

## Welcome

You cannot fail to be impressed by this first edition of our half termly Extra. We will continue to send you a weekly briefing via email and accessible from the website, which will give the calendar for the week, sports results, attendance figures, reminders as well as anything else that I think you should know about quickly.

This version of Contact will tell you about all the events, experiences and opportunities for the students that have taken place over the half term. The photos will be reproduced to a high quality and the whole presentation will be better as it will be professionally produced. The Autumn term, as you can see, was jam packed full of great activities which

certainly enrich our school life. None of this would be possible if we didn't have the staff we have who are fantastic. Also, because we know that our students always behave in a manner that is appropriate, the staff confidently organise such experiences for them. I hope that we will always be able to provide such an engaging and vibrant learning experience for the girls. *Mrs P. Slonecki*

## Ice Skating

On 15th December, there was no better way to celebrate Christmas and the fantastic attendance and punctuality that we value in Year 10, than by going on a festive ice-skating afternoon out in London. We were delighted to offer Year 10 the opportunity to spend an hour at the EDF London Eye Ice Rink.



## Get Set!

We were selected as a 'Get Set network school of the month' for October 2011! We were selected out of all secondary schools across the UK in the Get Set network because we demonstrate "outstanding commitment to living the Olympic and Paralympic Values in both creative and innovative ways". As a result of this achievement we won a special visit from the Olympic mascot on 24th November! The mascot spent all morning with us.



## An Inspector Calls

Year 11 are studying *An Inspector Calls* for their written English examination. The students went to see this performed at the Churchill Theatre on 24th November. This trip aimed to help students with their exam preparation.



## Christmas Arts Celebration

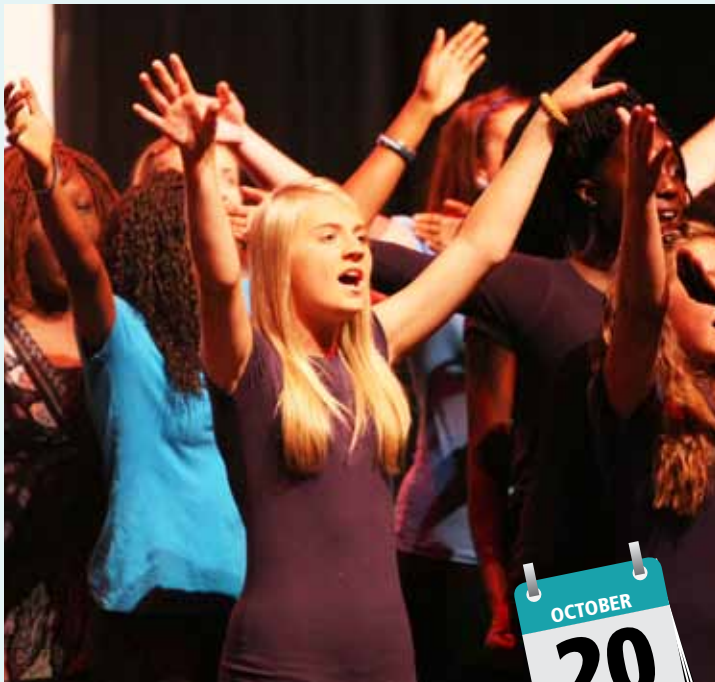
We marked the beginning of the Christmas season on 1st December with an enjoyable *Media Christmas Evening*. The audience entered through an intriguing ice cave and were treated to a showcase of Drama, Media, Music and Poetry. Audience participation was ensured by a number of traditional carols. Our students' performances were well supported by their families, friends, teachers and governors. We received many compliments from our audience commenting on the clarity and confidence of speaking. The Glee Club and The Twelfth Night ensemble performances were clearly highlights. The evening was professionally compared and our enjoyment was hugely enhanced by our stunning new stage lighting system!

## Christmas

We had one of our most successful fayres to date. Thanks to everyone who turned up and especially, those of you who gave up your time to ensure our success. With expenses taken into account, we will be in net profit of in excess of £2500. What a great result, we should all give ourselves a huge pat on the back. Rest assured, all of that money will be used for different projects within the school which will enhance the girls' educational experience. Many thanks also go out to all of you who took the trouble to sell raffle tickets.

