

School NEWS



Friday 25 September 2009

Local Residents Visit The Elmgreen School

Last week the school opened its 'new' doors to students, families and local residents for the first time. There was a fantastic atmosphere as visitors toured the site taking in all the interesting design features that have created a light and open working environment for staff and students. The central market square, covered by a wonderful saw-tooth roof, offers a huge amount of additional space and is crossed by the library which runs through the heart of the school. The school vision of a light, open, flexible learning environment which offers opportunities for social learning has been achieved.

We are all thrilled by the building and look forward to welcoming current and future families in the coming weeks.



Huge Thank You to the PPF

Our thanks go to Kate Scrase and the PPF for working with Lambeth to organise Sports and Media activities in the first 2 weeks of September. Over 75 students attended the courses which were held at the Sport Action Zone in Kennington and The Old Library in Norwood. Students on the sports course did football, dodgeball, basketball and boxing and some students were lucky enough to meet the cricketer Michael Vaughan and world record hurdler (and Strictly Come Dancing runner up!) Colin Jackson.

The media and video recording course taught students to handle a camera, conduct street interviews and make mini movies. Kester Abbot said, 'The best bit was making a horror film. The worst bit was trying to tell the actors what to do – I got a sore throat!'

Well done to all the students who took advantage of the offer.



Families supporting learning

At The Elmgreen School families take responsibility for ensuring that their children arrive at school ready to learn.

Please remember to check the 3 'must-haves' before your child leaves the house each morning:

1. Uniform

- Blazer to be worn at all times—if hot, must remove jumper
- College tie – correctly tied, worn long to the waistband
- V neck pullover
- Shirts – tucked in, top button done up!
- Trousers (boys) -Charcoal grey
- Skirt/trousers (girls) - Black / green pinstripe
- Tights (black)
- Socks (black/ dark grey)
- Plain black shoes – no trainers, plimsoles, coloured lace or stitching
- Outdoor coat – plain black – no denim, hoodies or logos
- Outdoor coat must not be worn in the building (Hold it/ put in bag/ or in locker – students should be issued with keys next week)
- A plain **black** bag
- No jewellery – only one pair small studs/ sleepers
- No nail varnish or makeup
- Mobile phones are required to be kept out of sight and switched off. Should a staff member see a student using a mobile phone they may

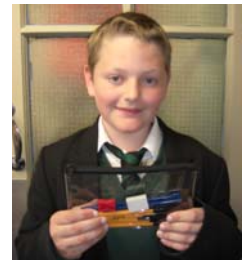


ask politely for the phone and then to hand it in to reception for collection by a parent/ carer

- Chewing gum is not allowed on the school site

2. Pencil case containing:

- Pens (2)
- Pencils (2)
- A ruler
- A rubber
- A sharpener



Replacement pencil cases are available for £1

3. Planner (this is the key link between the school and the family)

Replacement planners are available for £3 (students wishing to replace a planner must have written permission from a member of the college leadership team).

In our experience children who do not arrive with these items can struggle to learn effectively. For this reason we insist that students are properly prepared for the day's learning. In a small number of cases we may ask a child to return home briefly to collect important items which they have forgotten. This is not an exclusion and is, of course, entirely within legal guidelines.

If you need any help with these issues please contact your child's College Pastoral Manager (this person should be identified in the planner). We are here to help!



Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child reaches their maximum potential.

Attendance: A family's responsibility

PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL **BETWEEN 8.00-8.30** IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FOR ANY REASON

Please note: FAMILIES MUST PHONE (0208 766 5020) OR TEXT (07717 989975) THE SCHOOL ON EACH AND EVERY DAY THAT A CHILD IS ABSENT. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary school or local authority action (see below).

Any absence of 3 consecutive days or more requires:

A medical note/ appointment card from GP

or

Leave of absence form for families (can be collected from or posted by school)

The school authorises absence on a case by case basis in line with DCSF guidance. Families should be advised that absence notes from families ARE NOT automatically authorised.

All students are expected to attend school every day unless there is a genuine medical or other reason for absence.

Where recurring medical appointments or illness are affecting a student's progress, the school will refer to the Educational Welfare Officer who will work with medical professionals to help reduce the impact of the student's medical condition.

Reward your child for excellent attendance (96%+).

Support your child in reaching the whole school target of at least 94% attendance

Please be aware that holidays must not be taken during term time.

In rare cases The Elmgreen School will reluctantly support the Local Authority in applying penalty notices of £50 (rising to £100 after 28 days) where families are not ensuring that their child attends school regularly and on time. This is because we believe that all of our children have a right to a high quality education unaffected by poor attendance.

IF YOUR CHILD IS STRUGGLING WITH THEIR ATTENDANCE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S COLLEGE PASTORAL MANAGER (CPM). WE WANT TO HELP.

Dates for your Diary.....

Please tell parents of current Year 6 students that they are invited to attend:

Open Evening Tuesday 6 October 6 - 9 pm

Open Morning Saturday 10 October 9.30 - 11 am

Open Morning Wednesday 14 October 9 - 10.30 am

Open Morning Thursday 15 October 9 - 10.30 am

NEXT WEEK'S SCHOOL NEWS:

Profiles of our four new colleges.

CHOICE in its 2nd year!

