MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

New building
We are now in the final stages of preparation for our move into our new school building. If all goes to plan (and we are assured it will!) we will obtain the keys to the new building on 13th April 2017 ready for the students to return on Wednesday 19th April for an induction day. I will provide all parents and students with more information next half term about the exact arrangements for the students’ induction into the new building. It will however be vital that all students attend the induction day. In order to give teachers the time to pack up we will have a professional day on Monday 20th March. On this day the school will be closed to all students except for Year 11 who will have a mock exam. The last day of term for all students will be Thursday 30th March when school will finish at 12.20pm.

Assessment tests Y7-9
As a result of some of the changes caused by the move into our new building, we have decided to move the Key Stage 3 and Year 10 assessment weeks back to the first week back after the Easter holidays. This means that students will have more time to revise for their tests and also maximise their learning time this term. After half term we will be back in touch with more details of support for the revision in the run up to the tests. All students will be required to take their exercise books home over the Easter holidays so that they can revise.

Half-term
I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe half term. The school will be open for Year 11 and the Sixth Form who are able to access a series of intervention sessions. Please check the intervention calendar for specific dates and times. We also have two groups of students in Paris, a sixth form business studies trip and a music tour. You will be able to follow the events on the music tour on https://twitter.com/CGAPerformers.

Parent Governor Vacancies
We are excited to announce that we are looking for two new parent governors to join our Governing Body. Please see the section at the end of the newsletter for more details on how to apply.

Christian Kingsley
Headteacher
Friday 24th March: Quiz Night - The quiz is open to all parents, carers, family, friends and Sixth Form students so start getting your teams together. Tickets will be available on ParentPay very shortly.

General emails to friendsofchestnutgrove@gmail.com

Follow us on Twitter (@FriendsofCGA) or join on our Facebook page Friends of Chestnut Grove.

ENGLISH RESIDENTIAL

Year 12 and 13 English literature students had a wonderful week in the Lake District to prepare for the Romantic poetry element of their A Level course. Staying on the very edge of Derwentwater in Borrowdale, the students could see a beautiful waterfall from their classroom window as they studied Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats and Frankenstein. It was a real opportunity to put the concept of the ‘sublime’ natural world into practice: whether it was skimming stones at Derwentwater, clambering up a waterfall or walking across the fells, students were able to reflect on why the Romantics wrote so obsessively about the landscape.

After two days of studying in the hostel, we took the students to Wordsworth’s home, Dove Cottage, where we were treated to a tour of the cottage, a guided tour round the museum and a class on Romanticism in the Jerwood Center (centre of Wordsworthian studies) where they were surrounded by Wordsworth’s original library and got to see a first edition of Frankenstein from 1818: valued at a mere £600,000!

The Year 12s went on a rainy walk up White Moss, where they read Dorothy Wordsworth’s journals regarding their experiences before heading into Grasmere and visiting Wordsworth’s grave and buying the best gingerbread in the world. Meanwhile, the Year 13s walked in the footsteps of Wordsworth’s daily trek to receive his post along Rydal Water enjoying the dramatic scenery.

In the evenings, the students enjoyed a literacy quiz, a film evening watching Keats’s biography ‘Bright Star’ and a showcase. Highlights included poetry readings, the Lion King, a rap between Blake, Wordsworth and Lord Byron and other comic skits demonstrating their impressive knowledge. The residential was thoroughly enjoyed by both students and teachers and we are already looking forward to next year.

Ms Smith
Head of English
Sainsbury’s Active Kids is back!

We have set ourselves a target of 50,000 vouchers this year - we can achieve this if we all work together to collect them! Please remember us as you are shopping over the half term.

This year it is a TUTOR GROUP contest - the tutor group that collects the most vouchers wins house points for their house - and a small token prize each - as well as the knowledge that they are the best at collecting! Tutors can also keep track of collectors and nominate the best collector in their class to get some vivo points.

