



THE ELLEN WILKINSON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Volume 4 Issue 6

February 2008

LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

Wednesday 13th February, and the school is buzzing with a range of activities: Year 7 girls are having individual reviews with their tutors, Year 8s are taking part in a Fair Trade Day, Year 9s are involved in workshops on Sex and Relationship education or on a 'Learn to Earn' programme, Year 10s have Careers Education and Year 11s are having taster lessons to introduce them to sixth form study. Careers, General Studies and Further Education sessions have been organised for Year 12 and 13; Aya has just commented: "that UCAS session was really, really, useful".

It goes without saying that running such a wide range of events on one day takes a lot of organising, and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved. We've also had some very positive feedback from the visitors who have been running and facilitating a number of the events: they have enjoyed spending the day with us and have been impressed by the attitude and enthusiasm of the girls. They have also enjoyed the lunch provided by Ms Boucher and her team!

I'd also like to thank those parents who have responded to my comments in the January newsletter regarding poor punctuality and attendance. There is still room for improvement in all year groups but we seem to have overcome the viral infection that affected so many.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming evening meetings for Years 9 and 11 (the dates are on the back page of this newsletter). I hope you and your families enjoy the opportunities to spend time together over the half term break.

Best wishes



LEARNERS OF THE MONTH

The girls who have been nominated for ‘Learners of the Month’ are: Shanice Coleman 8MPe, Nadine Reynolds 8MPe, Shanice McCallum 9QNd (Science); Patrice Hutchnson 9MCm, Dushiei Manokumar 9MCm (History); Jasmine Hines 7QGh, Leonie Edwards 7QGh, Sophie Coleman 7QGh (Drama); Sania Ahmed 10QKn, Sarah Guirguis 10REs, Zainab Hussain 10QKn, Sanjua Bhumber 10QKn, Roshni Patel 10QKn (English); Amina Nuur 8CWk, Sana Jali 8CWk, Kopiga Kuganathavae 8CWk (Geography); Nafisa Ladha 9RDr, Gopinder Mudhar 9QNa (Latin); Reisha Fearon 11QBn, Sherice McLeod 11CCy (Art); Chloe Charles 10CGi (History); Hannah Farnan 11RBI, Nikita Jethwa 11RRs (Geography); Ala Al-Shalan 10QHe, Jenna Mistry 10CGi (ICT); Cherelle Whyte 7QGh, and Maria Miahel 7CDo (Graphics)

The Jack Petchey winners for the Winter term (Sept-Dec 2007) are:

- Martina Timothy-Gumbi (Year 11)
- Stacy Fisher (Year 8)
- Caitlin MacGregor (Year 8)
- Rajnesh Khaira (Year 10)



A big congratulations to them. To all students – keep voting!



Congratulations to Shani Thompson who gave her speech on ‘The Status Quo’ at the borough final for the Jack Petchey ‘Speak Out’ Challenge at Greenford High School on 29th January. Shani competed against 13 other speakers and spoke confidently to a board of local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Ealing - not an easy task! Well done, Shani!

Mr. Casey
Student Participation Coordinator

Some of our Year 7 students qualified to be contestants on a new fun and informative quiz show called 'Brain-Jitsu' on BBC2. Those involved had a great time and the director said they were "a real pleasure".

The students are due to appear on the following dates at 7.30am - so set your video (or sky+)!

25th February

Mennat Soliman
Sarah Gharib
Sara Charoenprasit

26th February

Gwen Datyner
Shahad Sabti
Thushiah Krishnapillai
Maja Kovac

3rd March

Alice Kuzmenko

7th March

Sara Lukic Caitlin Geraghty
Cherelle Whyte Dina Morsy-Fahmy
Zara Mirza

14th March

Alyaa Hassona

24th March

Leone Edwards

Mr. Casey
Student Participation Coordinator

Visit of Mike Ryan Friday February 8th

Local parent and author, Mike Ryan, visited some year 9s this week as part of their focus on writing this half-term. He told the girls that he had become interested in writing once a teacher had given him the confidence to believe in himself. He now contributes to online news, Sky TV broadcasts and has written countless books, the latest of which he presented to the school.

