

# Beaverwood School for Girls

## Summer Newsletter 2009



Thank you all once again for your continued support for your daughters and the School. May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful summer.

### Introduction

Obviously, the main activity of the Summer Term is, as always, preparation for, and delivery of, examinations, in particular external GCSEs and A-Levels. These have gone very smoothly, with full attendance and sensible behaviour. My thanks to the Guidance Team, Heads of Faculty and Examinations Teams for their hard work in this respect.

### Head & Deputy Head Girls

This year, due to the anticipated growth in 16+ numbers, and popularity of the five candidates, I decided to appoint all five of them to the posts of Head Girl and Deputies! They are: Head Girls, Ciara Bishop and Grace Law; Deputy Heads Sam Herriott, Kelsey Diggins and Isis Whitmore. I am sure that they will make a major contribution towards the leadership of the school. They are already planning an ambitious joint enterprise with the PFA and a Summer Fete on 15th July 2009. I thank the outgoing team of Hayley Worf, Gabby Wickes and Jade Kelly and wish them well for their futures.

Years 11 and 13 both completed their official education with maturity and restraint! The celebratory events were enjoyed by staff and students alike. We are anticipating a bumper year for results.

The annual World of Work Day was also very successful. A particular highlight was an activity in practical problem-solving, led by the Army. I thank Ms Brooks for co-ordinating this event.

### Community Spirit

On Thursday, 18th June 2009, staff, students and parents attended the Award Ceremony for the winners of The Chislehurst Society's annual competition - 'The Alun & Joy Jones Environmental Studies Awards' at Farrington's School. Beaverwood won a fantastic array of prizes this year. With Mrs Bentley's expert guidance, the Year 7 gardening group won the coveted first place in the intermediate group with their entry 'The Land Girls - It's Official, Beaverwood School is Green!' Congratulations to Amelia Phillips, Rebecca Perryman, Georgina Arnold, Grace Hannaford, Grace Cook, Annie Towner, Louise Middleton, Shauna O'Boyle, Phoebe Marsden, Nadia Tarik, Lauren Smith, Taylor Curran and Leah Coppen - their hard work and commitment really paid off! Year 11 students also won third place in the senior awards with their 'Green Photographic Portraits'. Alice Richardson in Year 9 and Kimberley Liwag in Year 8, also received commendations for their excellent entries. Well done to all those students and staff involved, and a big thank you for supporting the school and the local community.

### Stakeholders' Views

Further work has continued on working with all stakeholders of the school community. Student Voice continues to be a strength of the school. The use of Student Voice has been developed further with council representatives divided into Student Voice teams, including the main school council, whose focus this year has been improving facilities offered by the Dining Hall. They provided invaluable contributions to a recent bid for extra funding. They have also been producing a student magazine which we hope will be published in the Summer term. The other student teams, led by senior members of staff, are working on:

- The House System - Mr Rutter;
- Collective Worship - Miss Gray;
- Community Team - Mrs Wilson-Hooper;
- The VLE Team - Mr Strong;
- The Teaching and Learning Team - Mrs Forder;
- The Celebrating Diversity Team - Mrs Hodgson.

The views of parents are gathered at all parents' evenings, with a summary of findings provided to staff. The results show that over 90% of parents believe their daughters are receiving good/very good teaching. Analyses show an increase of 20% on parents' awareness of Student Voice at Beaverwood and to what extent parents are involved in the school community.

## Out and About

There were a total of 23 separate visits between 1st March 2009 and the 31st May 2009, compared with 36 undertaken during the equivalent period in the previous academic year and 20 in the year before that. The number of students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Training at Bronze and Silver Award levels is increasing each Year (42 this year, 25 in 2008 and 18 in 2007).

The following visits were organised by Faculties and Heads of Year:

**Business & Vocational Studies:** Year 12 Travel and Tourism students visited the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Years 10 and 11 OCR Health and Social Care students attended a conference at the Bromley EDC. Year 12 Health and Social Care students visited a careers conference.

**English:** 70 Year 9 students attended a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Globe Theatre. 12 Year 12 English students visited the Imperial War Museum. Years 10 and 12 Drama students visited the Unicorn Theatre, London Bridge to attend a master class in production. Year 13 English Literature students attended a 'Hamlet' study conference in London. Year 11 Drama students visited the Wimbledon Theatre to see 'An Inspector calls'.

