

HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents

This has been an end of term like no other and I am very grateful to all the Chigwell families who have engaged so positively with the new ways of working. Staff have worked really hard to make remote learning effective and I am very appreciative of all their extra efforts at a time of great anxiety and uncertainty. Nevertheless, a great many other activities have taken place since half term and we have enjoyed seeing you at many of them.



Contents

Page 1	BBC Young Reporter Isabella Saunders-Cook
Page 2	Message for Pupils in the Middle Sixth Elizabeth Ebdon Sixth Form Induction Days UCAS Evening Staff News
Page 3	Modern Foreign Languages
Page 4	Successful Scientists
Page 5	Drama
Page 6	Netball
Page 7	Netball
Page 8	Boys' Hockey
Page 9	Boys' Hockey
Page 10	Music
Page 11	Trip to India
Page 12	Ski Trip Old Chigwellians Shrove Tuesday Supper
Page 13	Open Art, Design & Technology Exhibition
Page 14	Rotary Youth Speaks Middle School Speaking Competition
Page 15	And Finally
Page 16	Message from the Chaplain
Page 17	Message from Sana Abbas – Chair of the Friends of Chigwell

BBC Young Reporter

Congratulations to the Third and Fourth Form pupils who worked so hard on this year's BBC Young Reporter project. Topics included the COVID-19 situation, the benefits of electric vehicles and the impact of the new points based immigration system on businesses. You can watch the full report [here](#).



Isabella Saunders-Cook

Congratulations to Isabella who was published in a recent edition of the Horse and Hound magazine having qualified the Royal International Horse Show Finals. This is a huge achievement for Isabella who has trained and competed over the past six years to build up to an event at this level of competition. Winners of these events are invited to the National teams and can then go on to compete in European championships.



Message for Pupils in the Middle Sixth

We understand that any news on changing UCAS arrangements will be communicated directly to students, who can check here [In the meantime all](#)

students who have heard back from all of their universities should confirm their firm and insurance choices on UCAS Track by 5th May at the latest.

Elizabeth Ebden

Elizabeth competed in the East of England finals with Essex U15 Girls on Sunday 15 March. After almost six hours of competitive hockey against Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Norfolk, the Essex team was crowned East of England Champions.



Sixth Form Induction Days

We are planning to hold a Sixth Form induction day on Wednesday 17th June when students will be given a taste of the work that they will be covering in their chosen A level subjects. This is an important day in itself but also the occasion when a unit of A level work is set to be completed over the summer holidays.

UCAS Evening

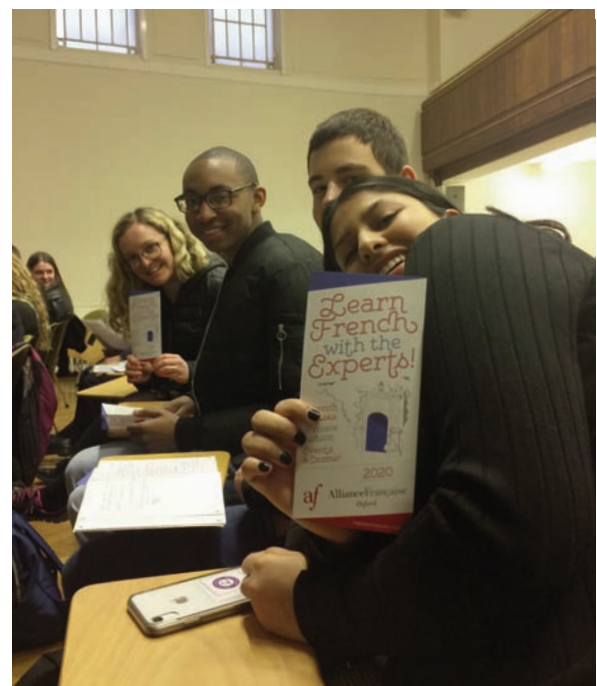
We are hoping to hold a UCAS Evening in the Drama Centre on Thursday 23rd April at 6.30pm but this will be confirmed after the Easter holiday.

Staff News

We send our congratulations to Mrs Elana Peebles and her husband Craig on the arrival of their baby daughter Lexie Elizabeth, and also to Miss Emma Taylor and her partner Russell on the birth of their daughter Sadie Rose. Ms Charlotte Nairac and her husband Jamie have welcomed their third son, Maxime Laurence.

Modern Foreign Languages

Students of French from Year 12 were invited to attend a question and answer session with Faïza Guène, author of the A level French set text *Kiffe kiffe demain*, at Oxford University Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. Students were able to practise their listening skills, as the interview was conducted in French. They were able to hear first-hand about the themes and stylistic devices used in the novel, in addition to learning more about the historical and societal context within which it was written.



