

Headlines

Chichester High School for Girls Specialist in Arts & Science



Together we aspire
Together we achieve

June 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome to this edition of Headlines. There is plenty of news to report to you.

Visit by Ofsted

On 12th and 13th May, five Inspectors from OFSTED arrived to carry out a section 5 inspection. They scrutinised many aspects of the school including examination results and spoke to staff and pupils. They also carried out lesson observations and received feedback from parental questionnaires. The inspection team found significant improvement in lots of areas and acknowledged the good work that has been going on at the High School. You will find a full copy of their report with this mailing but the headlines are as follows.

- Attainment of students taking GCSE examinations in the last three years has been significantly above national averages.

In 2008, 75% of students gained 5 or more A* to C grades (increase of 9% on 2007), 64% of students gained 5 or more A* to C grades including English and Maths (increase of 8% on 2007). Students in Years 7 to 11 are making satisfactory and improving progress.

- In the Sixth Form exam results over the last three years are consistently high and progress is good. (99% pass with 49% A&B grades in 2008)
- CHSG is a satisfactory school with a good Sixth Form
- Leaders at all levels in the school have a clear and thorough understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement
- The school has good capacity to improve further in the coming years
- A significant and increasing number of lessons are good or outstanding
- The curriculum has developed well
- Students make a good contribution to the school and local community and have a good awareness of how to live a healthy lifestyle

- The large majority of students behave very well
- Targeted support for students along with improvement in quality of lessons is helping to raise achievement.

The inspectors agreed with us on what we need to do to improve further.

- Improve the overall quality of teaching and learning by ensuring that all lessons are varied, interesting and engaging
- Review and re-develop the systems that support the management of minor misbehaviour
- Improve the consistency of marking and feedback so that students receive more precise information about how to improve their work.

Overall, we felt the judgements of the inspection team were very fair. They agreed with us about where our strengths lie, and there were no surprises about the areas where we know we have to make further improvement. These issues are already being tackled within the school, and this work will continue.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact the school on office@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk, or come to the next parents' coffee forum on Wednesday 17th June 2009, 10am until noon, when senior staff are available to answer questions.



Artsmark Gold Success



I am delighted to report that we have just been awarded Artsmark Gold again. This is a prestigious award given by the Arts Council to schools in recognition of a school's commitment to, and excellence, in arts education. It is their top award. Congratulations to Sandra Thurlow, Director of Creative Arts, and her team on regaining this Award.

Highlights

I hope you received your copy of Highlights magazine just before half term. If you didn't you will find a copy on our website on 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.

Safety at railway level crossing

As part of the Every Child Matters agenda, we work hard to help our pupils 'stay safe'. Within school all our procedures for safeguarding meet Government requirements, and we are keen to extend this work. We are currently working in partnership with the police and railway safety officers in their campaign to improve safety at the railway level crossings in Chichester. Safety officers will talk to all pupils during their assemblies in the week beginning 22nd June. This coincides with the level crossing 'Awareness Day' in Chichester on 25th June.

CHSG minibus – with special thanks to the PTA

At last we have our own minibus! Thanks to the wonderful fundraising efforts of the PTA and a great leasing agreement, we finally took delivery of a brand new 17 seater Ford Transit minibus just before half term. The minibus is for everyone in the school to use but will only be driven by staff who have passed the special 'D1' driving test.



Summer Uniform

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 eg 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 skirt 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).

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 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!

Parent Governor vacancies

We currently have two vacancies for Parent Governors. Within the next few weeks you will receive details about what this important role entails and information about how to put yourself forward if you would like to. In the meantime, if anyone already knows that they would like to be a Parent Governor and would like to find out more, please go to www.governornet.co.uk or contact office@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk, if you would like to be put in contact with one of our current Parent Governors.

Staff Retirements

At the start of this term we said farewell to two members of staff who have given many years of excellent service to the school. Carole Palmer, Science Technician, was a key member of the science faculty for 21 years, and was also an inspiration to many for her marathon running. Caroline Reeve, Head of CPHVE and careers education, joined the school in 2004. She has moved to Sicily. We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Studio Theatre

The new studio theatre building project is well underway. One major setback, because the steel contractor went into liquidation, has caused a delay, but Farnrise, the building contractors, are working hard to catch up.

Despite our careful planning and because of the unforeseen delay, we have made changes to the examination arrangements. We have decided that examinations will not take place in the Sports hall which lies adjacent to the building compound, as it is too noisy. Examinations have been taking place in the main hall and various classrooms. The rest of the school is 'steered away' from this area by a team of invigilators, and we have turned off the school bell system. Reports from the pupils seem to have been positive to date and some have stated that they prefer their exams in the hall.

Parents' Coffee Forum

Please accept my apologies for cancelling the last coffee forum. This was due to us having to hold staff interviews postponed because of the OFSTED visit.

The new date for the coffee forum is Wednesday 17th June from 10am to noon, when senior staff are available to answer any questions or concerns. The coffee forum is for general enquiries and so if you have a particular concern regarding your daughter, please contact your daughter's pastoral support manager to arrange a separate appointment.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Oliver-Watkins