



## Grey Court School e-Bulletin

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### Head's Line

Dear Parents/Students

We have come to the end of a long and really worthwhile term. The school has continued to make rapid progress which is wholly down to the hard work and commitment of the teaching and support staff at the school. We are most fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented work force and I am most grateful for that support.

However, the school would not be the positive place it is unless the young people in our care cooperated and fully involved themselves in the life of the school. The students have been fantastic this term. Grey Court is developing all the characteristics of a very good school. Our staffing has stabilised, the schools attendance/punctuality has improved, exclusions are down but most importantly there is an incredible buzz around the school which reflects the overall improvements.

In our recent parent survey which I will publish in the next ebulletin, out of the 200 parents, 94% of parents felt that their child was making progress, 97% said that the staff encouraged their child to become mature and independent but most importantly for me, 93% said their

child liked the school. I would like the figures to be even closer to 100% and then I would know we were doing an outstanding job.

Could I ask again, that you check your child's uniform: (blazer badges fixed on, boys' top buttons in place, black shoes, pencil cases fully equipped), etc over the Christmas holiday and ensure they are ready for the start of the new term.

Parents are not returning the consent letters for the HPV injections that are being given in January. We need these back on the first day of term 5 JANUARY please.

Have a fantastic Christmas, I hope you find peace and that the New Year brings an abundance of only good things to you and your family.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the school this term.

Kind regards as always  
Maggie Bailey



Maggie Bailey | HEADTEACHER

#### Key Dates

Spring Term 5 January to 3 April 2009

Half Term 16—20th February 2009

Inset Day 31 March 2009

Year 11 Parents Evening on 15 January

Year 7 Parents Evening on 29 January

Year 9 Options/Parents Evening on 5 February

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### Latest News

Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside Safer Neighbourhoods Team  
Tel: 020 8948 8571  
Mobile: 07768 178552

#### FREE SECURITY BIKE AND MOBILE PHONE MARKING

On Monday 19 January 2008 at Grey Court School from 3pm to 3.30pm.

Contact: [www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

#### TESCO FOR SCHOOLS & CLUBS

Tesco are offering an exciting new voucher scheme for schools.

There will be a new Tesco for Schools & Clubs catalogue available in January to enable schools to benefit from this

programme by offering the resources we need, whether it be new sports equipment, mobile technology or something to help students get creative.

Vouchers will be available in store from 2 March 2009. So we have plenty of time to decide what we will be saving for.

Vouchers for Computers for Schools and Sport for Schools have been banked.

## Year 7

### Head of Year 7 Mr. Andy Low

What a brilliant start to life at Grey Court !! Year 7 have been brilliant in the classroom, on the stage and with other extra curricular activities. Over 30 students have been sent postcards home over the last few days in recognition of their work. Others will receive certificates in their celebration assembly for a number of successes over the past term. They should all take pride in their

successes and keep all certificates safe to put in a portfolio when they leave in Year 11.

It was a real pleasure to see them perform in the Christmas concert last week with a number of students showing their talents for singing or playing a musical instrument. Over the past term, a number have been involved in other extra curricular activities, from making cakes in cookery club, putting together a mosaic, to sporting

success within the borough. I am sure that Year 7 will go from strength to strength in 2009. A big 'Thank you' goes to you as parents/guardians of Year 7 ensuring they are in the correct uniform every day or ensuring homework planners are signed every week. I look forward to this continued support next year.

May I wish all Year 7 families a very Happy Christmas and a fantastic 2009.

Mr. Low

## Year 8

### Acting Head of Year 8 Mr. Chris Rhodes

The year 8 cohort finished off the term with their celebration Christmas assembly. The theme of the assembly was "Making the most of your Opportunities". Students were reminded of all the support, encouragement and dedication of the teaching staff and the excellent facilities and extra curricular provision that can be enjoyed at Grey Court. Students reflected upon their first term's progress and asked themselves the question "What can I do to get the most out of my time at

Grey Court?" Over 35% of the year group had their success acknowledged through the presentation of merit certificates and 10 students collected certificates for 100% attendance. The awards for overall effort and achievement went to Daniel Cowan and Caroline Cooper respectively. They were given a trophy and a £20 voucher to commemorate their success. The Jack Petchy award for general attainment went to Gus Lambri. Due to his hard work and diligence he has made remarkable progress across all subject areas. He also represents the school at several sports and is

a member of the sports council. Gus has £200 to give to Charity or to buy items for a department within the school. Well Done Gus!! In conclusion I would like to thank you, the parents, for supporting the high standards that we have at Grey Court. Year 8 have had an excellent start on their journey to 2012 and this is a tribute to the enormous efforts made by parents, staff, and students. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you refreshed and revitalized in the new year.

