sun seemed to involve lots of volleyball!



Outside the Mosque (Mezquita de Córdoba)



Running down the dunes in Doñana

Amongst the surrounding areas we visited the famous *Mezquita* (Mosque) in Córdoba and enjoyed the white-washed houses and the narrow cobbled streets in its *Barrio Judío*, (Jewish Quarter); we also enjoyed an amazing ride on 4x4s across the Doñana National Park in the Huelva province, which is the largest National Reserve in Europe: we loved the dunes and the wildlife and, of course, the bumpy ride along the never-ending coast-line!. Huelva is renowned for its long, clean beaches, so we stopped at the *Playa del Mazagón* for lunch and a swim, and found the water surprisingly warm for that time of year!



Picnic at the Alamillo

Finally, our exchange partners welcomed us with a number of very interesting workshops on Sevillian culture and **traditions, which included taster sessions on Flamenco dancing** and music, photography, and Andalusian gastronomy, the latter of which affording a delicious mid-morning snack or 'tapa' for everybody! .



4x4 ride along the Doñana Coastline

People from Southern Spain in general, and Sevilla in particular, are renowned for their friendliness and conviviality, and they certainly lived up to their reputation: evening outings and "fiestas" were in order, of course, and we were overwhelmed by our host families' warmth and hospitality, which we'll endeavour to reciprocate when they return their visit in March! We can't wait!



Group photo at the Plaza de España



Wild horses in Doñana

C Rivas

Sevilla 2011 (Y11-Spanish exchange) What the students have said...

It was incredible: out and about every night...! The Spaniards are gorgeous and very friendly. ESPAÑA 2K11 STYLE
Susie Barnes

Most common phrase: "¡hace calor!".
Clara Theil

Great experience: met lots of new people and had an amazing time!

Beth Campion

The Spaniards are great and I loved going out at night.
Amy Warren

It was an amazing experience and Spanish people are gorgeous!
Abi Egging

Best time ever! We don't wanna go home!
Gabbi Condes

Great experience, such a difference to anywhere else! Even they couldn't stand the heat most days
Emily Jennings

Amazing week! Out every night, and really hot weather! I loved it!
Becca Marston

Kinda don't wanna go home...
Tory Childs-Carlile

It was an amazing experience, where we made friends for life.

Luke Isaac



We experienced a whole different culture, where we met people that we'll never forget, and grew closer as a group. *James Wilkinson*

An incredible opportunity to really experience a country, meet new friends and learn a language. *David Fairbarn*



A rollercoaster but overall a lot of fun!
Georgie Fisher



A great opportunity to improve our Spanish and meet new people.
Connor Lawson-E

I loved the sea!
Alyce Markham

Sam Murray: "Don't be an idiot, James! There aren't any snakes in Spain!"

Tour guide: "Now, there are many dangerous animals in Doñana, especially snakes!"

(I really enjoyed my time in Spain, by the way: the family was great, and it was a great chance to experiment with different cultures).

James Packer



PE Department

I would like to start with a huge thank you to all parents and girls who collected Sainsbury and Tesco Vouchers. This is an enormous help as it allows us to buy other sporting equipment, and pay for tournament entries, national governing body memberships and sports insurance. So thank you!

We have been blessed this term with excellent weather which at times has been hotter than the summer term, but has allowed all of our training sessions to go ahead. Just a reminder for next term that matches and training may be cancelled last minute if the weather changes dramatically. We do our best to make the decision by lunchtime so that girls can call home, but sometimes these things are out of our control as it can be up to the opposition to make the call. Please make sure your daughter knows what her contingency plan would be in such an event.

Success beyond the school gates

Tilly James, now in Year 10, has had an excellent sailing season this summer. She is the second highest ranked Junior in the country in the Topper Class out of boys and girls and the top ranked junior female. She will be training all winter on her skills and fitness ready for 2012 with her aim to be number one.



Rosie Williamson, now in Year 8, has also had a great season sailing. She was selected to train with the Optimist Girls Invitational Squad Programme which is the feeder into the Youth and Olympic programme. Over the summer she took part in a ranking event where she finished 38th out of 500 and was the 10th girl home. Well done!

Tania Shukla in Year 9 is a very keen squash player and has been playing now for a few years. She is a member of the U15 Warwickshire team and recently won the first round of the county cup and is now preparing for the next round.

Caitlin McCarthy, now in Year 11, has attended her first GB Archery Camp, and even by her own very high standard she felt it was a very tough weekend! We wish her all the very best of luck and hope in the summer we will be hearing about her representing Great Britain. Caitlin has also been selected as a Youth Volunteer for the London 2012 Games in Archery. In the next *Mini Manners* she will be giving us all a flavour of what the Olympics will be like.

London 2012

The third ELD day in March will be dedicated to London 2012. To help promote ELD Miss Griffiths would like to know if any girl and their families have tickets or are helping through the volunteering programme for the Olympic or Paralympics Games. Please email Miss G with events you will be watching.

