

# Headlines

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



Together we aspire  
Together we achieve

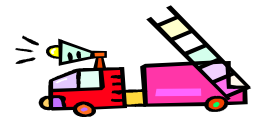
July 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome to this edition of Headlines.



**Unexpected last day of the year!**



May I apologise for the rather quick turn around your daughter had to make on the last day of the Summer Term. We were due to break up at 12.55 p.m. but an unforeseen incident occurred early that morning which after investigation, resulted in my decision to close the school early.

When the caretakers arrived at 7.00 a.m. to unlock the school, they discovered a strange smell and fumes coming from one of the rooms in the school. This had already been reported by the overnight cleaners. On further investigation, the caretakers discovered that the fumes were coming from the small room which houses all the hardware for our telephone system.

The fire brigade was called and on their advice the whole school was cordoned off whilst they investigated.

Since this was still early in the morning, arrangements were made for pupils and staff arriving at school to congregate in the hall and gym of the boys' school and the sixth form centre. Pupils were supervised at all times and no pupil was allowed into any part of the girls' school. The chief fire officer gave updates to senior leaders every twenty minutes or so.

There was no fire, but one of the UPS batteries (responsible for ensuring an uninterruptible power supply) to the telephone system had overheated and was giving off noxious fumes. The phone system was shut down. The fire brigade tried all means available to rid the school of the fumes as quickly as possible. This took much longer than they had anticipated and we made the decision to send the pupils home rather than have them wait around for hours. Senior staff briefed the pupils and staff about the situation and the arrangements for sending pupils home.

Tutors who had registered their tutor groups then spoke to every tutee to confirm that they had contacted their parents and that they had permission to be released. Pupils who could not contact their parents or who had to wait to be picked up, were supervised by staff.

The phone system and the school's computer network and the phone system at Chichester High School for Boys were not functioning for some considerable time.

Your daughters were delighted to be starting their summer holiday a few hours earlier than expected!

Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

### Farewell to Staff

At the end of every academic year, sadly we have to bid farewell to some staff as they retire, move to promotional posts, relocate to different countries or move to other careers.



### Retirements



This term three members of staff are retiring after many years of wonderful service to the school. Collectively they have had a variety of responsibilities and guided thousands of young people through their education. I know that each one of them is moving on to a 'busy' retirement as they already have plenty of plans in place.

We will miss them and pass our special thanks to them all for everything they have done for the school. We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Derek Neill	Senior Caretaker	36 years of service at CHSG (also see article in July 2009 Highlights magazine)
Lynne Woodward	Mathematics Teacher	8 years of service at CHSG
Christine Asquith	Leader of Child Development & Health & Social Care	5 years of service at CHSG

We also say farewell to some other staff who are moving on to different posts in other parts of the world. I would like to thank them for all their hard work during their time at the high school and wish them every success in their new posts.

Nicola Russell-Sharp	Cover Supervisor	5 years of service at CHSG Relocating to Brighton
Philip Treacher	Assistant Headteacher & Science	4 years of service at CHSG Promotion - moving to an international school in Dubai
Matthew Buckle	Leader of ICT	3 years of service at CHSG Relocating to Bournemouth

## What's Happening Over the Summer Holiday

There is plenty of activity in school and on the site over the long summer break, and this year is no exception.

- A project, jointly planned by Chichester High School for Girls, Chichester High School for Boys and West Sussex County Council and supported by Travel Plan funding, will start shortly. There are detailed plans to make the school site a safer place with regard to school bus pick-up and drop-off zones. Proper bus stops and bus shelters are being built, and the egress road near the canal basin is being changed to allow buses to leave the site via this route.
- The new studio theatre and gymnasium are nearly complete and will be ready in time for the start of term. The theatre will be called the Centenary Theatre to mark the school's centenary year which begins in September. (More on our centenary plans later).
- The rolling programme of redecoration continues, with areas of the school getting a 'spruce-up' over the summer. The toilets will be 're-painted' as they are every year.
- The school is being re-wired to provide the infra-structure to extend our computer and telephone systems.



### Start of Autumn Term



The start of the Autumn term for all pupils will be on Monday, 7th September 2009. All pupils should be in their tutor bases by 8.55 a.m. Thursday, 3rd and Friday, 4th September are staff training days.



### Uniform



Pupils will be allowed to wear summer uniform until the October half-term.

Points for clarification:

Polo shirts were introduced for pupils to wear on very warm days. On such days, pupils should leave their jumper and blazer at home. Polo shirts may be worn untucked.

Pupils who choose to wear a white blouse should wear their blazer when travelling to and from school. Any pupil who has a blouse that is not respectable e.g. unbuttoned, too short, too tight etc, will be told to keep their blazer on at all times (and to remedy the situation).

Pupils should wear navy trousers or uniform skirts as usual. Pupils may wear tights (navy, black or skin tone) or bare legs or socks (navy, black or white). They may wear low cut socks (navy, black or white). Over-the-knee socks and footless tights are not allowed.

**Black** sandals may be worn as long as they have a heel strap.

## FAQs - Answers we give to the pupils

NO - you must not roll up your skirt.

YES - you need to put the waist band on your waist, mend the zip and sew the button back on.

YES - you do need a uniform skirt. The suppliers are Ricara or Meritz in Chichester.

NO - only one pair of earrings, worn in the ear lobes and a watch are allowed. No other jewellery.

YES - I can see your bright pink socks under your trousers. You may wear navy, black or white socks only.

NO - nail varnish (on fingers or toes!) is not allowed. Please go to the office and use the varnish remover.

YES - you do need to unroll your skirt again - we went through this this morning!

NO - leggings and footless tights are not allowed.

YES - you must wear a blouse! (or polo shirt).

NO - a belt slung around your hips is not part of the uniform.

YES - I am giving you a merit for excellent uniform. Well done and thank you!



### Lockers



Some pupils may not have been able to empty their lockers before the end of term due to the incident on the last day. Many have come into school over the last two days, as directed by the note on the school website. However, we have decided to extend the period in which pupils can access the school site to empty their lockers - but they must not go into the school without permission.

1. The school will be open up until 21st August for pupils to empty their lockers. The only day the school will be closed is 3rd August.
2. All pupils should go to the main reception (under the big clock) and ring the doorbell which is outside on the wall. A member of staff will come and either take pupils to their locker or give them permission to go there alone. **No pupil should enter the school site without permission, as there are building works going on and some areas may not be 'safe'**
3. If after 21st August any lockers have not been emptied, they will be opened, emptied, and the contents put in a labelled bag to be collected at the start of term.



### Highlights



I hope you received your copy of Highlights magazine at the end of the Summer 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 'postman' 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.

May I wish you all a relaxing summer break.

Fiona Oliver-Watkins  
Headteacher