Successful Scientists

Chigwell chemists, biologists and physicists are celebrating their recent success in their respective Royal Society Olympiad competitions. The British Biology Olympiad is a popular online quiz run by the Royal Society of Biology for students in Years 12 and 13. The competition aims to challenge and motivate students and allows them to demonstrate their subject knowledge. Over 8,000 pupils took part in the competition this year including a team of twenty from Chigwell. The results were very good with three of the team achieving medals and twelve more being commended or highly commended.

Meanwhile, the chemists took on the challenge of the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad which is an enriching experience that gives a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. We are absolutely delighted that of the fifteen A level Chemists that took part, twelve achieved medals (four Silver and eight Bronze). Eight of these chemists are Year 12 students with more girls than boys taking part and all of these achieved a medal.

In the physics Year 12 challenge, congratulations go to all the students who participated but particularly to the medal winners: Derek Zhang (bronze), Denys Nunez (silver) and Elena Gu and Jessica Mao (gold).



Drama

This half of term has been very busy in drama. The Middle Sixth A level drama class performed their scripted unit to a visiting examiner. This was a delightful story telling vehicle in the form of the RSC's version of "Arabian Nights" and a varied and challenging set of monologues and duologues from contemporary playwrights. The cast benefitted especially from a workshop by Rene Zagger, a member of the cast of the original RSC performance. The standard was exceptionally high and we all have our

fingers crossed for a good result this summer. Next, the Lower Sixth performed their devised pieces that they had created over the last three months. Based around practitioners Brecht and Berkoff, we were treated to two twenty minute shows of high energy physical theatre and political satire with excellent costume and make up and set design work from our design candidates. Many thanks to Mrs Cate Brown and Mr Daryl Blair for their outstanding assistance with design on both these projects..



Netball

We had a full calendar of fixtures this half term including IAPS, tournaments and local fixtures, but unfortunately, due to one of the wettest Februarys ever, many matches and events were cancelled or postponed.

The first week back saw the U11s travel to Felsted School to take part in the IAPS tournament. Despite the miserable conditions the players played with a great team spirit and enjoyed wins over Kingshott Prep and Bishop's Stortford

College. They narrowly lost out in the plate quarter final to Bancroft's School. Well done to all players and staff.

The U12 and U13 IAPS tournament was postponed due to bad weather conditions. Another great day at Felsted School saw the two age groups battle out some tough games and the U12s enjoyed wins over St Faiths, Culford and Farmington College Prep. In addition to this, the U13s came runners up in the plate competition. Both squads played exceptionally well and should be proud.



Netball

The U12 and U13 netball squads have enjoyed some competitive fixtures against Bancroft's, Forest and St Edmunds. It has been great to see many players attending training, wanting to improve their netball skills. The U14s and U15s, despite having match play cancelled due to the weather, have still managed to get competitive fixtures out against Felsted, Haileybury and Park School. The seniors have had a tougher start to the half term with fixtures cancelled due to weather, exams, illnesses

and Covid-19 concerns, and they only managed to have a fixture against St Edmunds. This is a very talented group of netballers and I hope going forward that those still at Chigwell will continue their netball in future years.

Despite the challenges this term has faced, the staff and pupils have continued for as long as possible to put on a busy and exciting programme of netball fixtures and events. It has been a whole team effort and we wish to thank everyone for their efforts.



Boys' Hockey

It has been an exceptional second half to the season for boys' hockey despite the shortened term this year. Post half term, the fixture schedule shifts with additional matches for the Junior School pupils, affording them the opportunity to develop their skills in a competitive environment. For the first time in Chigwell history all three Junior School teams U11s, U12s and U13s progressed from the county rounds of England Hockey In2School Tournaments to the regional stages of the competition. The U11s competing in their first Essex and IAPS tournaments, won the county tournament and finished as

Plate winners at IAPS hosted by Haileybury College. The U12s finished runners-up at their tournament only losing out on top spot by a single goal despite not losing a game on the day and U13s finished a commendable third place out of eight teams securing qualification. In addition to excellent results on the field, participation numbers in the Junior School continues to grow. High numbers of pupils attending extra-curricular clubs has led to additional sessions and fixtures, enabling every child to have the opportunity to undertake the sport outside the curriculum.



Boys' Hockey



Music

The School hosted Rotary Youth Makes Music Concert, which brought together 170 musicians from seven local schools. It was a wonderfully engaging evening and we would particularly like to thank Miss Ciara McCarthy and the School's String Orchestra and Mr Michael Wright with his Modern Music Ensemble for their performances that evening.