Mr. Rhodes

## Year 9

### Acting Head of Year 9 Mr Dave Winch

Year 9 students have received a revision guide and support booklet for the forthcoming Mock SATs exams in January.

Students should have brought them home on Thursday. The booklet is designed to support both parents and students in understanding the requirements for each subject area

and there is also a calendar attached with important key dates for the rest of Year 9. Of particular note is the enclosed Options information.

Any student who has been absent from school in the last few days will need to access the booklet via the school website where a copy can be found available for

downloading and printing off.

Ms. John

There is more news regarding Year 9 on page 7



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*"at Grey Court School  
our core values of  
achievement, innovation,  
inclusion and  
accountability provide  
the basis for academic  
excellence and future  
success for all.."*

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## Year 10

### Head of Year 10 Mr Andrew Burton

Artsrichmond have appointed Anthony Blair of 10M as joint Richmond Laureate with another student from St. Paul's School. Anthony has already received his award and bursary at the Orange

Tree Theatre. Grey Court School has also received a cheque for £50 for the purchase of school books/equipment. This is an outstanding achievement and a credit to the school.



## Year 11

### Head of Year 11 Mr Andrew Burton

#### YEAR 11 JANUARY GCSE SCIENCE EXAMS

Year 11 Science GCSE exams are taking place on the following dates: Chemistry module C2 (all students inc 10A1) 15th January, Biology module B3 (Triple students only) 12th January, and Physics module P2 (Triple students only) 19th January.

All students have been provided with the relevant revision guides.

As you can appreciate each

exam grade will have a significant impact on the final GCSE grade obtained for the year 11 GCSE course.

Each exam will comprise of 25% of your child's GCSE Science grade. It is of the utmost importance that they prepare well for the exam and ensure that they are properly equipped on the day.

Miss Woods

#### GCSE Chemistry exam

All Year 11 students have been provided with a chemistry work book which should be completed in preparation for the GCSE

Chemistry exam on January 15th. Replacement books can be obtained from Science teachers.

Miss Woods  
(Head of Science)

#### Year 11 Mock Art exams

The year 11 trial exams on the 11th and 12th of December were a great success. The students demonstrated very high levels of concentration for the five hour exam. As a result of this focused behaviour, some fantastic and original artwork was produced - the challenge now is to continue with the same dedication in lessons leading to the final ten hour exam. Students have a chance to improve their exam grades if they have any missing coursework set during Autumn

term. All students have a list of homeworks stuck in their sketchbooks to refer to.

Once again, well done and hats off to all the year art students who managed to keep up the momentum and produce quality artwork at the end of a long day.

L Ridyard

## Other News

The LRC is open in the morning from 7.30am and then after school until 5pm. During the exam period Year 11 will be given priority if they wish to use the area for revision.

The next meeting of the

**SCHOOL NUTRITION ACTION GROUP**

Will be

7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 1.15 in T5

**All Welcome!**

## Extra Curricular

Students must bring a note and PE kit with them to lesson even if they are not taking part for one reason or another.

PLEASE NOTE there is always PE kit passing through lost property—can you please ensure your sports kit has an appropriate name tag to enable us to return it to you.