He gave the girls many helpful pieces of advice about finding subjects to write about and how to tailor their work to the appropriate audience, giving us some very interesting insights into the differences between the British and American markets. He also warned us never to send any writing to a publisher in the summer as they are always overrun with work from teachers who finally have the opportunity to write in their own right!

He finished off powerfully by encouraging the girls to contribute to online blogs and to teenage magazines who always want stories about people in their target audience, and he also told us about a current BBC competition, (contact this website for following information) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/writing/showcase/competition/> offering fabulous opportunities for young writers. The other thing he stressed was the importance of planning : something the girls didn't want to hear but were persuaded of the significance of. All teachers will be glad to hear this! Ms O'Donnell and her year 9 English class were kept entertained and inspired on a hot Friday afternoon. Get writing everyone!

Ms M O'Donnell

ECO-SCHOOL UPDATE

The eco action team met for the 3rd time at lunch time on 5th February. We started by reviewing our target from the last time – paper recycling. We realised that certain forms are still not doing it properly and that some form rooms had overflowing bins that were not being emptied. We also discussed how paper was being wasted needlessly at the school and how many pieces of work could be printed on both sides. That way a lot of paper could be saved. Also reusing paper instead of recycling it straight away was another way of saving paper.

We then discussed the possibility of electing senior reps to run the eco school programme more effectively. Each senior eco rep would be responsible for a number of forms and they would monitor paper recycling etc.

The team then saw a presentation about an eco school in Lewes, East Sussex which already has 3 green flags and is working towards its 4th and final flag. We saw what measures the school had taken and is still taking to achieve and maintain this standard. We were all impressed by their efforts and their enthusiasm and we are keen to get our 1st flag soon.

We concluded by setting our targets for the next meeting, better paper recycling and organising senior eco reps who will be responsible for certain classrooms.

ECO CODE COMPETITION

The deadline has passed for the competition. A big thank goes to all those who entered. The results will be announced in March. The winning code will go around the school and the winners in each category will receive a £20 voucher to spend at a shop of their choice.

**Ms Barnas
Environmental Co-ordinator**

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT



The Gymnastic Competition

On Tuesday the 22nd of January the Ellen Wilkinson gymnastic team competed in a very tough competition.

We have been practising hard for this event and the A team came 5th out of 16 and the B team joint 7th. It was a very enjoyable day and our hard work was worth it. We had been training for months and practising and perfecting our floor routines and vaults. The majority of us were able to do headsprings, which gained us high marks!

Kayla and Natasha have been coaching us and helping us during lunchtimes and after school. Kayla made us all a great routine which we all enjoyed and looked forward to performing.

On the day, we felt scared and nervous and hungry! However, when we arrived at Villier's school we all were extremely excited and couldn't wait to get started! Miss Chima, Miss Nicoll, Kayla and Natasha were all there to support us, so thank-you very much!

We started on vault with Lianne, Soizic, Bethany, Yasmin and Rashida all doing perfect headsprings and gaining great marks from the judges. On floor, we looked very professional, with neat routines, especially Sara, Abigail, Simran, Aisha and Amal. Although a little nervous at the start we had no problem performing our routines alone. In fact, we had great fun and looked forward to hearing the results as we were proud of each team and everyone's efforts.



Natasha, Kayla, Miss Chima and Miss Nicoll would like to say a big WELL DONE and CONGRATULATIONS to all the gymnasts and for tremendous hard work and great effort.

Soizic, Lianne, Rashida, Sara and Natasha

A “DREAM” START TO REHEARSALS



The long rehearsal process for this year’s whole-school production “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is now well underway. Girls have been attending rehearsals twice a week after school and the play is slowly beginning to take shape. Our cast are facing the challenges posed by Shakespeare’s language with intelligence and hard work and many rehearsals have been interrupted by outbreaks of laughter amongst cast and crew. This is a

hugely enjoyable production. We will provide further updates as we get closer to the performances in June and maybe we’ll hint at some of the design ideas that may upset Shakespeare purists but have so excited our actors and production team.