Please hand in your vouchers to form tutors, or to the box in reception in an envelope clearly marked with your tutor group on it. If it is not labelled or handed to a tutor it does not count towards the competition.

The vouchers can be swapped for what we need in sport equipment, Duke of Edinburgh equipment and any remaining food tech equipment that we need to get for our new facility!

Would you like a bit of ‘That old Chestnut’? We are aware that there are many staff, students and alumni that might like to keep a bit of the old school before it is demolished. We are trying our hardest to accommodate this, and to raise some funds at the same time!

If there is something that you or your child would like to keep from the existing buildings (we have had requests from room number signs to pictures) please can you register your interest by emailing me at snoble@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk  We will try to accommodate as much as we can, but we do need to take into account any logistics.

- If this is an item that you would like just as a memory/keepsake - then we will be asking for a donation to be made via the Friends of Chestnut Grove Virgin Giving Page <Click Here>
- PLEASE DO NOT DONATE UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND YOUR REQUEST CONFIRMED
- Some larger items will have a guide donation – other smaller ones will be at your discretion.
- If this item is to be of use for a school department e.g. wood or metal that can be stripped and used as material for DT etc, then obviously that would not require a donation.

At this stage, we are just making a list and later we will see what is logistically possible. If you do want to keep something – please can you email Sharon Noble the following:

☐ Name  
☐ Item required  
☐ Where located (please be as exact as possible)  
☐ What is it for (personal/school use)

Please feel free to pass this onto ex-staffgetParents/alumni that may be interested – thank you!
It was fabulous to see the samba band out in full force on Saturday 28th January at Tooting Bec Lido for the **International Cold Water Swimming Championships**!

After a very early start (8:15am!) and a quick pep talk from band leader Mr Burstow, the band was ready to perform. Thank you to the organisers for the neck warmers; they were very smart and very much needed! The band played in freezing temperatures to 'warm up' the crowd before the daring swimmers jumped into the ice cold pool. Congratulations to all involved and a super well done to the samba band. They did us proud. See pictures and video on our Twitter feed (also accessible through our performing arts page on the school website).

---

**Performing Arts Tour to Paris**

On Thursday we shall be travelling to Paris on our performing arts tour. If you’re in the local area catch us at the FIAP Jean Monnet hotel on Friday 10th Feb and the Jardin du Luxembourg Bandstand on Sunday 12th from 11-11:30am.

We have 36 students on tour with us and are really looking forward to exploring Paris and showing them all of the pieces our students have been working on. Keep an eye on our Twitter feed [@CGAPerformers](http://cgaparis.blogspot.co.uk/) for regular updates.
Welcome to Esme Jenkinson who is our new French horn student. We now have three spaces on trumpet/trombone and are keen to fill them in the first week back.

Rehearsals for Les Miserables will kick off after half term so watch this space! Congratulations to all who auditioned.

Wishing you a restful half term and we shall return with tales of our performances in Paris!

*Ms Durban and the Performing Arts Team*

---

**ART**

A sneak peek from inside the art department this week. Artist Ceri Davies is delivering a drawing and painting workshop to our art specialists this week, encouraging students to not feel afraid of trying out alternative approaches to drawing and painting... more photos to come in the next newsletter!

Also Ms Harrison’s Year 10 visual arts group are creating some AMAZING artwork in response to their first coursework unit theme ‘distress, destroy, distort’. Well done all for your hardwork and independence and an extra shout out to our ‘lunch time residents’ who come back to continue on their work nearly every lunch!

*Miss Kench*
‘Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are truly created equal, the love we commit to one another must be equal as well’.  
*Barack Obama*

‘Gay rights are human rights, there is no separation’.  
*Macklemore*

‘If someone is gay, and he searches for the Lord, who am I to judge?’  
*Pope Francis*

LGBT+ History Month is celebrated across the nation with the aim of promoting equality and diversity. This year, the focus is on citizenship, PSHE and the law. LGBT+ lessons are done by lessons in many of their subjects to celebrate 50 years of the legalisation of homosexuality in England and in Wales. Before 1967, being homosexual was illegal. It was classed as a mental health disorder for a long time. The Equality Act (2010) re-affirmed that it is against the law to discriminate against individuals on the grounds of being LGBT+. This means that it is against the law to discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans individuals.

