



**CHELMER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**A Specialist Engineering College**

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Headteacher: David N Franklin BSc



Engineering

**HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER**  
**January 2010**

A Happy New Year to you all!

At the end of last term we had our Christmas Concert on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. I appreciate the time, effort and dedication given by the students and colleagues to make this such a wonderful and successful evening. Thank you also to everyone who supported and came along to enjoy the concert, despite the snow which fell that evening causing havoc with journeys home.

As you know, the school has gone from strength to strength in the last few years and on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January I attended a drinks reception with The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP at No. 10 Downing Street. The invitation was to celebrate the achievements of the most improved schools in the country and the raising of educational standards. Chelmer Valley students and staff can be proud the school has been recognised at the very highest level.

**PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

We are always trying to improve our school and would appreciate your help by giving us your views. Please take just a few minutes to complete the questionnaire on the last page of this

newsletter, tear it off and send it back to your child's tutor in an envelope. The deadline for completed questionnaires will be Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your help.

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**News from around the school...**

**PTA**

The popular Winter Ball is to be held on **Saturday 30th January** at Shire Hall Chelmsford. All welcome - tickets still available.

For more details please contact Mrs Dixon on ext. 238

**Mrs J Hampel**  
**PTA**

**CHANGES TO UNIFORM**

Chelmer Valley High School has decided to use clip on ties as from September 2010. After much discussion we have made a decision on health and safety issues and to avoid "peanutting" which can cause our younger students a good deal of distress, especially Year 7. This will also have a positive impact on how our students present themselves at school.

As of September 2010 clip on ties will be compulsory for all new Year 7's. Pope and Smith are aware of this and

will no longer be restocking the old tie, so any other year groups that need a replacement tie will be offered the new clip on once old stock has run out. These can be purchased at a price of £4.50.

**Mrs J Marchant**  
**Director Student Services**

## **Flying With the Falcons Review 2009**

### **The Fifth Decade**

The New Year is upon us and as the Falcons prepare for their 37<sup>th</sup> season it is worth taking a few minutes to look back at last season.

The season really started in February when Robert Lodge of Lodge Coaches and I travelled to Ely in a quest to buy a 7.5 tonne van to transport our equipment to future displays. This was to be the start of a long refurbishment programme, which was finally completed in May. The rather shabby van had been transformed by members of the Adult Support Group, senior team members and the staff at Lodge's, into a machine to be proud of. Our Open Day in May was a fitting stage to reveal our workmanship to the Blue Falcons and parents. After the unveiling ceremony guests were treated to gymnastic displays by the new Fledglings and the Blue Falcons, after which we held a very successful auction and raffle and presented newly qualified gymnasts with certificates and shirts, followed by a Ploughman's supper. The event was a great success and the 300 or so who attended gave generously to the Blue Falcons Fund, for which we were most grateful.

Throughout the summer months we performed 14 displays both locally and further afield – our most extensive season to date. At the Colchester Military Festival, the large crowd

watched with incredulity as our more intrepid performers vaulted over an armoured car and six motorcyclists from the Royal Signal's White Helmets Display Team. The season culminated with the annual trip to Burnham on Crouch where we were greeted by our old friend Ray Clark of BBC Radio Essex fame and a large welcoming crowd. Our Fledglings performed admirably throughout the season and many look set to graduate into the main team in the New Year.

Our extensive programme did nothing to quench the enthusiasm of our more senior team members. I received a request in February that as our existing World Vaulting Record for vaults in an hour by 10 gymnasts was a mere 5,685 vaults, might they have a go at breaking their record and perhaps pass the 6,000 boundary? How could I refuse? Over twenty of the team embarked on an intensive six month training programme to prepare for the attempt. At the helm was Mr Doug Girling and with his most able stewardship two teams of ten started their attempt on a sunny September Saturday in Backnang Square. The large crowd watched intently as the 'B team' pushed the 'A team' right to the finishing post but as the seconds ticked away it became clear the 'A team' were going to be victorious. As the final whistle blew it became clear that the record had been smashed! The magic 6,000 target had been exceeded and a fantastic 6,250 vaults in the hour had been completed! Each gymnast had average 625 vaults at a rate of almost 2 vaults a second! The new record was ratified by Guinness in December.