James Gillingham
Performing Arts Department

MATHEMATICS ENRICHMENT DAY 2008 - YEAR 7

A group of year seven students will be attending our annual Mathematics Enrichment workshop on Saturday 1st March. This will be based at Ellen Wilkinson School and will be led by a lecturer from Cambridge University who specialises in teaching challenging and problem solving mathematics to young students. This is done as part of the Cambridge Nrich project. Why not try a puzzle yourself by visiting the website:

<http://nrich.maths.org/public/>



YEAR 8 VISIT TO BOULOGNE

We should like parents to know that the French visit to Boulogne for Year 8 will be taking place on Friday 11th July 2008.

All girls travelling will require **their own** British (or EU) passport.

We shall be sending you more details of the visit in due course.

Mrs C Rowlands

ELEMENTS WORD SEARCH : by Saloni Nanjee 8MGr

D S U S O P O I H Y X G S M E Z H N D H
 Z U Y N K A Z H V X W G G V V H N F L I
 D P B B V X N O P W C N P I N H I F V Q
 B Z X N L S F B T S W L Z G R U O S W T
 P K W X I V L O R G D Z S W T U O X G T
 R D M X C U I T O M T V Q N N J O C A S
 J M M I P Z M L U X R H W J J V C V T J
 Q B M U L A D I H F G Y S Z C S D P U F
 C N U M S W M K I N V D L L S B O R E C
 G N I I U D F S C B V R R Y K E P R F D
 U X C R A I Z L G R T O F Z G B S O O J
 L R L C O O D R W E J G A R G O N S O C
 S R A H X N G O L P I E M E R C U R Y A
 A C C Y V Q H C S P T N G K J T K Y Z R
 F H G P E J X E W O N E U E C R S N L B
 N E G O R T I N N C A O U H O V O M L O
 N R B J Y V W L M I G Z L I R M O G Z N
 K M M P X H P X M A R O R E N G R B Y M
 D J E V H K V Q V A R O V I E S J T L X
 O B D E U P E M X I G L U J O W X O W V
 P B A V F D W B N N I N O L N X I B K M
 T J U P V G C E T S H L E D F E S H O I
 B X V O P O T A S S I U M S R N A B F B
 G C F X C K T B M U I L E H I M Z F L M
 Y M I V V J N G Y D B I D P S U L T B P
 D V V Y O L S F E P D H Z C C I M O S P
 H S P H E C E L L N W Z H V L W V S L X
 X K X J O Q D J N V F E E X F U M R B Z
 J F H E H U K F E R K O I S F Q V K X P
 D E T X X W S Z C P F Y D P X Z U Q D O

H	Ar	Fe	Mg	As
C	N	I	Ne	Cd
Ca	K	He	Cu	Hg
Cl	O	Na	Au	Db

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STUDENTS' ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL



Please call 020 87537872 between 6.00 a.m. - 12 noon if your daughter is away from school due to illness or for any other reason.

Please let us know about medical appointments in advance.

Ms A Hemming

Important dates for your diary:

Thursday 6th March : Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 13th March : Year 9 Options Evening



Science

The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls

A Specialist College for Science and Mathematics

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 26th February 2008 6pm - 8pm

For further details, please contact the Head of Sixth Form

Prospective Sixth Form students and parents will be able to discuss courses and opportunities offered in the Sixth Form and visit the resources and facilities available.



Science

OUR ANNUAL CHESS COMPETITION

From 22nd January to 5th February, the annual chess competition was held in the library. Many students entered from various years but the eventual winner was Ciara Byers from 10CGi. Ciara went through all three rounds, and beat off all the other opponents. Her effort paid off, and she ended up with the cup which will be presented to her in Clare assembly. The library would like to take this opportunity to thank all the rest of the entrants who showed promising skills, which we hope they will build on for the next competition. So don't give up guys!

Stephanie Cheung