



Chilworth House Upper School

Diary Dates:

- Term 4 Start Date: Monday 28/02/11
- Term 4 End Date: Wednesday 06/04/11 at 12.45pm

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News from the Head Teacher

K. Larsen B. Ed, M.A.

Work began on Phase 2 of the development of Chilworth House Upper School at the start to this year. The out buildings were knocked down and a new car park created for staff. Unfortunately planning issues surrounding the felling of trees and possible land contamination from previous years has stopped work which is frustrating for both the pupils and staff. The once scenic setting at the front of the school now resembles a building site with a number of portacabins and security fencing surrounding the area of intended construction. Space was already a significant issue but with the demolition of the out buildings and the barn which was used for recreational

activities even more pressure has been placed on the establishment. The whole school community however is motivated by what will be—the completion of the project which will not only look aesthetically pleasing but will extend our curriculum provision thus enhancing the overall educational experience of our pupils. With younger pupils moving up from Chilworth Primary School in September and continued enquiries from placing Authorities, the school's future looks very promising endorsing the good work that already has begun and will be developed further with the completion of the new build. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both pupils and staff for their patience and understanding

whilst this work continues.

I am also delighted to report that we have had a fantastic response to adverts placed in both the TES and local news papers for new Teachers. A total of nineteen applicants have applied for positions at the school, seven of whom have been shortlisted. This is a wonderful position to find ourselves in, particularly given the strength of the field. The newly appointed Teachers will take up posts in April and September. I look forward to informing parents of staffing developments in our next newsletter.

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Hakim and Scotty.

News from 7T

Year 7 has continued to work hard both academically and behaviorally. This term they have had a chance to participate in food technology sessions where they planned, prepared and enjoyed eating various dishes. If we were lucky they would share them as well!

They are enjoying reading and discussing Skellig with Mr Green as part of the Speaking and Listening curriculum, as they enjoyed reading and then watching Animal Farm last term.

In literacy they very much enjoyed taking part in a persuasive writing topic, imagining they were on Dragon's Den. They came up with some brilliant ideas.



he class has enjoyed studying 'Religion and Conflict' within Religious Studies, including analysis of the 'Arab-

Israeli' conflict and the Yom Kippur war and recently the Crusades of the Middle Ages. The History Channel documentary has proved an excellent source of information, much enjoyed by the boys.

Finally, in Geography the boys have been making a model to illustrate the journey of a river through the environment. They have enjoyed the practical aspect of this.



News from 8R/D

The term after Christmas is always a bit of an anti-climax for staff and pupils. The excitement in the lead up to the 'Holiday Season' can sometimes be an aid to learning – and so it proved for Year 8, who were eager and willing to 'work' yet still getting caught up in the excitement of Christmas. Subsequently this term has proved to be more 'difficult', in terms of getting pupils back into the swing of working together to learn.

Behaviour this term has

proved to be somewhat more problematic generally than previously. This might well be down to changes within the school such as : the lessening (temporarily) of outdoor play space ,and changes within the staff group.

In terms of future changes for year 8 : they already know that one of their class teachers(Mr. Reid snr.) will be leaving at the end of term4—at Easter. His replacement has been appointed, so there should be a 'seamless

transition'; but we know that this is not always the case.

This update is being written at a time when most of the class are at Cotswold Wildlife Park—for an end of term 'treat'. It should be said that after a bit of a shaky start, the year 8 group have come together in a much more positive way at the end of this term, and they fully deserve their reward.

So, we can look forward positively to the new term, based on a positive end to this current term.

News from 9G

9G said goodbye to another long-standing Chilworth House pupil : Declan O'Connor left Chilworth House Upper School to start a new life at a school much nearer to his new home in West Hampstead, Camden Borough, London. His new environment will seem miles away from the rural idyll which is the rolling countryside around Chilworth House, and there won't be too many Red Kites down West Hampstead Lane either! Everyone at the school wishes Declan a safe, secure future and we shall all miss him.



The preparation of the grounds for the new development has meant a slight change in arrangements for the boys at times, but at least they have an enclosed quiet room with pool table for their recreation time, and as the weather improves the magnificent grounds will come into play as the ground dries out. The school wishes to estab-

lish an 'Eco-School' to take advantage of the superb facilities on offer; if any parent or guardian has particular skills to offer in regard to this please let Mr. Green know. Skills such as carpentry for example to construct nest boxes, or even knowledge regarding native trees/flowers and their soil requirements would be welcomed. Finally, well done to Max Green for gaining a place on the termly reward trip, it would be great to see more boys being similarly rewarded .

News from 10P

We've tried it once but it wasn't overly successful so we're giving it another go as 10P welcomed a female pupil to our form. It's early daily yet but hopefully Bryony will be a calming influence on the form and become a successful member of the year.