With the display programme and the World Record completed it was tempting to put our feet up. This was not to be as earlier in the year I had been approached by the Director of the Birmingham Military Tattoo asking us if we would like to appear at the

Tattoo in November. My answer was fairly predictable and after Burnham we set about preparing for two displays at the largest tattoo of its type in Europe. It was to be our greatest challenge in our 36 year history. We had to get it right or risk being a laughing stock in front of 19,000 spectators who were due to pack into the National Indoor Arena. We needed a completely new display to fit into the time allocated. We were to commute both days. Our van carrying the equipment must not fail us. Teams had to be carefully selected and the ubiquitous health and safety requirements had to be met. We had to arrive on the Saturday for rehearsals at 9.30 a.m. which meant leaving Chelmer at 5.15 a.m. This we achieved without a hitch and we settled ourselves down for the evening performance. At 8.30 p.m. we entered the arena and were greeted by 9,000 enthusiastic spectators. The hoops were lit and we got going and by the end of our performance they were on the edge of their seats. We completed a similar performance on Sunday afternoon to wild acclaim from 10,000 jubilant spectators.

The preparation had been meticulous but the pressure on both the gymnasts and the Adult Support Group had been immense. We had dedicated 33 hours of that weekend to the two shows but as we left Birmingham for home, we all were certain that the job had been well done!

And so the most ambitious and demanding season came to an end. We now look forward to the new season, confident that we will perform with distinction and represent Chelmer Valley in the same way, simply because the Blue Falcons is made up of the best kids anywhere and is supported by the most amazing group of adults imaginable.

**Mr M Ford  
Team Manager**

## **Careers**

### **Year 9**

All students have now had their Fasttomato lesson with our Connexions Advisor. After answering a few profile questions online they all found some interesting career choices! If any student has forgotten their login and wishes to access Fasttomato at home come and see Mrs Storer in the Careers library at lunchtime.

### **Year 11**

Connexions guidance interviews with Tom Forrester will be continuing this term for year 11 students. Any students with immediate concerns about their future should come and see Mrs Storer in the Careers library as soon as possible.

### **Year 10 Work Experience Preparation**

Work Experience dates are 6<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Students will be expected to attend school during the first week of term – dates to be confirmed.

An evening has been organised for **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January** at 7 p.m. to introduce students and parents to the Work Experience process. As we are limited for space we would ask that only one parent accompany one student.

Please return any attendance slips as soon as possible, thank you.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Storer in Careers between 11.30 a.m. – 2.30 .pm. or email [storer@chelmer.essex.sch.uk](mailto:storer@chelmer.essex.sch.uk)

We look forward to seeing you at the information evening.

**Mrs S Storer  
Careers Coordinator**

**Message from ECC Transport for students who catch the No 47 service bus to Melbourne or Newland Spring.**

From 11<sup>th</sup> January, the Essex First Bus - No 47 will no longer service Court Road and students need to check with the bus company as to where they can now wait for the bus on their homeward journey.

**Mrs P Hill  
Transport Manager**

**DANCE**

Dance - **all years** until 4.30 in the gym Mondays (GCSE students should also attend).

**GCSE Dance Years 10 +11** until 4.30 in the gym Thursdays.

Year 11 **Final assessment** for practical element of GCSE will be **Monday 8th Feb P1+2**. These results are sent to the exam board.

External AQA examiner will be in school March 2010 to do live assessments and verify the practical results.

Inter-house Dance competition - themed 'Celebration of Dance' will be held during February. Mondays after school are an opportunity to rehearse!

Date for your diary: Annual 'Celebration of Dance' showcase is **Tuesday 30th March** at 7.30 p.m.

Years 8 and 9 students are invited to attend an extra curricular dance club at Great Baddow High school. It is being run through the school sports partnership. It is held on Tuesday evenings, 4.30-5.30 p.m. Please call Baddow High School for further info.

**Ms L Reynolds  
Dance Teacher**

**From the DRAMA Dept:**

**Year 10 and 11 Drama Talented Students Win Film Competition!**

In September 2009, 21 Year 10 and 11 Drama Talented students and Miss Peacock, entered a film competition set up by Essex County Council Trading Standards and local charity Alcohelp. They created a film based on the dangers of drinking alcohol at a young age.

In December 2009 we were told we had been short-listed into the final six films in the county and were invited to a screening of the finalists films.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Drama Talented students attended the screening of the final six films and were overjoyed when it was announced our film had won the competition. Every student received a certificate and a prize, and media equipment was given to the school. Essex County Council Trading Standards and Alcohelp, in their workshops around other schools in the Essex area, will now use our film to help educate pupils on the dangers of alcohol.