## Fayre





## Glee!

Our Glee group were invited to perform at Charlton House as part of a service of Thanksgiving to celebrate Bexley and Greenwich Cottage Hospice's 25th birthday. The students sang a beautiful version of "I Believe I Can Fly" in front of the local Mayors, staff from the Hospice and members of the public.

## Science Trip

A small cohort of Year 10 Triple Science students took part in an inspirational visit to Imperial College. The day was a mixture of lectures and hands-on investigations. Students got the chance to see top quality laboratories and equipment. They were also given a tour of the Science labs and University facilities. Their first task was based on Astronomy. They were shown the constellations and where

they appear in the sky at different times of the year. They made their own scale version of a rocket out of paper, a rubber cone and sellotape. They tested a range of fizzy drinks to find out which one had a stronger acidity / Ph.

The course is designed to show our students where Triple Science can take them to - not just University, but beyond.



## Chinese Visitors

On 7th December we acted as a host school for a delegation of 25 Chinese Visitors. Most had about 5 years experience and spoke very little English. They did have a translator with them and a Head Teacher. Despite there being a language issue the visit went extremely well and they thoroughly enjoyed their day.



## Year 11 Media Walk: Prospects In The City

Four students in Year 11 were lucky enough to have a careers day looking at the potential jobs in the Media industry. They had a tour of the National Theatre, saw a live recording of 'Loose Women' at the London studios and attended two professional lectures about working in the Media.



## Trip to see Jane Eyre

On 7th November 110 Year 10 students were taken to see the new version of *Jane Eyre* at Bexleyheath Cinema. Students enjoyed the trip but found the film to be disappointing as from their study of the novel they could see that large chunks of the storyline had been changed or left out entirely. The trip was useful as it made them think about their own knowledge of the novel but they still think the BBC adaptation is much better!

## Lifestyle Conference

Two students from Year 10 were chosen to attend a conference on *Lifestyle Choices* on 7th November at the House of Commons. They heard from two speakers about the dangers and consequences of drinking, especially for those under 18 years of age and they all looked at ways to prevent this growing problem.



## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

20 girls passed their Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh Award and went to a presentation ceremony for the whole of Bexley on the 1st December.

Fern, 11A received the Jack Petchey Award for her outstanding Duke of Edinburgh work.



## Zumba!

On 12th October classes in years 10 and 11 were lucky enough to take part in the latest fitness craze Zumba in their PE lessons. Zumba is a dance fitness class, with its moves drawing inspiration from South American dance.

## Great Generation Conference

On 12th October, students had the wonderful opportunity to go to St Mary's University for the Great Generation Conference. The conference was based on exploring sport, development and peace from a global justice perspective in the lead up to the Olympics and Paralympics.

## Business and Enterprise

In line with *Global Entrepreneurship Week 2011*, students in Year 9 were challenged to come up with a business idea that they feel passionately about. Not only did this idea have to be real and viable as a business, it had to be original and innovative. This idea would then be submitted to a brand new enterprise scheme called "TeenBiz". TeenBiz is the UK's first business start up scheme aimed at teens 13-18, started by Claire Young who is an Entrepreneur and businesswoman. There was a huge response to the competition within the year group, but only one idea could be picked for submission in the scheme's very first month. Priscilla 9I was our first submission, with her absolutely fantastic idea revolving around custom fashion and a unique network of designers. We wish her good luck and inspiration with her potential business. Keep a look out over the next year as more students are submitted for this amazing entrepreneurial opportunity!

## Trip to Tate Modern



The Art department arranged for the year 11 GCSE art group to visit Tate Modern on 22nd November. This visit was important as the students need to study works from other times and cultures to address one of their assessment objectives. This experience will help to develop preparation for their mock exam.



## Product Design Workshop at the Design Museum

On 15th December a group of 25 students who show particular interest in Design & Technology subjects were taken to a Product Design Workshop at the Design Museum in London. They attended a 1 hour workshop followed by a walk around the museum to investigate and evaluate the work of famous designers.



