

Charters School

Headteachers' Weekly Update

Friday 23 July 2010



End of Year

Welcome to our final email for the academic year 2009-10. Although the final few weeks have been hectic as work is completed for this year, summer activities such as two Curriculum Enrichment Days and Sports Day have taken place, and arrangements for the start of the new academic year are being finalized, there is nevertheless a calm, purposeful atmosphere in school. Particularly pleasing is the fact that pupils are still experiencing success right up to the break for the summer holidays and we have set out reports on this in the next section of the email.

Before signing off for this year, however, could we remind pupils and parents of a few important pieces of information for the new academic year.

- In September, pupils must be dressed in **winter uniform**:
 - **Boys:** Black crested blazer, grey trousers, white school shirt, school tie, black shoes (not hybrid trainer-shoes please), black, navy or grey socks (optional: school pullover)
 - **Girls:** Black crested blazer, dark grey box-pleated skirt or Harrow grey trousers, white school blouse, school tie, flat black shoes, white socks or black or skin-coloured tights, (optional: school pullover – colour determined by year group).
 - Coats should only be worn over the blazer in cold weather and must be a dark, plain coat, jacket or anorak.
- Occasionally, during the long holiday, some pupils have rather extreme haircuts or visible piercings close to the time that they return to school. Please ensure that hair has had the chance to grow to an appropriate length and visible piercings do not need jewellery to stay in place, so that we can avoid conflict and having to isolate pupils at the start of the new term
- Arrangements for the staggered return to school at the start of the Autumn Term are as follows:
 - Thursday 2 September – Years 7, 10 and 12 at 8.35 am
 - Friday 3 September – All year groups in school at 8.35 am
- In the Autumn Term, we will be allowing parents to pick up and drop off children in an additional area on the new car park to the rear of the Sports Hall. This is accessed via a new roadway off Devenish Road and will hopefully ease congestion at the front of the school. Please would parents dropping off children follow the signs around the car park and not overtake vehicles in front, so that we can ensure the safety of all children.

Exam Results

Results of external examinations will be available for students to collect from school as follows:

A2, AS and BTEC - Thursday 19 August (between 7 am and 12 noon)
GCSEs - Tuesday 24 August (between 10 am and 12 noon)

Charterstock

Our annual contemporary music event, featuring Charters' pop and rock stars of the future, took place on Tuesday evening. The event was well attended by pupils supporting their friends and many parents and families. Thank you all for your support of what was, again, a rousing, noisy but humbling experience for us to see and hear such talent.

With so many talented performers, it's hard to praise individuals, but Mr Parker did think Alex Paige was a charismatic front-man for his band, mixing the stagecraft of Freddie Mercury with the energy of a young Jagger!

Most important, thanks to all the performers and all the staff who gave up their time to supervise the event, and our fabulous Music Department, who have continued to produce high quality musical opportunities for our students throughout the year.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

We were delighted to receive the following email from Tony Scott, DofE Assessor.

"Before the end of term, I would like to thank and congratulate the staff and students from Charters who came to the New Forest earlier this month to undertake a Silver Award Expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The staff were excellent ambassadors for the values of the school, while the students earned my highest praise for their attitude, technical abilities and ambition. They should all aspire to Gold work in the future, where their maturity and leadership potential would be honed and developed."

Well done to the boys and the staff concerned: Alex Magill, James Metcalfe, Alex Paige, Niall Richards and Kieran Williams, and Dr Child, Mrs Hollingsworth and ex-member of Charters staff, Mrs Eagle.

Dance Leaders Success

For the past six months, four Dance Leaders from Charters have been running their own after school dance club at St Francis Primary School. These students are: Georgina Smith (Yr10), Amy Cockram (Yr11), Katie Gow (Yr12) and Emily Finnemore (Yr13).

As the numbers in their classes increased (with both boys and girls) they decided to enter St Francis in the Dance for Life competition with the British Red Cross. In the first round at Magna Carta School in Staines, they beat other local schools as well as external dance schools to win overall! This meant that on Sunday 18 July, they got up at 7.30am to go to the finals at the O2 Arena in London with an audience of 2500 people! Unfortunately they did not win overall, but they did win an award for the most emotive and original dance and just the fact they got that far is a massive achievement in itself!

The school is very proud of them all and Debbie Stevens (St Francis' After School Club Co-ordinator) wrote glowingly of their work and would like them to continue with the club next year.

McLaren Trip – Wednesday 21 July 2010

McLaren visited Charters School in June to help deliver activities linked to Formula 1 during Curriculum Enrichment Days. Year 7 pupils were involved in a wide range of activities related to McLaren, including making Podcasts, Vodcasts, Rocket Cars and Photoshop promotional work. Twelve pupils that excelled on the day were invited to the McLaren Technology Centre.

Here are some of the comments from the lucky pupils that attended:

"Going to McLaren was a brilliant experience. I really liked looking at cars and seeing how they changed over the years. I also enjoyed the look around the factory and the facts they told us. I enjoyed the whole experience and I hope I can do it again." **Harry Pye** (7R).

"I thought McLaren was great, and I loved all the cars. Also the wind tunnel was very noisy and you couldn't hear a thing." **Jane Carroll** (7A).

School Summer Holiday Trips

We would like to wish every success to the students taking part in the following trips abroad this summer and to thank the staff for their time and effort in accompanying them:

Two World Challenge expeditions to Ghana (Miss Ball, Miss Sherry, Mr Wragg and Mr Murray)

Sports Tour to South Africa (Mr Harvey, Mrs Hartwell, Mr Deacon and Miss Holt)

Music Tour to New York (Mr Stephenson, Mr Bull, Ms Morrison and Miss Stock)

Charters News

You should have received your copy of Charters News this week. It is also now available on the Charters website. If you would like to be able to read all the latest information and view the pictures in colour [click here](#).

School Shop – Summer Holiday Opening

Any parents or pupils visiting the shop in the summer holidays to update uniform or PE kit, may like to note that due to essential groundworks near the shop, the shop will be operating from nearby classrooms. There will be signs to help parents find the temporary location for the shop and we will try to keep disruption to a minimum. The shop will be open every Wednesday from 28 July until 1 September and the hours of opening are: 10 am until 2.30pm.

Have you updated your standing order?

Parental support is a major strength at Charters School and plays a vital role in the success of our pupils. One of the ways in which many of you have chosen to support us is by giving to the Charters School Association by standing order. We have recently changed our bank details for this account to:

Bank Name: Barclays Bank, 3 Church Street, Weybridge KT13 8DD

Account Name: Charters School Parent Teacher Association

Account Number: 90249335

Sort Code: 20 02 53

Please can you ask your bank to amend your standing order details to reflect this? Many thanks.

With our best wishes for a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday!

Martyn Parker and Richard Pilgrim
Co-Headteachers