### Sports fixtures/training

Wednesday 7th Jan - Year 10 Football vs Ewell Castle (Home)



Spring 2009	Lunch Time Clubs				After School Clubs (15:15-16:15)			
	Gym	S/Hall	Field 1	Field 2	Gym	S/Hall	Field 1	Field 2
Mon		Basketball Girls AW				Volleyball KS3 Richmond Volleyball	Rugby League Y7/Yr8 Harlequins	
Tue		Basketball 9/10/11 SJC				Basketball Y7/8 BR/MXA	Rugby Union Year 11 SJC	Rugby Union Year 10 SCW
Wed		5-a-Side Y7 SCW			Rowing All Years	SHA Y7 SJC/ Real Runners	Rugby Union Y7/8 London Scottish	
Thur		Badminton KS3 SJC			Trampolining M8	Girls Basketball KS3	Rugby Union Year 9 SJC	Rugby Union Year 7 SCW
Fri	Table Tennis MXA				Trampolining M8	Tennis Y7 (3-4pm) Y8 (4-5pm) H&P TC	GCSE REVISION Y11(Compulsory) AW/AL	

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# The Sporting Stag

## Senior Volleyball

Congratulations to the boys and girls senior volleyball teams who have been playing some fantastic volleyball over the last couple of weeks.

## Girls Volleyball

Grey Court girls came out on top as they competed in the Cluster B competition on route to the Richmond Borough Finals. Captained by Rhianna Kemal-Ur-Rahim and aided by the strong service of Helena Desancic the girls fought for every point as they convincingly beat Teddington and Christ's 2 games to 1.

At the Richmond Borough finals the girls then got the opportunity to challenge schools from both Clusters in the borough. Once again the girls played some excellent volleyball to secure a place in the semi finals. They came up against Waldegrave A team, who they beat to make the finals. Unfortunately, the girls were extremely unlucky to lose to Waldegrave B team in the final, who had stepped up their game immensely to become borough champions. The match was extremely close and a few unlucky decisions going against the girls seemed to knock their confidence. However, they should be extremely proud of the hard work and commitment they have shown over the last 3 months.

2<sup>nd</sup> place in the borough championships was sufficient to allow the girls to progress to the next round of the competition – the Richmond vs. Kingston championship. Unfortunately, star player Helena Desancic had returned to Serbia and she was certainly missed by the girls as she brought a certain confidence to the team. The girls were determined to continue with their fighting spirit and played some very close games against Chessington, Coombe Girls and Waldegrave.

### Team

Rhianna Kemal-Ur-Rahim (C), Jess Mawson, Helena Desancic, Vicky Brown, Laura Brackenbury, Katie Beard, Lizzie Ward, Amy Mawson

## Boys Volleyball

The boys came up against strong competition in their Cluster B competition. The level of Volleyball being played was phenomenal! The boys played a close game against Christ's but were beaten 2 – 1. However, they were much more successful against Teddington. Maybe if they'd played that game first then the Christ's result may have been different! Grey Court qualified in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall.

The borough finals were a different story. With a change to the length of matches the boys were unable to settle into their game and narrowly lost the majority of their games against the other schools in the borough.

The team were lucky enough to be invited to the Richmond Vs Kingston Finals after a withdrawal by HCC and stepped up their game to play some awesome volleyball!

Comfortably beating Hampton Boys School, they went on to challenge Chessington in the final. The boys came up against some strong opposition in two Bulgarian twins who dominated the play of the game and quite rightly took their team to victory. Special mention should go to Sammy Harbour who continued to battle for every point and played some excellent volleyball throughout. However, we were proud to be crowned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the inter borough tournament, proving that Volleyball still remains a strength in our school.

### Team

Sammy Harbour (C), Jake Tench, Isaac Sengoba, Luke Povey, Cedomir Vukasinovic, Jack Barton

I would also like to mention that many of our players were scouted by Richmond Volleyball to play in local teams. Jake Tench and Luke Povey recently competed in the Richmond boys U16 in the first round of the Nationals. They will go on to compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the competition after Christmas.

Best of luck!  
Ms. White

## The Sporting Stag

### Year 7 Rugby.

Ewell Castle 0, Grey Court 26

This was the year 7's first competitive rugby union game of the season and what a great start! We played some really good rugby at times and went ahead via a Ben Marquez try. Hugo Russell converted the try. We added another just before half time, via Ben Marquez again. Hugo added the extra two points. After the break, we scored our third try and Ben scored his third. This was an excellent try, solid scrum, good pass by Edmund Patterson, Ben Tait collected and passed to Gareth Lewis who beat two men and offloaded to the supporting Marquez who had the simple task of touching down. Our fourth try was scored by scrum half Edmund Patterson, who picked up from base of scrum and barged his way through the defence to score. Again Hugo Russell scored the conversion. This was an excellent performance and we will only improve. There have been big turnouts at training and I hope this will continue after Christmas as more fixtures will be arranged.

