

Headlines

Chichester High School for Girls Specialist in Arts & Science



Together we aspire
Together we achieve



July 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

As the academic year 2010/11 draws to a close, I reflect upon an excellent year's work at Chichester High School for Girls. We have focussed on five key priorities this year, all of which aim to reduce the barriers to learning and improve the educational opportunities for your daughter. We have been working hard to improve what happens in every lesson so that all of our students develop as independent learners and make better progress.

Our work on improving attendance has continued and we have had some success in particular areas. Sadly, our overall attendance is still not as good as it should be for too many students, and so this work will continue next year.

Our virtual learning environment has been developing extremely well behind the scenes, and very soon parents will start to reap the benefits of this work.

The students themselves have been an integral part in all the work that we do at school and they have been involved at many levels. Amongst other things, they have helped us to develop our new rewards policy and the new prefect system, helped curriculum leaders to improve schemes of work and also provided invaluable feedback on the type of support students receive in lessons.

Keeping up with changes announced by the Department for Education (DfE) has been a job in itself this year. We have come to expect some new announcement every week which has implications for our students. The retrospective introduction of the English Baccalaureate, for example, and the recommendations from the Wolf report on vocational education have given us food for thought with regard to the curriculum we provide now and in the future. The political 'drive' towards Academy status for schools has caused numerous discussions at Governing Board meetings. The Board has convened a 'fact-finding' group to research the whole issue and to discover the many pros and cons encountered by schools which have chosen this particular pathway. The group is due to report back by April 2012. Parents of course will be part of the fact-finding process.

This educational turbulence comes at a time when we are all still getting on with the job, striving to improve our standards, when resources and support from the local authority are diminishing.

Our staff at Chichester High School for Girls have not wavered from the task and I congratulate and thank them for their perseverance and tenacity in such turbulent times over this last year. They have done a great job in keeping their focus on what really matters in a school; giving each and every one of the students in their care the best educational deal.

I would also like to say a special thank you to the many staff who have given 'over and above' what is expected: taking students on trips at the weekends and in the holidays, running extra curricular clubs, teams and revision sessions, mentoring KS4 students, organising school productions, concerts and special holiday workshops.



Farewell to Staff



A number of staff will be leaving us at the end of this term, moving on to new positions at other schools, travelling abroad to take on new challenges or retiring, some after many years service to the school. We would like to thank them for all their years of dedication and hard work at the school. I know that they will be missed by all the staff and pupils.

Retirements

We say a fond farewell to three staff who are retiring this year. Mr Stuart Finlayson, Mrs Christine Brooks and Mrs Elizabeth Hughes.

Mr Finlayson has made a significant contribution to the school in a variety of roles ranging from Physics Teacher through to Head of Science and Assistant Headteacher. He has been at the school for an amazing 27 years.

Mrs Brooks (formerly Derby) has been our Senior Science Technician and Trainer over many years, leading an excellent technical team and keeping all the teachers in order! She has given 22 wonderful years service to the school.

Mrs Hughes, who joined us three years ago, has been an integral and important part of a strong Science team.

We wish them all a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Other staff farewells

Mrs Cavozi	Pastoral Support Manager	6 years' service
Miss Connor	SENCO	1 year's service
Mr Drew	Geography Teacher	5 years' service
Mr Elliott	Food Teacher	2 terms (Temporary)
Mrs Gillings	Pastoral Support Manager	5 years' service
Mr Hine	Maths Teacher	3 years' service
Mrs Knapp	Head of Learning and RS Teacher	8 years' service
Miss Rowlands	PE Teacher	3 years' service
Miss Scruton	Science Teacher	1 year's service
Mrs Trencher	Head of Spanish	7 years' service

We send them our good wishes for the future.



Going Cashless



We have made an excellent start on the journey to become a cashless school. Thank you for all your support with this.

Cashless catering has been successfully introduced this term. Pupils may top up their accounts either on-line or weekly/termly via the Finance Office. There is no minimum amount that can be put on an account via the Finance Office, but we politely request that pupils do not ask for cash to be put on an account on a daily basis.

Most pupils are registered “biometrically” and this has increased the speed of service in the canteen and reduced queuing times. Don’t forget, you can see exactly what food has been purchased day by day if you check online. Please remember that although we have set up a £4.00 maximum spend per day, parents may change this at any time by contacting the Finance Office thood12@wsgfl.org.uk. Mr Hood will also be able to answer any questions you have about the catering account.

From September we will be gradually increasing the range of items that can be purchased on-line. This will include payments for school visits, polo shirts and donations. If you have not set up your on-line account and have lost or not received your Squid registration number, please contact Mrs Sweeney, Business Manager 01243 832677 or email asweeney@wsgfl.org.uk



New Rewards Policy



Our new rewards policy has been a whole year in gestation, and finally goes ‘live’ across the whole school in September. A group of key staff, spear-headed by Mr Woodall, Assistant Headteacher, has been consulting widely with students, staff and parents to develop a completely new system which is based around positive behaviour. A two-week pilot study involving all Year 9 students and their teachers finished last week and the feedback from everyone including parents has proved very useful. It will enable us to make the final changes in time for next term. The over-whelming feedback has been positive and so we are looking forward to September. We will be launching the whole rewards policy with students and parents at the start of next term and there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to learn all about how the policy works and to ask questions.