We have continued to enjoy the popularity of our new Breaktime Recital Series. This has provided opportunities for pupils to exhibit and/or try out solo performances and we have seen no fewer than twenty-five performances this term - congratulations go to all those who not only took part but also supported others so amiably.

Finishing the term earlier than expected somewhat dented our opportunity to showcase pupils' work this term. It is true to say, however, that we have had the joy of experiencing pupils' endeavours across the whole school. The quality of the music studied and rehearsed, right from the youngest Stringles through to our Junior Orchestra, junior and senior percussion groups, wind ensembles, string orchestra,

Chapel Choir and symphonic wind band, to name a few, has been extraordinary. It is a salient point to note, that when pupils realised the potential of not returning to complete our concert series this term, they promptly and without hesitation took out their mobile phones to record the music made in their final rehearsals. This brings an enormous sense of pride and accomplishment in what has been achieved and more notably in the way in which the pupils across the School have come together so happily in their music making.

We would also like to acknowledge the large cast of pupils in the Senior School who have, since January, come together to rehearse for the musical *Les Miserables*. It was the intention that after the Easter break rehearsals would be opened up to members of the Junior School. It is still our intention to put this show on, in full, as and when we can. It pays great testimony again to the pupils who have a desire to learn and developed their skills outside of the classroom.

Trip to India

A group of twenty-eight pupils and family members from Chigwell School made the annual trip to Saccidanada Ashram in Tamil Nadu. They joined in the life of the Ashram attending some of the daily services in the chapel and helped to prepare the food for lunch and dinner. They visited some of the projects that the Ashram run in the local community and saw first-hand how they benefit families who are in great need. Near the Ashram is the Tim Pruss Memorial School, developed in memory of a former Chigwell pupil who died in an accident shortly after leaving Chigwell in 2005. The group listened to pupils read and gave them

practice in English conversation. During the visit, the School held their Speech Day and our group joined in the cultural programme by taking part in an Indian dance and offering their own rendition of Dancing Queen. There was also time to be tourists and the group spent a day in Tiruchirapalli visiting the largest temple complex in India. Mr David Gower, commented that the Tim Pruss Memorial School seems to be flourishing and it was a great privilege to relay our impressions to Tim's father, Dr Tony Pruss, on our return. He added that the week was a challenge in many ways to the group and, perhaps some members were changed as a result.



Ski Trip

Thirty-eight Lower Fifth pupils spent six days in Wildkogel, Austria, in the Kitzbuhel Alps, near the German border. Seventeen pupils had never skied before, but by the third day all were competent enough to ski across the mountain to join their more experienced peers for a hot lunch at the resort's cafe. In addition to great skiing and



tobogganing down a 14km run, they had plenty to do in the evenings. Pupils were out on the ice rink for skating and curling and on the final evening, they walked down to enjoy pizza at a rustic, alpine restaurant. This was a very successful trip and our staff members were impressed by the mature behaviour displayed throughout the trip.

Old Chigwellians Shrove Tuesday Supper



Nearly one hundred Old Chigwellians attended the 152nd Shrove Tuesday Supper. This annual gathering gives OCs of all ages the chance to come together to reconnect with each other and the School. The evening commenced with a wonderful service lead by Reverend Gary Scott in the Chapel which was followed by a sumptuous three-

course supper in the Dining Hall. After the meal, the audience listened to speeches from the OCA President, Aegean Simpson, the Headmaster and finally Head of School, Joseph Ahern. The festivities ended with the whole Dining Hall taking part in a rousing rendition of the School Song. One OC wrote in their praise of the event, "It was a wonderful evening, with fabulous food and great company. I can't wait for the 153rd!"

Open Art, Design & Technology Exhibition

The 24th Chigwell Open Art, Design & Technology Exhibition was officially opened with a bustling private viewing. Celebrating pupils' artwork from twenty-five schools, their families had the opportunity to share their joy at seeing their work professionally framed and exhibited.



Rotary Youth Speaks

At the recent Rotary Youth Speaks Debate District Final, the Chigwell School Senior team of Ziyad Chaudhary (chairperson), Matthew Punt (proposer) and Denys Nunez (opposer) came first and won the chance to participate in the Regional Final on March 15th, although sadly this event was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 virus. Their topic was: "That the actions of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are acceptable." The Rotary Youth Speaks competition allows students to challenge



their public speaking abilities and perform, persuade and entertain the audience with their display of wit and knowledge of a topic. In teams of three, participants present arguments and points of discussion, before taking questions from the judging panel who are, themselves, skilled orators. All three students showed real teamwork and obviously impressed the judges. Mr Roderick Lonsdale, said that he was delighted with the win and that the team had shown a really professional attitude in their preparation for the competition. On the same day, the Intermediate team of Lucy Alier (chairperson), Francesca Hallett (proposer) and Lucas Goddard (opposer) also performed most creditably although they were not placed in the Intermediate competition.