LGBT+ History Month focuses on increasing the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, learning about their history, and trying to improve their experiences in the community. Institutions comply with the law by making their institutions safe spaces for all groups in society, including LGBT+ individuals, so that everyone can realise their potential.

Around the world, people who identify as LBGT+ are treated differently. People usually think that the ‘Western culture’ is more accepting but homophobia and transphobia still exists, whether it’s down to religion or prejudice. LBGT+ people find it hard to be accepted for who they are and this has only got worse with many public Western figures, even in government, speaking out against homosexuality. Unfortunately, being gay or trans can result in the death penalty in some places such as Saudi Arabia and you can get be imprisoned in countries like Egypt just for expressing and being who you are. In most of Western Europe, the Americas and South Africa, gay marriage is legal but this doesn’t always mean LBGT+ people are accepted into society. No matter where we are in the world, we need to try our absolute best to help create equality.

In the UK, 41% of LGBT+ students have attempted or thought about killing themselves because of bullying. Discrimination leads to depression, anxiety and a lack of school attendance. 55% of LGBT+ pupils have experienced bullying at school. 99% of people say that they have heard people say ‘that’s so gay’ or other offensive homophobic language. In the UK, one in six lesbian, gay and bi people have experienced a homophobic or biphobic hate crime or incident over the last three years. Two-thirds of those experiencing a hate crime or incident did not report it to anyone. These statistics remind us of the importance of promoting equal rights for all, no matter who you are.

*Yasemin, Year 9, and Kaela and Yasmina, Year 8*
Headteacher’s commendations are given for students demonstrating the PROUD ethos, either through behaviour or exceptional pieces of work. Any student can be nominated by their teacher. Students who receive a commendation get a certificate from the Headteacher and also receive 100 vivos. The following students have received commendations in the past fortnight.

**Rosa O’Donnell, Year 9**

This fantastic piece of work was produced by Rosa for her PBE homework set by Ms Taylor entitled “Response to the Problem of Evil”.

**Zeba Syed, 8 Kapoor**

Zeba Syed in Year 8 achieved a full house in her good news bingo task set by Mr Gordon in science. This entailed nine tasks including: giving a perfect definition of osmosis to a science teacher outside of lessons, achieving excellent progress in a test, receiving a sticker for excellent classwork and receiving 3 vivos in a lesson. She also completed an incredible piece of work explaining how recessive genes allow rabbits with black fur to have white offspring.
On Tuesday 7th February, Ms Barnett and I were very lucky to take a group of ten girls from Years 7-9 into London for a day focussed on “Girls in STEM”, and how much of an impact they can have on the industry and the world we live in. This was hosted by Accenture and the STEMettes, with Emma McGuiggan hosting the day. The event included careers information, activities, competitions, networking and experiments! Below is a run-down of the day written by Year 9 students Eleanor and Tilly:

“On Tuesday we went to the Royal Institution in Mayfair, Central London for a STEM trip. The journey there was a nightmare - very busy tube! However, we were greeted by extremely friendly volunteer staff who normally work at Accenture. We were assigned our own volunteer who lead our group and guided us through the day. To kick start the day we were given an opening speech by Emma McGuiggan on the fantastic opportunities open to girls in STEM. The first half of the day included playing a fun trading game, packed with ethical decisions and maths hosted by AS Creatives. The game required strong teamwork, communication and lots of strategic planning. We then attended a panel of three women and one man who work in the STEM and technology industries and asked loads of questions and gained an insight on their jobs, how they got into their fields and the impact girls can have on STEM. We then had a lunch provided by Accenture and relaxed in the innovation hub. The final section of the day was hosted by the AppShed and STEMettes. We worked as a team to build and programme a robot which was very fun. We then had to complete challenges where four students from our school: Madeline, Vivianna, April and Clara won iPod shuffles for being the “Best Coders” in the competition.”