Hockey

All clubs this season have been very well attended and all year groups have played matches. The first week back we hosted St Alban's from Argentina. The U14 and U15 teams played extremely well and drew 0-0; the senior team lost 4-0; but it was very good to see a good number of sixth formers still wanting to play hockey. The U14 team had their Warwickshire tournament early in October and despite losing both of their games they played some of the best hockey Mrs Casement and Miss G had ever seen from them. The U14 and U13 teams are now in Holland practising their skills further; details to come with the next *Mini Manners*.



U14 hockey team

With St Alban's, Argentina



U14 Warwickshire tournament: pictures by Toni Manders



Netball

Netball clubs this term have not been as well attended compared to hockey and this is slightly disappointing. We would like to see good numbers after half term and as we have the hall booked until Christmas we would like to see you all there. The U14 and U13 teams have had excellent winning starts to their season with both beating AGS and SHS in the local league. Both these teams will be off on their tour in November; hopefully to bring home some silverware!

Year 7 Tennis and Rowing

These two clubs have had an excellent turn out and we all look forward to seeing them perform next summer.

Swimming

The swimming teams have had an early start to their season, as the national relay championships have moved from November to October. This year we fielded three teams which was excellent, especially as the competition was on the same day as the teacher training day. The U14 Team finished 3rd in both races. The U16 team finished 2nd but were sadly disqualified from the second race. The U18 team, which was boosted at the last minute by Lily Russell Wilkes, won both of their races. We now wait to hear if they had one of the 16 fastest times in the country to proceed to the finals.

Cross Country

We had an excellent performance at the South Warwickshire cross-country championships, despite the unseasonal hot weather. Tas Pope U18, Sophie Wouter U15 and Alicia Roberts U12 all won all of their individual races. These three girls along with twelve others have been selected to represent South Warwickshire at the Warwickshire championships. The Year 7 team also retained the team win, for the 3rd year in a row. Very well done! In the Schools Cup race the U13 team came 5th and the U15 team came 7th, again running on a very hot October day.

Finally I would like to thank all the parents who have come to support matches this term and I hope to see more of you on the side-lines after half term. Let's hope the mild weather continues.

Miss G

Charity News

Our new school year has begun with some enjoyable and successful fund-raising.

- Our annual staff Macmillan Coffee morning took place on September 30th, raising £50 for this important charity.
- The Young Enterprise group 'Olympeare' held an impressive Cake Sale on October 5th, earning £212.16 for their forthcoming business activities.
- Miss Coates's form OLC treated us to an imaginative lunchtime pamper event on October 19th in support of Cancer Research. Dresses, heels and jewellery were on sale as well as the chance to enjoy a hand massage or manicure. Even the cupcakes were glamorous! £226 was raised – well done!

Thank you everyone – especially to parents and friends for their support.

V J Smith

Pond Activities Day

If you go down to the pond today,
you're sure of a big surprise,
for every weed that used to be,
is now a haven for butterflies.

Today is the day we cleaned the pond.

Every tadpole that has been good,
is sure of a treat today,
there's lots of space to swim in the pond,
and for bugs to crawl in the wood.

The dragonflies are flying away,
Watch us catch them unaware,
And see them shed their skin,
We watered the plants today.

At lunchtime Mrs Newbold and Mrs Edwards,
gave us an ice-cream
because we deserved rewards.

If you go down to the pond today,
you're sure of a big surprise,
for every weed that used to be,
is now a haven for butterflies.

Today is the day we cleaned the pond.



Hermione Cook (Year 9), Lauren Daniels, Becki Hawkins and Sophie Hobson (Year 10)

FOS News

This is the moment when we welcome our new parents and hope that they, and most importantly their daughters, are easing themselves smoothly into the Shottery community. Many new parents have already attended a FOS occasion and we were delighted to see a good number of Year 7 parents at the recent New Parents evening.



At our AGM on the same evening we looked at the best ways in which we could help the school by raising funds during the course of this school year. There were three projects which stood out although the combined cost was likely to be beyond our reach. What did seem achievable however was to raise a sum sufficient to match an equivalent contribution from other sources.

To cover 50% of all three projects would require a sum in the region of £10,000 but this is the sort of figure which we have been successful in raising in each of the last few years. There was a firm consensus that we should commit our efforts this year to these three projects and we anticipate from the very positive response of parents at the meeting that they will find widespread support. They are:

- Conversion and refurbishment of rooms in the Manor for sixth form use, transforming the current Geography room into a dedicated study area.
- A new sound system for the Main Hall to enhance all uses, including performances of music and drama.
- Fifteen netbooks for use in DT/FT/Art Departments.

The netbooks should be arriving later this term and the Manor upgrade will start once the new Humanities building is completed.

Last year we raised £10,000 towards kitting out the new Humanities building and we are looking forward to seeing the result of our efforts when the new building is brought into use, which we understand is not far off.

By supporting our initiatives and events you can play a significant part in helping us to achieve another impressive result this year.