## If Chloe Can

On Wednesday 2nd November, Year 9 were invited to watch a production called 'If Chloe Can' at The Lyric Theatre in Piccadilly. This was hosted by the MP Ester McVey. The play was about a group of girls choosing GCSE options not knowing what they really wanted as a career and then seeing what they became 20 years later. Students also had the opportunity to

## Debate Mate Launch

On the 2nd of November, 14 year 10 students visited the Royal Geographical Society along with Miss Macdougall and Miss Cook to attend the *Debate Mate* launch for 2011. This was a very interesting and exciting event as students were able to witness a real debate on whether 'Corporal punishment should be reintroduced into schools in the UK.' The debaters were national competition winners from London schools as well as Oxford University. Our girls thought it was inspiring to see young people battle out an argument and encouraged many of them to consider pursuing a career in Law.



## Debate Mate After School Club



St. Catherine's have been awarded a place on the Debate Mate scheme and have the opportunity to run an after school club for years 8, 9 and 10. Currently the club has 81 members from across the 3 year groups, and we are very pleased with their enthusiasm. The girls are mentored by four students from Russell Group Universities who are proving to be an

inspiring influence. The club has so far taught the girls how to structure persuasive points and form rebuttals. The students are extremely enthusiastic and have been grappling with all the tasks set by their mentors, proving that our girls are flexible and intelligent. We are now looking forward to taking part in the Urban Debate League, as well as the Debate Mate Cup, and achieving further success.

## Visit to the British Library

The History Department organised a trip for Yr8 and Yr9 Gifted and Talented Students to visit the British Library on 29th November.

This involved two workshops specifically for school parties about Royal Manuscripts and Research Matters.

Students looked at diaries, literature, scrolls, ancient scriptures and much more. They also studied the beautiful pictures in illustrated books and manuscripts.



# Little Canada - Isle of Wight Trip

The Year 8 trip to Little Canada on the Isle of Wight was very successful. Little Canada were impressed with the girls' attitude and enthusiasm towards all the activities at the site such as Catwalk, Trapeze and Abseiling.





## Gospel Choir

This term we started a gospel choir at St Catherine's. There was a great response from the girls. We have been quite overwhelmed. Over 250 girls auditioned. Fortunately Ms CJ and her accompanist Genesis are able to run two sessions for us each week which will definitely involve many more girls than we had originally planned and hoped for.

## "Women Leaders of Tomorrow" Conference



On 30th September, students from the School Council, travelled to the Ursuline High School in Wimbledon to attend a conference organised by the Association of Maintained Girls Schools involving 88 students from 18 schools.

The morning started with a talk from four speakers from the Women of the Future Ambassador's programme, followed by a question and answer session. These women were able to reflect on when they were a similar age to the students and discuss how they progressed into their current roles. Before the conference the students chose 2-3 themes and had the opportunity to email students

from other schools in their group to discuss their ideas. In two different groups they debated the themes and generated both ideas and solutions. All was recorded on laptops by a student nominated by the group and then all participated in a presentation.

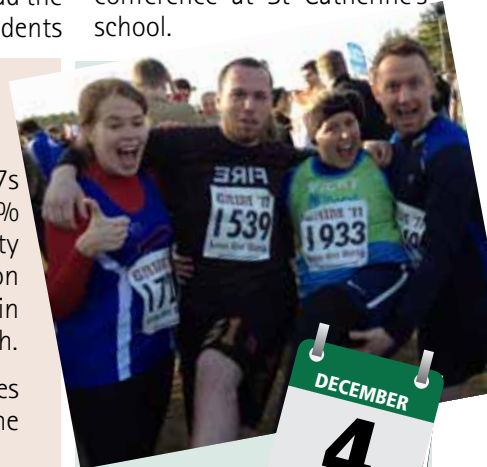
The level of commitment shown was excellent with both the groups chosen to present in the question and answer sessions afterwards. The organisers of the conference and the staff attending were astounded by the students' responses to the themes and how articulate they all were in their answers. The students enjoyed the experience and have now been inspired to organise their own Women Leaders of Tomorrow conference at St Catherine's school.