Overall the event was extremely interesting, action packed and engaging for all our students and the 300 others students from around London who attended. Once again I would like to thank Emma McGuiggan and her team for such an amazing day. A very loud and scream-filled day full of engaged students for teachers, but an amazing, fun and highly inspirational day for students. What an experience for our younger students.

Mr Stokes
STEM Coordinator
Year 7 have had an extremely busy two weeks. I have seen some impressive science lessons with the fantastic Mr Wilson. Students have been mixing and heating compounds on the bunsen burner and I was blown away by the amount of hands up to impress me with their newly acquired knowledge in chemistry.

Additionally, a group of six students have shown great bravery in leading an assembly in Chinese last week. They have been studying Chinese language and culture during their lunches on a Tuesday with their teacher, Rosa, who is the founder of the local Chinese community school. They presented their newly developed conversations in Chinese and explained the importance and spiritual history of Chinese New Year. The students also made me wear a Chinese lion costume and dance around the assembly, they were very adamant that I did this! The rest of the year loved the presentation and were all enquiringly about the club!

Also 7 Kahlo have taken inspiration from the 7 Blake presentations where they develop their oracular and presentation development skills by presenting a different topic to their form group. I have been extremely impressed by both tutor groups effort and engagement in taking part within the mini “competitions.”

Finally, I would like to wish you a well-deserved half term, and hope the year group have a well-deserved rest.

Mr Stokes
_Raising Standards Leader Year 7_
YEAR 8

Students with excellent attendance were celebrated for their fantastic commitment to learning on Thursday morning with an award breakfast. Students with 98% or above were treated to a hot breakfast in the canteen. Well done everyone!

Students with the biggest improvement in attendance will also be celebrated next term; they will receive vouchers for their efforts.

Well done to all those who have continued good attendance and I look forward to congratulating those next half term who have really focused on improving their attendance.

Mr McCarthy
Raising Standards Leader Year 8

YEAR 9

Dear all,

Please see below the photos I spoke about in my last entry where you can see, art, creative writing and music coming together to create a film score and DT and art coming together to create a jewellery box.
Year 9 students had an assembly on organisation last week where I specifically laid out the use of the planner and reminded them how useful the planner is in keeping track of work. As you are all aware, the increase in homework at the start of GCSEs can be difficult to manage, so all students need to be learning organisation strategies now so that they are prepared for the increase in work load. I have included some photos that I used during the assembly and one following the assembly.

Finally, I hope all of you have a very lovely half term holiday. Looking forward to seeing you on the 8th March!

Ms K Striesow  
Raising Standards Leader Year 9

YEAR 10

On Monday 6th February Year 10 took part in an interactive assembly looking at the perception of risks taken by their year group. Social Sense surveyed students across Wandsworth and in Chestnut Grove Academy last summer term and presented the findings during the health lesson. Students were surprised to find out that they often think other young people their age are taking risks such as smoking and drinking when the reality is 98% of CGA students do not do these things.
Jahmar (11 Kahlo) and Jaidah Spence (9 Kahlo) are part of the 1st Battersea Boy’s Brigade and Girl’s Association. They recently visited the Charleston Home for people with elderly care needs. They spent time listening to some of the residents there.

Being part of the 1st Boy’s Brigade and Girl’s Association meant that they both visited Buckingham Palace and met Prince Charles.

Jahmar said: “I really enjoyed my trip to Buckingham Palace. It was a privilege to talk with Prince Charles and was a most remarkable experience that I will never forget.”

We are all very PROUD of Jahmar and Jaidah and all their work in the local community.