**Expressive Arts:** 27 students competed in the English Schools Track and Field Cup. Upper School Dance students attended a study day at Bullerswood School. Year 10 PE students twice visited the David Lloyd fitness centre in Sidcup, to study leisure facilities.

**Humanities:** Year 12 Geography Students undertook field studies at Kingsnorth Power Station. A2 History students attended a conference on Stalin. Year 12 RS students visited Poland to develop their understanding of the Holocaust. Year 12 geography students attended a study conference in London. 14 Year 7 students visited St Nicholas Church in Chislehurst for RS. The Year 7 Nurture Group visited a Nature Reserve to improve their environmental understanding.

**Mathematics:** 10 Gifted & Talented students attended a 'developing higher-level mathematical thinking' conference in London.

**Additional:** Year 11 Gifted & Talented students attended an 'achieving your potential' conference in Cambridge. Year 10 Gifted & Talented students participated in an Enterprise Day at Darrick Wood School. Thirty-five More Able Year 10 students visited the University of Surrey to raise their aspirations. 9R went to a performance of 'Wicked' at the Apollo Theatre. A training expedition took place for 42 Upper School Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates.

## Bromley Schools' Collegiate

Initial Teacher Training and Graduate Teachers:

Our five trainees following the ITT route in Mathematics, Geography, Science, Religious Studies and History have all passed their QTS year with mainly 1s and 2s which are the top grades. This reinforces again, how vital the role of the mentor is and how good our mentors are. So, a special thanks to Mr Dawkins, Mrs Webb, Ms Aldworth, Ms Singer and Miss Gray who have developed the skills of

their trainees throughout the second and third terms.

Our Graduate Teachers have all achieved Grade 1s. For the Graduate Teachers' progress we need to thank: Mr Rutter, Miss McRoberts, Mrs Scott, Mrs Davies and Ms White.

Some of our mentors were new this year and they have achieved superb results with their trainees. This also demonstrates that their teaching and learning expertise is one of the keys to the success of our SCITT scheme.

The move to Beaverwood as the Lead School, has been very successful and the Collegiate is now developing a very strategic approach to planning. This had been enhanced by our lead in the CPD alliance of the collegiate schools. We have had a fantastic feedback on the first ever cross-school INSET and are continuing our venture next year.

The Collegiate underwent a full OfSTED inspection for both SCITT and GTP routes on 8th-11th June 2009. The outcomes were:

	Capability to Improve	Overall Effectiveness
SCITT	1	1
GTP	1	2

i.e. Outstanding overall.

My thanks to Mrs Forder and Mrs Collier for helping me to lead this inspection and congratulate everyone involved upon excellent results.

## Work Experience & Careers

Years 10 & 11 work experience continues to be prepared although Mrs Davis has had to report that placements are very difficult to obtain in light of the recession.

The new 'Young Apprentice' scheme is now firmly established and Ms Angus has overview of the 45 Year 10 students currently on this course.

Five Year 10 students have been offered places at TLT Academy in Hayes. This alternative package will include work experience.

A small number of girls are combining GCSE/GNVQ work with work experience so that they have a more vocational approach to their studies.

### Elizabethan Extravaganza

Year 8 were involved in a two-day 'Elizabethan Extravaganza' which included making Gingerbread Men in cookery, designing Tudor dresses in Textiles, performing



'Romeo & Juliet' in Drama, Court Dance and Harpsichord-making in Music, costumes and Horrid Histories and writing love sonnets in English. The girls were fantastic and very positive about their experience. It gave them an opportunity to visit the Elizabethan era. A big thank you to all staff and students involved.

### Attendance

Whilst the majority of girls come to school as expected, I continue to be concerned by the relatively high level of regular 1-2 days off taken and, of course, the 1-2 week holidays. Please ensure that your daughter meets at least our minimum target level of 95% attendance: this means no more than half a day off

per fortnight over the year. Any more than this, is statistically proven to lower her chances of success and establishes poor habits for adult life.

### Gifted & Talented

Many Gifted and Talented girls have been very busy this term! It started with Year 10 visiting the University of Surrey, gaining a feel for University life, looking around accommodation, lecture theatres, Student Union and other facilities. They also took part in other activities to get them thinking like undergraduates and working as a team. Many girls said how it has inspired them to work really hard to get them to University!

We also had a group of twelve Year 8 and 9 students go to the University of Greenwich to take part in a Science and Technology day. The girls learnt lots of new engineering ideas creating self-righting buoys with circuits, building robots and bridges! One team even won the Self-righting buoy event - Natasha McElroy and Catherine Limpkin - well done girls!