## Year 7 Bowling Trip

On 9th November, Year 7s who had a record of 100% attendance and punctuality had the opportunity to go on a reward trip to the Tenpin Bowling Alley in Bexleyheath.

They played two games of bowling and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it!



## Teacher fundraising

Miss MacDougal, Miss Moore, Mr Perkins and Mr Kinsella took part in the Grim Challenge on Sunday 4th December. This was an 8 mile run over daunting terrain, wading through bogs, crawling under things, waist high in freezing cold water and all in the aid of charity. They raised nearly £450 for Mind Charity and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



## Science Dome

We were awarded a small grant from the Royal Institute of Physics at the end of last year. We used this money to hire a mobile planetarium for Year 7s on 8th November.

Students entered the large dome shaped projection theatre to watch a 360° show about astronomy and the night sky.

## Spelling Bee

Year 8 were challenged to learn how to spell 72 words. Many took up this challenge which resulted in a Spelling Bee on 12th October.



## The 39 Steps

Students from Year 11 Drama went along to see this play as part of their GCSE assessment.



# Off By Heart Shakespeare



## Shakespeare Off By Heart

On the 14th of November Olga 10E and Agnes 9E travelled to the BBC Broadcast Studios in White City for the BBC Off by Heart Shakespeare competition. They had to perform a famous Shakespearean speech and then they had the fantastic opportunity to join a behind-the-scenes acting workshop led by mentors from the National Youth Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. They experienced Shakespearean language like never before; they learned how to breathe it, feel it, vocalise it and make it their own. They were taught about iambic pentameter and Shakespeare's five act structure as well as general performance techniques. Unfortunately neither of our girls went through to the National finals however they still had an enjoyable day working with professional actors.



## Shakespeare Schools Festival

The Yr11 BTEC performing arts group performed their production of *The Twelfth Night* at Greenwich Theatre on 2nd November. The piece formed part of their assessment for the acting component of their course and the girls worked hard to create an outstanding performance which received praise from the organizers for their excellent interpretation and understanding of the text.

The girls began rehearsing the play in the summer term and have worked extremely hard to bring the production up to such a high standard. The girls were thrilled to have the opportunity of performing in a professional theatre and the experience will help them immensely in their BTEC course and also for those who intend to pursue performing arts post 16.

## Bexley Cross Country



On 7th December, 26 students entered the Bexley Cross Country Championships at Hall Place. The girls showed great determination and passion, the course was flat but with the windy conditions they had to work much harder than normal. The year 7 competition was very strong. Finishing in 3rd place was Sophie 7A. She showed amazing passion and determination. All of our girls finished in the top 20, this being a fantastic result! The year 8/9 competition again was tough, but our girls put in another brilliant performance, Harley 9C (pictured) came in first place by a large distance, next through was Janell 8N in 5th place, followed by Stacey 9H in 8th. On the whole most of our girls came in the top 20 again. Finally the year 10/11 competition was lacking competitors from across the borough, but Sarah 11N showed her strength and endurance as an athlete coming in a very close 2nd place, narrowly missing out on 1st with Blackfen. Overall a great success and fantastic effort put in by all.

## Bexley Secondary Schools Conference

On 29th September 10 students from year 11 were selected to attend a Secondary Schools conference organised by the Bexley Healthy Schools Coordinator.

Representatives from the NHS participated and introduced themselves by forming an organisational diagram in

order to illustrate the current structure of the NHS. Howard Stoaate, Clinical Commissioning Cabinet Chair was keen to get all students involved and asked how they would like to see the NHS structured in their future.

Students had to decide which area of work they could make a positive contribution towards. The teams were asked to put their chosen recommendation

forward to a *Dragon's Den* by designing and producing a group presentation.

Students were presented with a Certificate of Excellence for taking part. All work and recommendations presented on the day are to be acknowledged within Bexley NHS and council media.