Mr Wildman
Raising Standards Leader Year 11
CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY IS SEEKING TO RECRUIT TWO
NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

Academy vision

Our purpose is to provide all students who attend Chestnut Grove Academy with the highest quality education through the delivery of an outstanding, broad and balanced and creative curriculum. Students are taught in a supportive, secure and nurturing environment. Our aspiration for all children is that they achieve their potential and develop into well-rounded citizens who can make a valued contribution to society.

Our ethos is underpinned by the word PROUD which stands for Positive, Resilient, Open-minded, Unified and Determined. We seek to instil these values in our students and expect staff and governors to uphold them at all times. The Chestnut Grove community is based on mutual respect between children and adults within the school community and beyond. It is a school where every child matters and has the right to expect whatever is necessary for his or her development, academic and personal.

The Academy Trust governs Chestnut Grove for pupils aged 11 to 19. It has a pupil capacity of 1,025 and has a roll of 995. The school is currently in the process of being rebuilt under the PSBP programme and will expand its Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 165 to 180.

Why become a governor?

You should consider becoming a governor because you want to play a strategic role in ensuring that all pupils at Chestnut Grove Academy have the best possible education.

What skills do I need?

Enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education are the most important qualities. Chestnut Grove Academy has carried out a skills audit of its existing Board of Governors and as a result would be particularly keen to see parents standing for election who have the following skills:

- Financial skills, particularly with a relevant accountancy qualification
- Deep knowledge of the state education system and policy
- Networks with, and knowledge of the local community (including businesses)

Equal opportunities

We particularly welcome applications from groups currently under-represented in the governing body, this may include ethnic minority and disabled applicants and those from the LGBT community.
FURTHER INFORMATION TO HELP YOU DECIDE

What would I be asked to do and what is the time commitment?

You would be expected to get to know the school from a governor’s perspective by completing an induction programme. The Full Governing Body is likely to meet once a term in the evening for about 2-3 hours. You would also be expected to attend 1 or 2 committee meetings a term. From time to time you would be required to serve on panels of governors to:

- Conduct the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters;
- Hear appeals about student exclusions.
- Conduct student disciplinary panels.
- Bring a perspective on the whole school experience to committee meetings.

It is estimated the time commitment is approximately 10-12 days p.a.

To find out more

http://www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk/Governance

What does a governor do?

A school governor contributes to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- Setting the school’s vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

A governor does NOT:

- Write school policies;
- Represent specific experiences relating to their children at the school;
- Use their position as a governor to challenge the school about their own child’s personal experiences, the emphasis must always be on all children;
- Spend much time with the pupils of the school – if you want to work directly with children, there are many other voluntary and valuable roles within the school;
- Do the job of the school staff – if there is not enough capacity within the paid staff team to carry out the necessary tasks, the governing body need to consider and rectify this.

More information can be found at:
www.nga.org.uk/getattachment/Be-a-Governor/What_does_a_governor_do.pdf
What do I do next?

Please submit a statement, on no more than one side of A4, which details why you think you will be suitable for this role. This statement should not include personal details (name, ethnicity, gender or identifiers about your children). The statement should be sent to the following e-mail address by midday on Friday 24\textsuperscript{th} February 2017.

governors@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk

What happens next?

The selection process will be a blind one. Your personal details will not be revealed to those voting. They will simply receive your statement of why you want to be a governor at Chestnut Grove and how you fit the criteria. They will vote on this basis only.

Of course you can vote for yourself, but we ask you not to canvass for votes, but allow parents to choose based on your statement only.

There will be a tw\textsuperscript{w} week period in which all parents can vote 27\textsuperscript{th} Feb – 10\textsuperscript{th} March. Parents will be informed of the nominations by e-mail on Monday 27\textsuperscript{th} February and the nominees will also be posted on the website.

After the voting is complete, the two parents with the most votes will be invited in to meet the Headteacher Mr Kingsley and the Chair of Governors Judi Dumont-Barter, for a formal interview and to plan their induction process.

We look forward to receiving your application.