



THE SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

News from The John of Gaunt Sixth Form

July 2009

Yesterday we held our annual Sixth Form Ball at Cumberwell Golf Park, luckily the rain held off so that the array of fantastic outfits remained perfect. It was an amazing event, full of fun, laughter and a few tears from those sad to leave. We had students arrive by tractor, double decker bus and chauffeured vehicles. The evening was a credit to our Sixth Form Committee who had organised it to perfection.



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the exiting Sixth Form Committee for the excellent work they have done all year for our charities and for the Sixth Form themselves. They've done all of the usual fundraising events, but also branched into cake sales this year which, unsurprisingly, was extremely well received by their fellow students!

I can't believe our Year 13 are now leaving us, they have lots of exciting destinations ahead of them, our students have applied to a variety of courses, we have two students who are hoping to take up places at Oxford University but also exciting GAP years and employment await.

Many of our Year 12 students have travelled both within Europe and further afield this year. We have had students going to Spain, France, India and China. We currently have three students who are on the school's World Challenge Trip in India for which they had to raise a significant sum of money. They are now enjoying the fruits of their labour by trekking, volunteering in Indian schools and finally enjoying some much needed rest.

Year 12 are also starting to think about their options post-18. We have had visiting speakers from local universities such as Cardiff, Bath and Glamorgan as well as ex-students to give advice and answer questions about university life and the application process. On 30th June we attended the UCAS Bath University Higher Education Convention, an invaluable morning for gaining information from all of the universities. Our school has a new Connexions PA, Martin Sandford, who works with students at a Sixth Form drop-in session to explore employment and apprenticeships.

Our students are now considering what extra needs to be done in order to enhance their CVs/personal statements. Several have attended Gifted and Talented residentials in their subjects, currently we have students attending an Aim Higher residential at Bournemouth University and for those applying to vocational courses work experience is vital. It is crucial that you use your time in Year 12 for academic development but also to develop work experience and personal skills in order to fully compete in today's employment and university market.

In June we held our interviews and Induction Day for our incoming Year 12. It was an extremely busy time as we have received over 160 applications. We received some very positive feedback from our students and look forward to welcoming them into our Sixth Form in September.

Finally I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of the students and parents we've worked with this year for their hard work and support. I wish you all every success with the A level, AS level and GCSE results in August; I hope your hard work is rewarded.

Linda Brunt
Director of Learning Post - 16

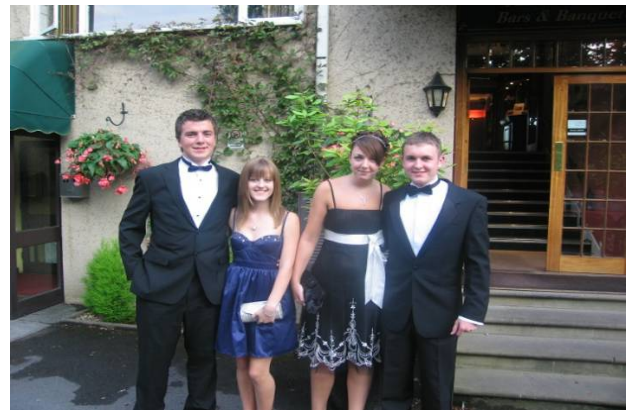
News from The Clarendon College Sixth Form

July 2009

As we approach the final stages of the current school year, our students are enjoying a more relaxed atmosphere having been deep in study, in the midst of both AS and A2 examinations. For Year 13 students this is the culmination of 2 years of hard work in the Sixth Form and the springboard to their future education and career paths. This year we have students hoping to follow University degrees as diverse as Biomedical Sciences to Computer Gaming Technology; French to Pharmacology; Primary Education to Marine Biology and Zoology. We wish them every success and look forward to another set of splendid results in August.

Looking back, the Spring and Summer terms have been packed with exciting opportunities for enrichment and personal development. These opportunities have included working with students lower down the school, either in the classroom, with Gifted and Talented students, or in the role of peer mentor; organising student led conferences, the annual Ski trip, visits to Paris and Rome and preparing for an exciting trip to our partner school in China.

We need to say a particular thanks to the Sixth Form Committee who have continued to provide much needed social distraction through parties and the now infamous, Charity Stay Awake. This was a hugely enjoyable and successful event (although the staff who manned the graveyard slot from 3.00am to 7.00am might have other ideas!) We raised £ 220.00 to be donated to the Children's ward at The Royal United Hospital in Bath. On Friday 25th June we held our Sixth Form Ball at the Old Mill Hotel in Batheaston; open to both Year 12 and Year 13 students. It was a wonderful evening with superb weather and plenty of photograph opportunities.



The new committee have started preparations for the Sixth Form BBQ held in September to welcome the new Yr 12 students. New students will be asked to contribute the small sum of £6.00. This subsidises all the social events and pays for the upkeep of the Common Room. We are particularly proud of the leadership shown by our students in running both the Committee and the Common Room.

Another opportunity for personal development includes The Senior Student Team. This is a group of students who apply to lead Impact groups such as "The Environmental Group" and "Links with the Community." Students apply by letter and are interviewed by the Head Teacher, Head of Year and the Former Head Girl and Boy.

The current team are 12 strong, reflecting the particularly high calibre of this year's candidates. I look forward to working with Ben Wrigley (Head Boy) and Jazmin Dicker (Head Girl) and the rest of the team over the next year.

Our current Year 12 students are busy looking forward. They have listened to the ideas presented to them at the Next Step Conference in June and are now researching University and College courses ready to draft Personal Statements. In this highly unpredictable and competitive market it is even more important that our students find ways of making themselves stand out from the crowd. Consequently, many are organising work placements for next year. Employers are constantly telling us that work experience and "employability skills" are what they want. If you are considering starting in the Sixth Form in September, you may also wish to consider how this can be incorporated into the first year of study. Use contacts that you or your family have and start to make enquiries.



Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Yr 11 students the best of luck with their results on August 27th and to Yr 12 and 13 students on Thursday 20th August.

Julie Thomas
Head of Sixth Form