Middle School Speaking Competition

In a closely fought competition, held after school rather than in the evening, the quality of the speeches was up to the usual very high standard in this annual event. Among the adjudged winners were the accomplished speakers: Molly Moloney, Lower Fifth Caswalls', ("An Ode to the Williams Sisters") first equal with Sally Chapman also Lower Fifth, but from Penn's, ("Trichotillomania"). A close runner-up was Ben Punt from Swallow's Lower Fifth, whose speech "Is Trophy

Hunting Morally Wrong?" was both provocative and effectively delivered. Hari Vadher from Swallow's was judged best chairperson while Mahi Patel, also from Swallow's, won the hard-fought contest for the best vote of thanks. The adjudicator, Mrs Rebecca Williams, praised the speakers and admitted the difficulties facing a judge when the standards were so high. The House winners were Swallow's just one point ahead of Caswalls' and Lambourne with Penn's following closely behind.



And Finally

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone a number of events in recent days, including the careers convention, because of the impact of the COVID-19 virus but I hope families will appreciate that in the circumstances we have no other option. Of course what we all crave is a return to normality and I hope that this indeed will happen as soon as possible. In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy Easter and please do stay healthy.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Michael Punt

Message from the Chaplain



It is pretty unusual to be writing this end of term letter knowing that as you read it you will all be staying in your homes and the normal holiday activities will not be happening. I can imagine the stresses we will all face over the coming weeks and I don't underestimate the challenge. However, I am also confident of our ability to deal with the current situation and to come safely through to the other side.

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of uncertainty but I have been heartened by the overwhelmingly positive response to the changes we have had to make. I have had children in the Pre Prep reminding me to wash my hands and students throughout the School putting in extra work to prepare for remote learning. Staff have gone out of their way to support each other and share extra duties and there has been a stream of goodwill messages and offers of practical help from parents and the

wider school community. We are a resilient school and more than able to deal with the challenges we face.

I am conscious that for some, being at home for an extended period may prove trying. There are various support systems in place but if anyone needs a chat or just to hear a different voice please feel free to call me on 07977 511873.

Remember that the time is coming when all this will be in the past but in the meantime take care of yourselves and those you love. Smile, be kind and remember to wash your hands!

With all blessings

The Chaplain

Message from Sana Abbas – Chair of the Friends of Chigwell

We have had an interesting year so far at Chigwell School and 2020 has started with some lovely events:

- Pre Prep film night
- Pop-up Mother's Day shop
- Staff pantomime
- Old Chigwellian Shrove Tuesday Supper
- Music concert

Our Pre Loved Uniform shop continues to be popular. Dates and opening times will be posted via Chigwell Post parent mails, in the Chronicle and within the FoC pages of the Chigwell School website. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a donation – please do keep them coming. Drop off points are at any of the Receptions with Mrs Kerry Horn in the Pre Prep, Mrs Kirstie Lee at the Junior School and Mrs Myrtle Scannell in the Senior School. All sizes and ages are most welcome, good quality, clean and with any name badges removed.

The Pre Prep enjoyed a film night in February where they had milk and a cookie followed by the Pixar Mini Movies - thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. To top it all, children received a piece of chocolate when going home.

Shrove Tuesday saw the FoC host the bar at the Old Chigwellians' dinner. This is an important annual event where 100 Old Chigwellians come along to the School for dinner. This year we hosted them in the Dining Hall, and they enjoyed an evening together to catch up and reminisce.

Through all these activities we have managed to make some well-deserved contribution to the School:

- Beach House for the Pre Prep playground; this being thoroughly enjoyed by the children
- Portable music system for the Junior School; it has already been used on a number of events and is proving to be very useful
- We are also in talks with the Senior School to see where we can add value

New events continue to be discussed with the School, if there is anything you would like to suggest, donate, or just raise with us please let us know @ foc@chigwell-school.org.uk. You would also be most welcome to attend any of the future FoC meetings – please email us for dates and further information.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued generous support since September 2019. We have managed to raise over £8,000 which is a really fantastic achievement. We are so very lucky to have such generous and involved families and none of this this would have been possible without the support of each and every one of you. It is hugely appreciated.

Thank you from all of the FoC team and best wishes to you all for a happy and restful Easter holiday. Please stay safe during the current virus outbreak and hope that life gets back to normal soon.

TERM DATES 2020

Trinity Term 2020

(Easter Day is 12th April)

First day: Monday 20th April

Half term: Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May INSET Day Monday 1st June

Term ends: Wednesday 8th July