The rewards policy is based around our Golden Rules, and students and parents will receive feedback from every lesson on how things are going.

Our Golden Rules:

1. I behave responsibly at all times. (Behave)
2. I arrive on time for school and lessons. (Be Punctual)
3. I wear correct uniform and bring the necessary equipment to school. (Equipment & Uniform)
4. I am respectful and polite to all members of the school community. (Follow Instructions)
5. I work to the best of my ability in lessons and at home to meet my target grades. (Working to Target)
6. I switch my mobile phone off and put it in my bag in all lessons. (Mobile Phone off)

From Chairman to internet shopping...

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an important part of our school and we value the friendship and support we receive from parents.

The PTA has three key objectives:

1. To promote the education of pupils by providing funds to acquire additional educational resources.
2. To foster extended relationships between staff, parents and pupils.
3. To engage in activities which support the school's ethos.

Parents can get involved in a very big way (you could be the Chairman or a committee member) or a small way (you could generate free cash donations to the school every time you shop online).

The Giving Machine is a website that lets you support the PTA when you shop online. It will not cost you anything extra – the online shop pays the donation on your behalf.

Just go to www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk

- Join as a shopper/giver
- Choose to support our school
- Remember to shop at www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk every time you buy online!

You'll find more than 100 different shops at TheGivingMachine including all your favourite high street names.

Do tell your family and friends about TheGivingMachine and encourage them to register and shop on our behalf.

www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk



What the Pupils have told us about School Lunches



Every term senior staff hold a meeting with the manager from Sodexo (the company that provides our school catering service) and the West Sussex County Council Catering Adviser. Our aim is always to have fruitful discussions which lead to improvements in our canteen provision. We invite two pupils from each year group to this meeting and their input is invaluable as in preparation, they have conducted a survey about what their friends and peers think of the food and canteen.

This is what pupils told us in the July meeting:

Positive feedback:

1. Meals are healthy, a good selection and not too expensive.
2. Girls like the Pasta King.
3. Queues are quicker.
4. Canteen and kitchen is clean.
5. Food has a good flavour.
6. Staff are very nice and friendly.
7. Cakes are nice.

Points for improvement:

1. Pupils would like a healthy vending machine.
2. Ice-lollies are too expensive.
3. Paninis are too expensive.
4. Queues are sometimes long and Years 10 and 11 sometimes have to wait outside in cold weather.
5. More cold water machines are needed.
6. Popular meal choices run out quickly.
7. Pupils would like a nutrition chart to be displayed.

We are now working with the Canteen Manager to bring about these improvements.

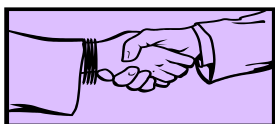
Attendance Matters

We are tightening up on attendance matters. There is a definite link between good attendance and good attainment, and 'Every Lesson Counts!'

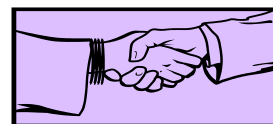
If your daughter is late or fails to attend registration, this could result in an unauthorised absence for a morning session.

With effect from 1st September 2011, we will be implementing the West Sussex Fixed Penalty Scheme. You may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if your daughter has a minimum of 10 school sessions (a.m. or p.m.) recorded as an unauthorised absence in a 10 week period. This will include unauthorised family holidays.

On a positive note, our new rewards policy starting in September, will reward students for good attendance. This year some students achieved 100% attendance for the whole year, so we know it can be done, and they received special recognition at the Awards presentation this week.



Home-School Partnership



I would like to say a special thank you to parents and family members who have supported their daughter in so many ways this year. We cannot 'do' this education business without you and your engagement in your daughter's learning is very much appreciated. Please continue to contact our teachers and curriculum leaders if you would like to discuss a subject-based issue, and tutors, pastoral managers and heads of learning if it is anything else.

Uniform Standards

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our drive to improve the standard of uniform both within school, and when students are travelling to and from school. We need to work together on this and to keep up the reminders both in school and at home. A complete uniform list can be found on the school website www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk

The standard uniform **must** be worn from 1st October until the start of the summer term, but **may** be worn all year.

Summer Option

The summer option **may** be worn for uniform from the start of the Summer term until 1st October. Two changes may be made to the standard uniform.

- 1 School polo shirt may be worn instead of a white blouse. The blazer is left at home.
- 2 White ankle socks may be worn instead of plain black tights.

Our new reward policy will reward pupils who are in good school uniform.

We have noticed that a lot of students are turning up for school with skirts that need mending. The zips are broken and/or there is no button. This makes it very difficult when we insist that students unroll their skirts. May I ask that over the summer holidays you discuss the state of your daughter's skirt with her and ensure that any repairs are carried out in time for the start of the new school year.

Thank you for your support in this.

And Finally

Please keep us up-to-date with your contact details, especially your email address.

Contact office@chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk

or see our website www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk if you need to change your details. We endeavour to keep our website up-to-date with relevant information, so it is worth checking it regularly.

The term starts on Tuesday, 6th September – Years 7, 11 and sixth form

The school is open for all year groups (8.55 a.m.) on Wednesday, 7th September

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful summer break. I hope you manage to find some good weather, whether you are travelling afar or staying at home.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Oliver-Watkins
Headteacher