

Headlines

Chichester High School for Girls Specialist in Arts & Science



Together we aspire
Together we achieve

July 2008

Dear Parents

Welcome to the last edition of Headlines for 2007/8. I hope you will find the information within it useful.

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



Retirements



This year four teachers are retiring after many years of wonderful service to the school. Collectively they have had a variety of responsibilities in the school and taught thousands of our pupils. I know that for each of them, retirement is going to be a very busy time as they have a myriad of plans ahead. Their plans include travel, doing a university degree, spending more time with family, sailing the oceans and triathlons!

We will miss them all and pass our special thanks to them for the leadership they have shown and for the care and guidance they have given to your daughters and sons over the years.

Marcus Sherwood	Deputy Headteacher	24 years of service
Mary Miles	Head of Psychology (formerly Head of Science)	21 years of service
Brian Ford	Head of ICT	20 years of service
Elizabeth Collins	Teacher of Science (part-time)	3 years of service



Other Staff Leaving



Brian Ansell	Science	Krishanti Navaratnam	Maths (temp)
Debra Barnes	Science (p/t)	Karen Parish	RE & Sociology
Claire Cassaigne	Lang. Assistant (temp)	Michaela Prior	Learning Support Assistant
Michael Fisher	Science	Jackie Robinson	Cover Supervisor
Ruth Halfacree	PE (p/t)	Jen Windebank	Music (p/t)
Christina Honan	Sociology/RS		
Jeremy Maker	Director of Science		
Alison Mantan	Acting Head of Music (temp)		

We also say a temporary farewell to Rachael Phiasanaxay (part-time Teacher of Drama) who starts her maternity leave, and to Laurie Robertson (Teacher of PE) who goes on adoption leave. We send them and their families our good wishes and look forward to them returning to the High School next year.

Stepping Down

Two members of staff will be ‘stepping down’ from their posts of responsibility at the end of this academic year. Stuart Finlayson (Assistant Headteacher) and Elizabeth Marriott (Head of Learning – Year 8). They will both become full-time members of the science faculty. I would like to pass on my special thanks to them for the leadership they have shown over the years and for all the additional hours they put in whilst carrying out their roles.

Staffing for September 2008

We are fully staffed for September 2008. A list of the new staff joining our school will be published in the first edition of Headlines in September.



Headgirls



I would like to say a big “Thank you” to Gabi Eggleton (Headgirl) and Emma Mitchell (Deputy Headgirl) who have carried out their roles brilliantly this year. Together, they made a cheerful, hardworking and effective team and were a credit to the school. I wish them luck for their forthcoming A2 exam results (though of course luck has nothing to do with it!) and for the future.

For 2008/9 we now have a new Headgirl – Jo Meyer, and a Leader of the School Council – Katie Stone. I know that they will do an excellent job for us this year, and I look forward to working with them.



Lane–Richards Scholarships and the Shave Memorial Prize



Each year several scholarships are awarded to year 13 students for academic excellence or service to the school. The scholarships are funded from a legacy from a previous Headteacher and member of staff at the school: Miss Lane and Miss Richards respectively. Dr Shave was a former Chairman of the School Governors, and his memorial legacy funds a prize for an outstanding geography student.

Congratulations this year go to Gabi Eggleton, Tom Coppin, Taro Chamanga, Emma Mitchell, Rachel Dowle and Oliver Porter (Lane-Richards scholars).

The Shave prize goes to Eilidh Cook.

New Curriculum for 2008

In September 2008, along with every school in England, Chichester High School for Girls will be offering the new National Curriculum at KS3. Curriculum leaders have been working hard to prepare new schemes of work for the new Year 7 pupils who will follow the new curriculum.

Pupils who move into Years 8 or 9 in September will follow the current KS3 curriculum and take their National Curriculum tests at the end of KS3. KS4 pupils who are in Years 10 or 11 from September 2008 will continue with their curriculum as planned.

New for everyone apart from the sixth form, will be a two-week timetable and Super Learning Days. The two-week timetable will take a little getting used to as there will be a timetable of lessons for week A and a different one for week B. Many schools already operate a two-week timetable, and we now fall into line with them in preparation for the introduction of diplomas in a year or so's time.

Super Learning Days will happen every tenth working day, i.e. on the Friday of week B, and will provide every year group in every subject with some extended working time during the year. This means that many of the enrichment activities which go on in each subject can continue without “cutting across” lessons in other subjects. I am delighted to report that curriculum leaders are planning all sorts of exciting learning experiences in their subject. You will receive a leaflet giving more details in the September issue of Headlines. Mrs McGuffin (Assistant Headteacher) is leading on this initiative for us.



Zero Tolerance on Mobile Phones and MP3 Players in Lessons



Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in this new policy. All staff are now operating the zero tolerance policy for use of mobile phones and MP3 players in lessons and the pupils have responded very well. Staff are pleased with the positive changes they have seen in lessons, where there is now only the occasional disruption due to the use of a mobile phone or MP3 player. We will be continuing with this policy in September.



Next Edition of Headlines



The next edition of Headlines will be in September. It will list the new staff and any changes in staff responsibility.

This was the first year that copies of Headlines were sent to parents. Our aim was to improve communication between home and school. I have already received many positive comments from parents about this and so Headlines will continue next year. I would be happy to receive any other comments or suggestions about what you would like to see included in Headlines. Please email me at office@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk

I look forward to welcoming your daughter back to her new year group on Friday, 5th September 2008 (Wednesday, 3rd September is a staff training day, Thursday, 4th September is Sixth Form induction day). All sixth form students have already received details of their induction day. May I, on behalf of staff at the High School, wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Oliver-Watkins