The standard of all of the entries was incredibly high. I am so impressed with the effort the students put in, we had a lot of fun making the film and am pleased that our film will go on to educate others around the county.

All students who took part will receive a copy of the film.

**Congratulations go to:**

**Year 10:** Natalie Bendon, Amy Bowman, Jack Brigden, Imogen Cuthbertson, Lois Harvey, Oliver Headon, Hannah James, Harry Last, Jack Ogles, Olivia Saltmarsh, Clare Tolliday.

**Year 11:** Matthew Bonner, Louise Bridgman, Louise Chick, Aaron Evans, Jessica Foster, Leah Kirby, Paige Lyons, Minur Miah, Kathleen Ransom, Ashley Saunders.

**Alice In Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass:**

The show will run from **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010** at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will be available after half term from Mrs Dixon in Reprographics.

Please keep the dates free!!!

**Miss G Peacock  
Drama Dept**

**From the ICT Dept:**

ICT classes are back to normal after the bad weather.

**Year 7**

Students have almost completed their Harry Potter Spreadsheet module and will start a new module on Endangered Species.

**Year 8**

Students have completed their Website project using Microsoft Frontpage. Students will be given their new current grade based on this project. The updated grade should be recorded by the students in their planner on page 15.

**Year 9**

Students in Year 9 are making good or satisfactory progress with the first unit of the OCR Nationals ICT course. They learn the ICT skills used in Business. Some of the skills to be covered in the first module include how to create effective business documents, business presentation, business spreadsheet and business database on the computer.

**Year 10**

Students in Year 10 are also making good or satisfactory progress with the first unit of the OCR Nationals ICT course. They learn the ICT skills used in Business. Some of the skills to be covered in the first module include how to create effective business documents, business presentation, business spreadsheet and business database on the computer. Core Students who work on task should complete their Unit 1 module by the end of this academic year. The options groups are expected to complete their first GCSE ICT module by early March.

**Year 11**

The ICT department ran 15 workshops every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 17<sup>th</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Many students had taken the opportunity to catch up or improve their coursework. Well done to those students who have achieved ICT coursework sign-off before Christmas!! The sign-off indicated that the students were up-to-date with their project. Between January – March 2010, the DIDA students will develop their eportfolio (in a website form) to present all their project tasks. The OCR students who are on schedule will start their Unit 21 Computer Graphics module this term. They need to complete both Unit 1 and Unit 21 modules successfully to qualify for one GCSE ICT. Students who have not achieved sign-off must continue to catch up and complete the outstanding tasks out of lessons.

Deadline for the final coursework submission is in the lesson of week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010. However, we strongly recommend that all students make an effort to submit their coursework during their ICT lesson that week, so that the teacher can conduct a final check.

Thank you to the parents who have met the ICT teachers at the Parents Evening on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010. This was a good opportunity for parents to discuss with the ICT teachers how they can support their child in making sure their child's ICT coursework is completed successfully.

### **Year 12**

I am very pleased to report the Year 12 ICT students continue to demonstrate excellent attendance and good commitment to this subject. They have completed and submitted the unit 1 module. They are in the process of completing the Unit 2 module. Final eportfolio submission for Unit 2 is by Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Students will be given a final chance to improve both eportfolios.

After February half-term, the students will start to prepare for their Unit 3 Spreadsheet module. For this third AS module, the students will be assessed through a two and a half hours practical exam in mid May. A date will be confirmed at a later date.

### **Year 13**

Resubmission eportfolios were submitted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2010. All students who resubmitted their eportfolio have improved the grade of their resubmission unit. The result is expected in early March.

Students are at the final stage of their Project Management and Multimedia modules, which started last summer. Students learn how to plan and manage a Multimedia project efficiently, with a real client. Deadline for the Final eportfolios for both modules is by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010. We now begin to prepare for the ten hours Database exam in mid May. It is crucial that your child does make every attempt to attend every lesson during this preparation. A master class has been scheduled on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010 where students

will learn advanced database skills. The session will be run by a database expert, Mr Trevor Heathcote who co-wrote the text books we use for the GCE Applied ICT course.