Mr Willmore

### Year 10 Football

#### County Cup result.

Grey Court 3, Glyn School 5

This was always going to be a difficult game for us as they are a very good football school with over 200 boys to choose from in each year. We started the game extremely well and should have taken the lead through George Ransom, but he was unable to convert. We then gifted them the lead through a bad mistake and they added a second before half time through another defensive lapse. We gifted them another goal in the second half before going 5-0 down. The boys then showed great character and fought back to 5-3. We are improving and on the whole competed well, but individual mistakes cost us dear and we cannot afford to make mistakes against good schools.

Mr Willmore



## GENERAL NEWS

### Year 9 Student & Teacher Conference

On Wednesday 17th December, the whole of year 9 took part in a Student & Teacher Conference to discuss their ideas and aspirations for the year group. The conference focused on behaviour, teaching & learning and rewards & motivators and students worked in groups to prioritise the main issues.

Year 9 demonstrated once again that they can work well together in a mature and thoughtful manner. The atmosphere was positive and creative, as student group leaders guided the students and teachers in their groups, through a number of activities. At the end of the morning, each group leader presented their ideas to the rest of the year group who were an attentive and appreciative audience.

The next stage will be to put the excellent ideas into practise over the next two terms.

Well done year 9 and a happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Sharon Mercer/SSO KS3



## VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

### Christmas Concert

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the VPA Christmas Celebration Concert 2008. This was very successful and enjoyed by students, staff and parents. I would like to thank everyone involved for their contribution and support.

*"Congratulations on brilliant performances on Thursday night. It was lovely to see pupils from all across the school taking part in their varied contributions. Choir were fantastic, string group lovely, dancers brave! and drama group excellent". (Mother of year 7 Student)*

### Senior Citizens Tea Party

Well done to all the students who took part in the entertainment for our Senior Citizens Tea Party. There was some great feed back and they enjoyed it enormously.

### Spring Show

Mr Millar would like to hear from students in Year 11 who are interested in taking a lead role in the management and running of the Spring Show. Students should also start to consider their audition pieces for this event – auditions will be held early next term. Please see Mr Millar in person or via email if you are interested.

### Theatre Trips

VPA faculty ran several theatre/concert trips this term – The 39 Steps, Woman in Black, Blood Brothers, The Royal Ballet School - all were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Please keep your eye on the Notice boards in the VPA faculty area for future trips next term.

**" CANDID CASTING "** are casting two new children's BBC series, which will be aired in 2009 As a company Candid are responsible for finding young characters for many TV dramas Series and Films and are particularly known for finding children from outside of stage schools. Filming for both series is from the end of March 2009.

Please see Mr Millar or Mrs Wharton for further information or call Candid Casting on 020 7490 8882 from 9.30 – 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Auditions are being held on Saturdays in December 2008 and January 2009.

### LAMDA – London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

If you are interested in doing this course, the VPA faculty will be holding a taster day on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The course will be taught by a peripatetic teacher who will visit the school. This taster session will cost £10. Any interested students should see Mrs Wharton.

### STANISLAVSKY comes to Grey Court

We are very fortunate to have secured the skills of Elena Knight whose acting credits include Elena Andreevna "Uncle Vanya" (London), Irina "Three Sisters" by Chekhov and Carlotta "The Cherry Orchard" by Chekhov.

She will conduct acting workshops for our GCSE and other interested Year 10 and 11 students in the Stanislavsky method and Chekhov plays on Thursday evenings. These will be taster sessions to begin with and hopefully we will develop our own local community drama group in the future.

## A SELECTION OF STUDENTS HAVE WRITTEN DOWN THEIR THOUGHTS REGARDING AUTUMN TERM OF 2008

We are now one term into the school year, and since the beginning there have been massive improvements to the school. Each faculty have witnessed changes, new students, new staff, VPA and PE have both had the biggest changes.