As CHOICE was so successful last year, the Year 8 students have again been given a unique opportunity to expand and develop their thinking, group and creative skills. The students have chosen from a broad range of popular and innovative subjects, for example, 'Giving Nation: Charity', Learning Spanish and Chinese to Ceramics and Photography. All students had a chance to talk to last year's Year 8s during PLS to

inform them and help them with their final three choices. All Year 8 started their first choice on Wednesday afternoon. There was a fantastic vibe as I moved around the school and saw Year 8 engaged in something



very different to what secondary schools normally provide. It was great to see the students already getting stuck in and getting messy with the clay – overalls were provided of course – and watching students go off site in excitement as they walked to the South London Botanical Institute on Norwood Road or getting on the coach to go swimming. The energy and enthusiasm given by all staff and students was very exciting to see too.

In the Spring term we will be holding a showcase for staff, parents and students to see what has been learned and achieved.

Mr. Cerqueira – Choice Co-ordinator

INVITATION- "Chinese Wellbeing Week Launch Day" Saturday, 3rd October, Westminster, Central Hall

We invite you to attend the official opening ceremony of Chinese Wellbeing Week and the first performance of our Family Moon Festival Show at 11am on Saturday 3 October 2009 in the Central Hall Westminster, London.

To celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival and the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine has organised this event free to the public. The opening ceremony and first show start at 11am in the Central Hall Westminster. Families will have a chance to get close to a Chinese Lion, and watch and be involved in drumming, ribbon dancing and Chinese playground games that Chinese pupils play at school. The students will also have a chance to receive some gifts from China and have a taste of Chinese Moon Cake. A team of Chinese artists and performers will demonstrate Lion Dancing, Gong Fu, Chinese Traditional Dance and Chinese Calligraphy, and many more. This team of performers have been invited to London from China specifically for this event.



A small group of students from one of the participating schools -Holy Cross Primary School, will perform in Chinese during the opening ceremony.

Hongye Wu
COMAC

Enrichment Activities

Enrichment clubs and activities start on Monday 28 September. Any students wishing to participate should go to the subject area of the specified enrichment where they will be registered on a first come first served basis. Lunchtime enrichment clubs will issue passes to permit students access to the upper floors of the school. Please participate in an enrichment and develop new skills as well as meeting new people.

Have fun

Paul Castle, Assistant Headteacher, Enrichment



Enrichment activities 2009/10

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school				
Breakfast club LRC reading club	Breakfast club LRC reading club	Breakfast club LRC reading club	Breakfast club LRC reading club	Breakfast club Table Tennis (mixed) LRC reading club
Lunch time				
Table Tennis (mixed) Design Clinic LRC reading and IT club ICT Club (1pm-1.25) Frisbee Club	English department Film Club LRC reading and IT club ICT Club(1pm-1.25)	Chess club (mixed) Gardening & Environment Club Badminton (mixed) LRC reading and IT club ICT Club(1pm-1.25)	English department Film Club LRC reading and IT club ICT Club(1pm-1.25)	LRC reading and IT club ICT Club(1pm-1.25)
After school				
Judo (mixed) Volleyball (boys) Volleyball (Girls) Netball (girls) Basketball (girls) Delicious Dinners (mixed) Jazz Group (mixed) LRC reading and IT club	LRC reading and IT club ICT HW Club (3.15-4.15) Basketball (Girls)	Hockey (mixed) Basketball (year 9 boys) Football (year 8 boys) Designing for girls Music Technology(mixed) Wind Band(mixed) All Years Girls' Football LRC reading and IT club ICT HW Club (3.15-4.15) Mandarin Club (year 7) Drama Club	Football (year 9 boys) Mandarin Club (year 8 and 9) Trampolining (mixed) Rugby (boys) Dance (mixed) Basketball (year 7 and 8 boys) Science Club (mixed) Gospel Choir (mixed) English support book club (mixed) LRC reading and IT club ICT HW Club (3.15-4.15)	Staff Football/Volleyball LRC reading and IT club



Paying for school meals

There is now a secure box, outside the Restaurant, for the posting of cheques for school meals. Cheques should be made payable to Harrison Catering Services Ltd and have your child's name and tutor group on the back. Cheques placed in the box by 8.30am will be credited to student accounts before break. After this time credit will not appear until the following day. An alternative to this will be our online payment system.

On-Line payment system

We are pleased to tell you that we will shortly be introducing an on-line payment system called ParentPay. This will make paying for school meals, educational visits, music lessons etc easier and more straight forward than writing cheques or asking students to bring cash. The system is totally secure and widely used by schools all over the country. Your child has brought home a letter and a leaflet explaining this service so please check bags and planners.



News from the Library

We hope you have already come to visit us in the library, but if not, please come soon! We are open for business from 8.00am until 5.30pm including breaks, lunchtime and after school, so however hectic you are it would be brilliant if you could squeeze in some library time.

We have lots and lots of new books on the shelves including a huge selection of graphic novels and plenty by your favourite authors including Jacqueline Wilson, Stephenie Meyer and Charlie Higson. We also want you to spread the word



about reading and one really good way of doing this is to write a review of the books you loved (and the ones you didn't like so much).

Reviews are a great way of helping readers choose books, especially when there are so many good ones about, and it is hard to make up your mind! We are also looking for Student Library Assistants to help us out and a Student Committee who will be choosing new library stock. Please come along and pick up an application form if you are interested.