We've also had another change in teaching assistant as Mr Bryant joined the school and the form and is offering his wide and varied skills in all areas of the school.

Yet another change was in our music/ skills

teacher, Tim who replaced Alex Hehir. Tim is already well underway with the BTEC course and intends to get all the year group a qualification in this area.

Closer to home, in my subject areas, there were some cautious/nervous looks as I introduced the school to Health Related Fitness after the indulgent Christmas holidays. Having been ill (not injured by my form this time) for the last 2 weeks of term, it came as a bit of a shock to me too. However, the school and 10P have taken on board the

idea of fitness and have produced some excellent work and have hopefully felt the benefits too. It's the final 'bleep test' at the time of writing so we will see if improvements have been made.

Year 10 continue to cook on with enthusiasm with still no major accidents, even negotiating deep fat frying.

As a final note, 10P, work has got to keep improving in quality and quantity as off now for results in 15 moths time!



Chilworth House Upper School

School Council Update

The Chilworth House Upper School Council is continuing to grow and develop. It has been another great term for our School Council representatives who have shared many great ideas in relation to school improvement and development.

A recent meeting gave pupils the opportunity to discuss suggestions in an open forum. Suggestions that related to developing the school grounds included the kinds of fruit and vegetables pupils would like to grow in the raised beds that have now been completed.

Another interesting idea related to the introduction of a 'buddy system' where pupils would nominate a friend who could help them when they are experiencing difficulties. Other ideas ranged from those that can be easily organised such as new activities and resources for break time, to those which will take more time and money such as a holiday for those pupils who continually demonstrate exceptionally good behaviour over a long period of time.

I am very proud to be able to announce that our school

council chairman Max Green is a definite candidate for such a reward as he has earned maximum points in every lesson for a whole term! Although Max had set himself very high expectations he has proved to everyone that such an achievement is possible and that his nickname Maximus is well deserved. An excellent achievement Max and one that you should feel very happy about. Very well done from all at Chilworth House Upper School.

Pastoral Update

Well, as Term 3 draws to a close I think we are all wondering where the time has gone! It only seems like a few weeks ago we were making festive decorations... Anyway, it seems that brighter weather is on its way and with that comes a whole spectrum of new opportunities for the students. We will be organising a more structured range of break activities from next term onwards including various sports and outdoor pursuits. We also hope to be able to offer a few overnight camps for students in the next couple of terms, weather permitting of course.

Our end of term trip was to

Laser Quest in Swindon which was really brilliant. The students loved it which was reflected in their behaviour which was exemplary, so well done to those 8 students who made it on that trip. Hopefully we will see some new faces on next terms 'Green Reward Trip'. We have now had hot lunches for a whole term and they seem to be going down very well. The students are much happier with the variety and we are having more requests for seconds than ever before so that can only be a positive thing! Can we please just remind all parents/carers not to send your child in with drinks and snacks

please as this only causes problems across the school.

Once again, can I just thank all parents and carers for all your phone calls and home/school diary messages. Please feel free and encouraged to call us anytime you would like to chat about any aspect of your child's care whilst at school. We look forward to continued communication next term. Have a good break and all the best – Elaine Kinnell, Andrew Baldock and Johann Bagoban (the care team)

News from our site manager

Since my last update on the school grounds there has been a lot of activity. The outbuildings have now been completely demolished and cleared away in readiness for the phase 2 development of the school. I have installed over 270 metres of brand new post and rail fencing to replace the old rotten fencing and another 200 metres will be installed in the immediate future to complete the perimeter fencing project.

A bespoke allotment has been recently completed in a sunny position behind the BMX track. The site is completely enclosed by rabbit-proof fencing which is buried unto the ground to deter the animals from burrowing underneath to feed on the fruit and vegetables. Highly strained high-tensile line wire will deter the agile muntjac deer from vaulting the fence to enjoy a feast. The vegetable beds themselves are lined with lengths of old telegraph poles which I recycled from the frame of the old tin barn. The pupils will soon have a large polytunnel in which they can sow many hundreds of seeds in preparation for what will hopefully be a long, hot, fruitful summer.

Before the end of the month we are expecting delivery of 30 native trees thanks to a grant from The Woodland Trust. In addition to and complementing the planting of these trees, a new on-site Forest School area will be created incorporating a crescent of sunken log seating surrounding a bonfire area, an enclosing post and rail fence backed by a beech hedgerow and further native tree species.

Since November last year I have been heading up a Friday afternoon activity session called 'Restorative Practice'. It is a practical session during which pupils on red status have the opportunity to give something back to the school in a tangible and meaningful way. Some of the activities undertaken so far include: post and rail fencing, leaf clearance, bulb planting, vehicle maintenance and cleaning as well as good old fashioned manual labour. Restorative Practice gives the pupils a chance to see what is involved in maintaining the school grounds to a high standard and I believe that a sense of pride is taken away afterwards.

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