Mr. Millar started as the Head of Visual & Performing Arts in September and already he has put together an outstanding Christmas Concert for the parents, staff and students.

PE has also had quite a few changes, with Mr. Willmore and Mr. Colvin starting in September, working alongside Miss White and Mr. Low. Facilities in the department have improved and the school now has lots more extra curricular activities taking place at lunchtime and after school. Through those clubs we have brilliant football, rugby, cross country and netball teams.

Here at Grey Court, all of us, as students, want to do more and teachers are very helpful in letting us do Gifted and Talented events, and Restorative Justice.

At Grey Court teachers and students together, have good relationships, as do fellow students and friends, we work together to keep the school a positive, fun and great learning environment.

### Student in Year 8

The first time I arrived at Grey Court it was amazing. I thought that I was not going to have any friends. I saw Miss Stenner the first day and she took me to my tutor group and Mr. Rickard was my tutor. I did not know what tutor meant and they gave me a buddy and her name was Rachel. My music teacher was called Mr. Millar and he is very kind. Then I saw a girl called Jade and then Virginia and Azra. Then we become best friends. I was a bit scared because I did not know the place very well.

After a few weeks I was not scared and I knew the place very well and then I started to remember where things were and then I suddenly knew that my friends were in the same class as me. Then I started to join different clubs like cooking club, tennis and all sorts of other clubs. I had 3 mentors in my tutor group. Whenever I go to cooking club, I see my friends called Josh, Rana, Charlotte, Bobby, Mill, Lara, Burcak, Dominic and Virginia. I have lots of fun.

### Student in Year 7

I remember my first day at Grey Court being quite nerve racking but very exciting. There were lots of things I was nervous about, such as homework and trying to make friends. However, there were lots of preparations to help us settle in. At first, most people were getting lost regularly, but the teachers were understanding and forgiving. The teachers have helped me through my first term very well by supporting us with our homework and not being too strict. Making new friends and meeting new people has also been very enjoyable. It seemed at first that everybody would already have friends, and that I would struggle making new ones. It turns out that everybody was in the same position as me and everyone was trying to make new friends.

Lessons have been interesting and fun throughout my first term with the teachers being funny, the work only being set to your ability and meeting new people like the teachers and the children. The teachers have also encouraged me to join in with extra curricular activities including sports clubs, cooking club and drama club. The variety of lessons and subjects is very good, making sure we find something we enjoy. Everybody has been thoroughly supportive and I have had a very good first term.

### Student in Year 7

## A SELECTION OF STUDENTS HAVE WRITTEN DOWN THEIR THOUGHTS REGARDING AUTUMN TERM OF 2008

It has been a great start to the year so far and the new staff have been a great asset. Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Burton, Ms. Mutch, Mr. Colvin and Mr. Willmore are efficient and helpful in lessons and have made the year enjoyable.  
Good luck Ms. Mutch!!

Student in Year 10

My first impression of Grey Court was that I was going to get bullied and I would get lost around the school. But the teachers gave us all a map and the first few days they took us to lunch 15 minutes earlier than the rest of the school. The teachers tried to put us in tutor groups with a least one or more of our friends and that worked out for me very well because I am in a tutor group with three of my friends.

There are lots of extra curricular things to do like football club which I take part in, music club, netball club, cooking club and lots more. The teachers are nice to us at the start of the year and then they get stricter towards the end of the term, like normal teachers would do. The prefects are nice to you and they show you the way around school and they even let us have a kick about with them (we normally beat them!!).

Student in Year 7

We have had a lot of new staff this year. They are all really good especially my tutor and French teacher, Mr. Scott. If he was un-cool, he would say he was "down with the kids", but thankfully he is very cool indeed. His teaching methods have really nurtured our small class of about 7 in French, and in tutor time he is relaxed enough to be nice but strict enough to keep the tutor group under control.  
All Hail Ms. Bailey!!!

Student in Year 10

I have enjoyed the first term with Mr. O'Donnell teaching me maths. The lessons have been productive and I feel I have progressed a lot. Mr. O'Donnell is really cool! PS – they did not pay me to write this.

Student in Year 10