If you have any queries with regards to ICT, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Ms B Rickard**  
**Head of ICT**

### **From the ART Dept:** GCSE ART

- Exam paper released 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and students will begin work on the exam on this day – they have work to do in half term.
- The two coursework units completed in Year 10 and 11, plus the accompanying sketchbook, will be completed on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- Any student who we feel is falling behind with coursework or exam preparation will attend compulsory sessions after school and at lunchtime.
- Breakfast Exam club, every day from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, from 8. a.m. to 8.45 a.m.
- GCSE students can use the Art rooms any lunchtime and after school by arrangement with a teacher.
- **Exam dates 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.**
- All exam work will be handed in on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010. There can be no extensions.
- There will be an Art Show in conjunction with the Summer Music Concert in July. The Art show is free and tickets will be available to purchase for the Music concert in due course.

**ALL GCSE WORK IS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION SEPTEMBER AND**

**MUST BE COLLECTED BY OCTOBER HALF TERM.**

A-LEVEL ART

- AS Exam – 29<sup>th</sup> March
- A2 Exams 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March

**ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Mr J Young  
Art Dept**

**From the ENGLISH Dept:**

A massive congratulations to our Year 11 students on their GCSE English results. Having sat the examination early in November, many of them have achieved outstanding grades. This means that not only do they have one less exam to revise for in summer, but also it will help with applications for whichever path they choose to follow next, whether it be college, a job or sixth form; whilst most applicants will only be able to provide predicted grades, they can give their final result. Very well done to all; we hope for similar successes in summer following the GCSE English Literature examinations.

**Mrs E Endicott  
Head of English**

**House News**

I would like to personally thank everyone for taking part in the non-uniform day on the last day of term. Students and staff donated money for their nominated charities. It was an enjoyable and festive day that raised £710.

House	Charities	Money Raised
Curie	Helen Rollason	£113
Holst	Dream 107 Kid's Trust	£123
Einstein	Chelmsford Mencap	£116.77
Livingstone	Essex Ambulance	£196
Marconi	Have a Heart	£110
Rutherford	Helen Rollason	£60
Vickers	Jay's Hospice	£71.90

Thank you again for your continued support. Each house will continue to run more fund raising events throughout the year, but we also welcome your suggestions for fun and imaginative ideas.

**Mr Y Hoozeer  
Head of House System**

**From the MATHS Dept:**

Exams

GCSE Mathematics Module 2, Stages 1 and 2, will both be taken on the afternoon of **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

This exam will be taken by

- Year 11 students who have chosen to re-sit the module or who missed it last time
- All Year 10 EXCEPT the two accelerated sets
- The two Year 9 accelerated sets

Revision for this module will take place on Wednesdays, 3.20-4.20 pm, beginning on 27<sup>th</sup> January, with one session on the Monday of half-term, from 12.30 till 3 pm. Topics for each session will be published on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Students re-sitting this module are urged to attend these revision sessions in order to actually improve on their previous mark.

GCSE Mathematics Module 3 (Terminal Module) will be taken on the afternoon of **Monday June 7<sup>th</sup>** (non-calculator)

and the morning of **June 11<sup>th</sup>**  
(calculator).

This exam will be taken by

- All of year 11 (with two exceptions)
- The two year 10 accelerated sets

Revision for this module will take place on Wednesdays, 3.20-4.20 pm beginning on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Topics for these sessions will be published on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January with those for Module 2.

GCSE Statistics Revision (year 11 only) will be organised for a couple of mornings during the exam period as this exam is quite late in the calendar. Students will be informed of the dates before study leave commences.

#### Gifted & Talented

On Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Gifted and Talented Mathematics students from years 8 and 9 spent a twilight session working together to solve problems of logistics, trying to find the most efficient way to move things around subject to certain constraints. A great deal of discussion, head-scratching and laughter ensued, alongside some deep thinking, whilst experimenting practically with their 'solutions'. Having established their best system they were then challenged to find a way to generalise and write down their methods so they could be replicated by others. A lot of problem solving skills were practised and a good time was had by all. Further events will be organised in the coming terms.

**Mrs K Cohen**  
**KS4 Maths Co-ordinator**

Thank you for your continued support.

*J. Franklin*

**Parent Questionnaire  
January 2010**

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
My child enjoys school			
The school keeps my child safe			
The school informs me about my child's progress			
My child is making enough progress at this school			
The teaching is good at this school			
The school helps me to support my child's learning			
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle			
The school makes sure my child is well prepared for the future (e.g. changing year group/leaving school/ higher education/ employment)			
The school meets my child's particular needs			
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour			
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns			
The school is led and managed effectively			
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school			

Please return to Mr Cowling via your child's form tutor by 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you wish to use an envelope then please do so.

Thank you.