A few of our Year 11 students have secured places on Summer school courses at Kings College London after a very competitive entrance application process - have a fantastic time and tell us all about it on your return please!

There have been many more activities going on so a big 'well done' to them! Particularly, we are looking forward to seeing the final product of the Chislehurst Society magazine that five of our Year 9's helped produce with other Chislehurst-based schools, in the new academic year!

### Year 7 Geography Trips

This is always a busy time of the year for Geography and there have been some very enjoyable trips for KS3. Year 7 have been to Port Lympne Zoo where they had a fantastic time. This included a variety of talks from the zoo staff on an endangered animal, where the girls got to ask questions and find out more about some of the rare animals they have, for example the Barbary Lions.

Year 8 went to Whitstable for the day where they studied the coastal management and the tourist facilities in the town. We managed to escape the rain for most of the time we were there!

A small group of Years 9 and 10 students went to Cuckmere Haven to study the impact of tourism on a national parks and to examine the coastal management and landforms on this stretch of coast. This was a very informative day which links directly into their GCSE studies.

We have had a very enjoyable year with trips in Geography and we hope that the students will continue to enjoy them next year!

### Year 8 Camp

The second annual Year 8 camp was a great success! Thank you to all the students and staff who attended - they were a credit to the school.

### We Say Goodbye.....

It is always sad to say goodbye to colleagues as they move on. Below is the list of this year's:

- 👤 Mr Lingwood - retirement;
- 👤 Mr Tebb - retirement;
- 👤 Mrs Smith - retirement;
- 👤 Mrs Funnell - retirement;
- 👤 Miss Ardizzone - promotion.

I should like to make special mention of Mrs Funnell, our Librarian. After 22 years of loyal service, she has decided to take early retirement. I place on record my personal thanks and that on behalf of the school, for all that she has done for the school and our girls. She will be very hard to replace, and we wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

Additionally, our other retirees have all given long and dedicated service to the school. Mr Lingwood was Head of Technology Faculty for 15 years prior to stepping down and going part-time in September 2007. Mr Tebb, who was also a Teacher Governor for 8 years, was House Co-ordinator and KS3 Co-ordinator for Science before stepping down in September 2008. I thank them warmly and wish them well for a long and happy retirement. Carol Smith has also been with us for many years and is particularly remembered for her excellent work with the Environmental Club. My warmest wishes to her too.

You Say Hello.....

- Miss Armellino - Textiles;
- Mr Best - Music;
- Miss Stapleton-Cotton - Dance;
- Mrs Buteux - Humanities;
- Miss George - Science;
- Mr Bennett - Social Studies;
- Miss Patel - Social Studies;
- Miss Waggett - Art;
- Miss Sivarajah - ICT;
- Miss Lewis - Social Studies;
- Mr Sukumaran - ICT;
- Mrs Ramesh - Mathematics;
- Mr Bond - Art/Graphic Products.

Uniform Reminder

As you replace items for the Autumn Term, please make sure that you use the attached Uniform List. I draw your

attention, in particular, to: no boots (i.e. footwear up to or over the ankle); black or navy only, for outer coats and scarves; only one pair of stud earrings; NO bracelets or necklaces please - these have been appearing and will be confiscated.

The Junior Apprentice is back

The business skills of our Year 9 students were put to the test with the 'Junior Apprentice' project. All students created their own business teams and generated a complete business plan for their own individual business ideas. Their hard work culminated in a trade fair where they competed for a place in the final 'Dragon's Den'. The finalists were 'DR Locker' who created personalised locker covers, 'Sweet Dreams' who designed personalised pillows and 'Host Stand' who promoted healthy smoothies. The winning team who won the judges over, were 'GPT Catering' with a business idea promoting ethnic food. Well done to all those who took part. I hope we have some entrepreneurs in the making. And a massive 'thank you' to all the Dragon's staff for their support with this activity.

I hope that you all have a sunny and restful break.

*KJ Raven*

Mrs K J Raven  
Headmistress



#### Last and First Days of Term

The last day of term is Friday, 17th July and will end at 12:15 p.m. **There will be no buses in the turning circle.**

The first day of term is **Monday, 7th September**. There will be a staggered start, as follows:

**Year 7 and some of Year 13 arrive at: 8:30 a.m.**

**Year 12 Enrolment: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Years 8, 9, 10, 11 arrive and register at: 12:30 p.m.**

**The rest of Year 13 arrive at 1:00 p.m.**

