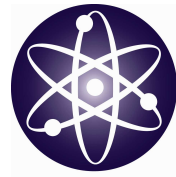


# Headlines

## Chichester High School for Girls Specialist in Arts & Science



Together we aspire  
Together we achieve

November 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this edition of Headlines.



### A Safer School Site



I would like to thank all parents, carers and other users of the school site for the positive response to the recent site developments and for their co-operation and support. As I have reported previously, there have been many structural developments over recent months, all of which were designed to improve the safety for all of our pupils and for everyone using the site.

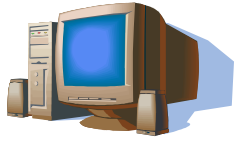
The developments were funded jointly by the Girls' and Boys' High Schools and WSCC Sustainable Transport Team, and were aimed at improving road safety on the school sites and increasing sustainable travel to and from school.

Over the summer holidays new bus stops and bus shelters were installed, the roundabout was slightly re-positioned and the exit to Basin Road was improved to allow buses to use it. New covered, lockable cycle racks have been built on the school site. We hope more pupils will choose to walk, cycle or take the bus or train to school.

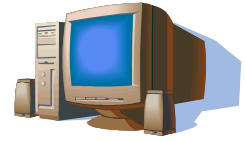
If you have visited the school site recently you will have seen the changes to the road layout which is now 'one-way' at the busy start and end of the school day. You may have heard about the improvements on Spirit FM or read about them in the Chichester Observer. Reporters were on site with the WSCC Sustainable Transport Team on 19 October to see what had been happening. Twelve pupils from CHSG and CHSB were interviewed. They told reporters how much better and safer the school site is now.

We will continue to trial the temporary dropping off/picking up zone including the one-way system at the start and end of the school day. We have already seen an increase in the number of pupils cycling to school and noticed a slight reduction in the number of vehicles on the school site. We are hoping to reduce the number of vehicles still further so if you currently bring your daughter to school by car, please do take the opportunity to consider some safe alternatives. Could she cycle or walk to school, or perhaps walk part of the way if you dropped her off safely a short distance away? WSCC call this 'Park and Stride'!

We have also been working with West Sussex Police to put security codes on to cycles. Mo Pantony, our Community Police Support Officer, and PCSO Etteridge, visited the site during lunchtime to 'etch' codes on to cycles for pupils and staff. They will be visiting again soon.



## Contacting parents via email



We are trying to improve the way in which we communicate with parents so that you receive information that is accurate and up to date. Currently we rely on our pupils to act as 'couriers' and we know that this is not always the best way, even though we aim for a Friday delivery and many of our pupils are thoroughly reliable.

We are currently updating our records by collecting an email address from all parents. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their email address. We shall be starting to use them shortly. If you have not yet given us your email address, please send an email to the address below with the following details:

Your name, your daughter's name and form, and your preferred email address to  
**informer@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk**



## Launch of our new Anti-Bullying Policy



Over the last year, Mrs Lambourne, one of our Assistant Headteachers, has been working with pupils and staff to update our Anti-Bullying Policy. To make it a 'living' document which is owned by everyone in the school community, she has discussed ideas for the policy with groups of pupils and listened carefully to their views.

We are launching the new policy now, to coincide with National Anti-Bullying Week which starts on 16th November.

We want to involve parents too, so enclosed with this edition of Headlines is a CD entitled "Know It All" which is a guide for keeping children safe on-line, and also an information sheet. We hope you will find them useful.

During launch week, each year group in the school will have an extended assembly to explain the policy. Everyone has a part to play in helping to make our school safe and free from bullying. Each pupil will be asked to 'pledge' her support against any form of bullying by signing a special tutor group card. The front of the card shows the winning image designed by Gracie Grant in Year 7. Everyone will also be given a badge with the new anti-bullying logo:

**'It's not big to make others feel small'**

This was the logo voted as the winner by all the tutor groups in a recent competition.

Ellie Richards in Year 7 came up with the winning logo.

Members of the A level Drama group have devised and produced an excellent drama piece on the effects of bullying, and turned it into a CD. This will be shown to everyone in their special assembly.