We were very pleased to receive so many positive responses to our request for help. When these are followed up it makes our task much easier.

All parents can help with our **Festive FOS** celebrations, which coincide with the Christmas Concerts on December 6th and 8th, by providing something for the Christmas hampers, which are the main prize in our two Christmas raffles, one being held on each night. Other raffle prizes will also of course be very welcome. Would you please leave any contributions at student services with a label 'Festive FOS'. The girls themselves will be running seasonal stalls to raise money for their projects and activities so please be there to support them.

Year 11 parents can help with the preparations for next summer's **Year 11 Ball** by passing their names to Karelle Holden at markandkarelle@yahoo.co.uk

Year 12 and Year 13 parents can help with preparations for next summer's **Graduation** celebration by passing their names to Claire Henley at grogan.henley@btinternet.com.

Both these events benefit from the contributions of the girls themselves so if your daughter is willing to help in shaping the plans, please give her name as well.

Your support for the **200 Club** would help enormously. This is the time of year, in the lead up to the first draw in January, when we seek to galvanise interest in the **200 Club**, details of which are included in this edition of Mini Manners.

By popular request from the many super sleuths in our number we will again be holding a **Murder Mystery** evening in the atmospheric surroundings of the Manor on Saturday 19th November. Our own girls will be taking on the role of 'suspects' and there will be ample time to wrestle with the clues during a two course meal of the usual high standard. Watch out for the flyer soon after half term.

If you would like to help with our Spring Term **Pamper Evening** or you would like to run a stall or treatment please get in touch with Sue Frost at susanfrost5@hotmail.com

Future events for your diary:

Murder Mystery at the Manor	Saturday November 19th
Years 8 & 9 Disco	Friday November 25 th
Festive FOS	Tuesday December 6 th
Festive FOS	Thursday December 8 th
Pamper Evening	Friday February 3rd 2012

FOS 200 CLUB

That time of year is here again to launch the **FOS 200 Club**. We are looking for record numbers to join us this year and would particularly like to welcome new Year 7 and Year 12 parents.

What is the **200 Club**?

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

For an investment of only **£20** per annum your name will be entered into a series of six draws commencing in January 2012, with the final draw in June. At each draw there will be four prize winners who can take home cheques for anything up to **£150**. The more members we have, the higher the prizes. We welcome grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends too!

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

How can I join?

To join the Club all you have to do is complete the form at the end of this edition of *Mini Manners* and return it before the end of December to Hilary Mills Baker via the red **FOS** box in student services at School or to the address given. This will enable you to take part in the first draw in January 2012. Once your slip is received you will be sent a confirmation note with your membership number. Winners will be notified direct although we will place the winning numbers in the parents' newsletter.

If you wish to set up a standing order or change one, so you can enrol yearly over your daughter's school career, please contact Joe Dostal, the FOS Treasurer, preferably by e mail at joe.dostal@links4business.com or leave your contact details in the **FOS** box in student services at School.

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

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

Privacy Notice

Pupils in Schools, Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units
and children in Early Years Settings

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

Stratford upon Avon Grammar School for Girls is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- Support your teaching and learning;
- Monitor and report on your progress;
- Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- Assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. ***If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken.***

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE)

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact the School Business Manager.

If you require more information about how the Local Authority (LA) and/or DfE store and use your information, then please go to the following websites:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/9FF1D7D8621B3C248025705F00487872>

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/>

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/thirdpartyorgs/>

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the LA or DfE as follows:

- Commissioning Support Service (CSS)
Children, Young People and Families,
Saltisford Office Park,
Ansell Way,
Warwick.
CV34 4UL

Website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Email: CSS@warwickshire.gov.uk

- Public Communications Unit
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Website: www.education.gov.uk
email: info@education.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 0870 000 2288

In addition for Secondary Schools

Connexions Services - Once you are aged 13 or over we are required to pass on certain information to the Connexions services. Connexions is the government's support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England. We must provide both your and your parents(s) name and address, and any further information relevant to the Connexions services' role. However, you (if you are over 16) or your parents can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Connexions. Please inform the School Business Manager, Mr Paul Day, if you wish to opt-out of this arrangement. For more information about Connexions please go to the LA website shown above.

School term and holiday dates for 2011-2012

Autumn Term 2011	Monday 5th September - Friday 16th December
Staff Training Day	Monday 5th September
Induction Day for	
Year 7 and Year 12	Tuesday 6th September
First day of term for all	Wednesday 7th September
Staff Training Day	Thursday 6th October
Half term	24th-28th October
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

Please enrol me as a member of the **FOS 200 Club** for 2011/2012.

Name.....

Daughter's name and form.....

Address.....

.....

.....

E mail address.....

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

Tel.....

Please send this form with a cheque payable to FOS for **£20.00** to

Hilary Mills Baker, FOS 200 Club Organiser, via the red FOS box in student services at school or direct to

33 Carters Lane
Tiddington
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 7AP

Upon receipt you will receive your membership number for the six draws in 2012.

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