## Little Shop of Horrors

The Drama department offered the school show cast members the opportunity to attend the popular musical *'The Little Shop of Horrors'* at the Broadway Studio Theatre as preparation for their role in the school show.



## Amiens - France Trip

The Department of Modern Foreign languages offered Year 7 pupils studying French the opportunity to participate in a day trip to the Christmas market in Amiens. The trip was a great success with pupils returning home enthused by being able to speak French in real situations and by the opportunity to experience the culture of France first-hand.



## Students leading prayer at St. Catherine's

During 2011 many of our students prepared and led the school liturgies. Students have shared prayer, reflections, hymns and dramas. In January 2011 fifteen students from the present Yrs 10 and 11 volunteered to train as prayer leaders. Their initial training was given by the Sion Community and during the summer term they had a day of training at the Carmelite

Friary at Aylesford. The prayer leaders have invited the whole of Yr 7 to come to the chapel for a time of prayer. Two leaders meet with the Yr 7 students and asked them what they would like to pray for. The leaders then use scripture quotes to pray for the students' intention. This takes place in the calm atmosphere of the chapel and it is wonderful to witness the relationship that develops between these young people. The prayer leaders have expressed their feelings about this ministry:



*"Whilst praying with the girls in my school it has given me time to reflect on the lives of others and ask God to be with them and myself."*

Bethany Year 10

*"I feel that the students have gained something valuable because they feel involved in the prayer. Students have come in looking really down and dull and left with smiles."*

Dara Year 10

*"Becoming a prayer leader has made my faith stronger, because when you pray with someone and read quotes from the bible, you feel that God is talking to you and answering your prayers."*

Noreen Year 10

Throughout the Gospels there are numerous examples of the disciples bringing others to Jesus. Establishing prayer leaders provides an excellent opportunity for young people to lead by example and draw other young people to God.

## Beasts and Beauties

On 13th December the Drama department offered Year 7 students the opportunity to attend the popular play 'Beasts & Beauties' at the Hampstead Theatre. This was a great opportunity for students to raise their attainment in Drama, as well as having a fun social event with their peers.



## Jack Petchey Awards

Our first winner of the Jack Petchey Award for the new academic year is Laura 9H. Fellow students nominated her as she is a very friendly and cheerful student. She always strives to do her best no matter what comes her way. Laura is a living example

of Jack Petchey's and St Catherine's motto 'Doing your best'.

Laura has decided to allocate her £200 prize money to the Y9 Disneyland trip so all those going can benefit.



## Young London Voices: Future Leaders Conference



On 8th November, three students from Year 10 were invited to take part in the Young London Voices Day at City Hall. They worked alongside the Police and other uniformed groups on ideas of how to make London safer for young people. They were also interviewed by a reporter from *East London Lines*. Students got the chance to listen to people involved

in crime and violence and ask about their experiences. They spoke to Mr Barry Mizen who shared his story on how his son Jimmy was tragically murdered. This showed the students the consequences of gangs, violence and crime and how we can all try to do something to change as a community, school and as individuals.

They now hope to work with their year group to organise an assembly and have guest speakers, as they believe this will have a positive impact on their friends and community.



## Battle of Hastings

On 11th November a huge and historical event took place on the field of St Catherine's! Harold Godwinson along with his soldiers from 7C and William the Conqueror with his invaders from 7T battled for the high throne of England!

## Science Conference Trip

Y10 and 11 students were invited to hear five world-renowned scientists speak about a variety of scientific topics. Prof. David King gave a presentation about climate change. He showed students how humans are impacting upon the earth. They also heard a talk from an experimental researcher who used high power lasers to generate fusion energy.



## FUTURE EVENTS....

- Yr 9 Kintbury 3 day Retreat
- Yr 9 Charity Coin Collection  
Yr 11 Photos
- Mock GCSE Results
- Yr 9 KS4 Choices Evening 7pm
- ECM Day
- Yr9 Parent's Evening  
3.30pm - 6.00pm
- Poetry Workshops
- Geography Field Trip (1)
- Geography Field Trip (2)  
Trinity Guildhall Exams