Other activities include a "design a widget for a website" competition, and in English and PSVE lessons internet safety will be the topic of the week. Two Year 8 and Year 9 pupils will also be representing the High School at the RU OK Cyberbullying Conference.

The new Anti-Bullying Policy can be viewed on the CHSG website.



## Highlights



I hope you received your copy of Highlights magazine at the beginning of this half-term. If you didn't you will find a copy on our website on [www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk) under the 'parents' section. We rely on your daughters to bring your copy home to you, so if the 'courier' didn't deliver the goods, do please have a word with her! You will also find archived copies of Highlights and Headlines on the website in the parents' section.

## Pupil toilets

We know from the feedback we receive from pupils, the school council and parents that a topic of major concern is the toilets. Over the last year the school council has undertaken a learning walk and investigated what the issues are.

They have discovered that lots of pupils are dissatisfied with the state of the toilets but most importantly they have found out the reasons that the toilets get into this state. There were a few surprises.

- On the first day of September term every toilet is in full working order, newly decorated and with all the things like hand driers, soap dispensers etc fully functional.
- A small number of pupils are determined to ruin things for everyone else. They pull down fixtures and fittings, sometimes hours after they have been replaced. They waste resources by emptying toilet tissue into the toilets or liquid soap all over the floor. They write graffiti on walls and doors. Nobody ever 'sees' this vandalism or is prepared to say who has done it despite great efforts by the staff investigating.
- The school spends a great deal of money replacing fixtures and fittings or unblocking toilets. Caretakers and cleaners have to work hard to get things back to safe working order. Whilst this work was going on, some toilets were locked.

### So - what have we done to improve things?

- Leaders of the school council gave a special presentation to every year group in the school explaining what the problems are, and how much money is currently being spent on remedying the situation. They asked for everyone's help in reporting unacceptable behaviour or vandalism.
- The school council told everyone that they had been given £1,000 for 1st September to spend on whatever they want for the pupils. They gave some examples of what the money could be spent on. If however, there was any vandalism in the toilets, then pound for pound, this £1,000 would start to decrease. What is left at the end of the year can be spent by the pupils. These assemblies were well received.
- The school council has been discussing with senior staff what else can be done. In light of these discussions the school has now introduced a 'midday clean' of all the toilets in the school. So all toilets are cleaned and serviced twice in 24 hours. In the same way as happens in Debenhams or MacDonalDs, the cleaner 'signs' a daily sheet when the toilet has been cleaned.
- In at least one set of toilets, the blockages we thought had been caused by vandalism, turned

out to be due to inadequacy of the toilets themselves! (If you have ever used the toilets upstairs at Westgate Leisure Centre you will know the problem I am referring to).

- Senior staff and premises staff check the toilets more frequently. During this term only one set of toilets has been locked briefly.
- Year 7 pupils have their own toilets. All other toilets are for use by all year groups. (This was a whole school decision).
- We ask premises staff to remove graffiti within 24 hours.
- The school council has asked the key question to all the pupils in the school: "Have you noticed any improvements in your toilets so far this year?"
- We have been asking parents if their daughters have reported any difference. Parents have said that they have not had any negative reports. (Does that mean things have improved?) and one set of parents said that things must be ok, because their children did not use the toilets in their last school, and now they do.

Please do ask your daughter if she has noticed a difference and encourage her to put a reply into the school council letter box in pupil reception. We are keen to continue our efforts and to make further improvements.

**CHSG website**

Have you visited our website recently?

**[www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk)**

If you have, was it useful?

We are aiming to use our website much more as a means of keeping parents up to date with what is going on at school. It has got sections for parents, pupils, governors and staff but has it got the general information you need?

Do let us know if there is anything else you would like to see on the website.

Contact us by using the feedback form on the website and give us your feedback on how it can be improved. We will do our best to make the changes you suggest.

**Parents' coffee forum**

Come and have a chat with other parents over a cup of coffee. A parents' coffee forum is held each term and the next one is on Thursday, 26th November from 10.00 a.m. until noon. Senior staff will also be on hand to answer any general questions you may have - so do come along. If you come to main reception (under the clock) you will be shown through to the admin gallery where you will also have a chance to view the wonderful art and photography work on display.

We hope to see you again soon.

With best wishes.

Fiona Oliver-Watkins  
Headteacher