



## Claremont High School

An IB World School - A Multi-Specialist College

# THE CLARION

February 2010

[www.claremont-high.org.uk](http://www.claremont-high.org.uk)



*Dear Parents/Carers,*

As we approach half term and the mid-point of the academic year I would like to say how pleased we are with the hard work and commitment we have seen from the students over recent weeks. Year 11 received their 'mock' examination results the first week back in January and many of them are on target to achieving outstanding results in the summer. For others it was perhaps a 'wake-up' call to the importance of revision and completion of coursework. We have also had excellent results from our early GCSE entries in English Language and Maths. 184 Year 11 pupils sat early entry English language in November – 91.8% achieved a C grade or above and 60 of those pupils gained an A\* (48) or A (12). Maths entered their Set 1 pupils and all 31 pupils gained an A\*(26) or A(5). These are truly fantastic results and a credit not only to the pupils but to the enormous amount of hard work by the teachers in those departments. WELL DONE!

The Sixth form have also been heavily involved in modular examinations and securing places at university. We have had several students who applied for Oxbridge placements and Mohini Kalyan was successful in securing a place at Kings College, Cambridge to read Biochemistry. A tremendous achievement. We also received notification in January that Claremont High School has achieved World School status, which means we will be offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) from September 2010. We are the only school in Brent offering this prestigious qualification.

The Brent Schools League Tables has also been published and, apart from JFS, we are top of the league – the position we want to maintain next year.

This half term has also seen a brand new block of girls' toilets open and building works begin on the old Lower School area. The Lower School Area was demolished during the Christmas holidays in preparation for a state of the art dining hall and eight new classrooms. A very exciting project that will enhance the school experience for our learners.

This is also a very important time for Year 9, as they make their Option Choices and begin considering their future goals. The highly successful 'Learn to Earn' programme has put pupils on this road already. Pupils and families are well supported through this process and there is an Options Evening on 24<sup>th</sup> February for all Year 9 pupils and parents/carers.

Claremont is not all about examinations, however, and this is reflected in the fact that the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), with whom we are a partner school, chose Claremont as its opening venue for its touring production of Hamlet. The 70 minute play was followed by an enjoyable workshop for pupils. The event drew VIPs including Lady Heseltine and attracted national media coverage.

Finally, may I also take this opportunity to advertise our 'Lower School' production of *High School Musical* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 – tickets are available from the Finance Office.

Wishing everyone a good half term break.

*Ms N. Boughey, Deputy Headteacher*

## Courses in Adult Literacy or Numeracy

**Level one** (Equivalent to GCSE grades D-G)

**Level two** (Equivalent to GCSE grades A\*-C)

These courses are free of charge and will take place on Saturday mornings.

Contact Sally Francis to reserve a place one of the courses

Email [sally.francis@claremont-high.org.uk](mailto:sally.francis@claremont-high.org.uk)

Phone: 0844 850 0093

**Limited places available**



## ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent from school due to illness, you are required to call in each day to confirm their absence, via our voicemail answering service. If the illness is long term then please call and speak to Mrs Mimasha Patel (Attendance Coordinator) to discuss the absence. **Please note:** if your child is off school due to illness for more than 5 days then you must provide a sick note from your GP.

**If your child arrives late to school for ANY reason, they MUST sign in at Reception.**

## Claremont Home School Partnership

We have launched another year in the CHSP by electing a new committee at our AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Meena Mehta stood down as Chair after three years and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and support over the years.

The CHSP has recently donated £200 towards the Poetry Festival, held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This went towards the production of a printed anthology which was for sale, and the cost of having an author come into school to work with the pupils. The Poetry Festival was a great success and many parents have told us how much they enjoyed it.

We will be donating £600 towards a collection of new books to provide wider reading for Year 10 pupils and additionally to help provide good grounding for students who intend to take the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

We are planning a 'Claremont's Got Talent' competition, scheduled for later on in the year so watch out for the announcement in letters home and on the school website!

**If you work for Santander Bank and would be prepared to help match charity fundraising at the school, please contact Liz Coles on [ecoles.coleshq@btinternet.com](mailto:ecoles.coleshq@btinternet.com).**

## OPTIONS for YEAR 9

As part of the 'Year 9 Options Programme' a 'Learn to Earn' event was organised where all students were asked to participate in activities that enabled them to start to think about their future. Young Enterprise ran the event and it lasted three days with all Year 9 form groups participating. The students were engaged from the start and were very keen to contribute, and this was reflected by the level of effort and the quality of the presentations they had to give at the end of the day. The organisers were very impressed by the enthusiasm and felt that the majority of students got a great deal out of the event. Well done to all who participated as they, once again, showed why this school is held in such high regard.

**A.PUJARA, PPM Year 9**

# Claremont High School International Baccalaureate World School

I am delighted to be able to confirm that we have received notification that our bid to become an **International Baccalaureate (IB) World School** has been successful. Claremont High School will be the first comprehensive school in West London to deliver the internationally recognised Diploma programme from September 2010. This is very exciting news!

**The visiting team presented a report in which they outlined a number of aspects of the school that they felt were outstanding:** They highly praised the atmosphere in the school and the strong relationships between the teachers and students, which they felt were very supportive of the good quality teaching and learning at Claremont. The school's preparation for the visit was also highly praised. They felt that the understanding shown by all prospective Diploma staff and interested groups indicated the commitment to the delivery of the IB Diploma.

Overall the team were very complimentary about all teachers, support staff, governors and parents. We have can continue to build our resources to support the



elements of the visit from the students, also been given valuable advice on how we successful delivery of the programme.

Year 11 students are now encouraged to apply for the IB post 16 programme as part of the application process in the Sixth Form. They have already received a wide range of information regarding the course and parents can access information from the school website, [www.claremont-high.org.uk](http://www.claremont-high.org.uk), and the IB Brochure which has been given to all students.

To support the application process we are arranging a series of activities for students and parents to enable them to gain a fuller understanding of this exciting opportunity. These events and the programme will be published shortly.

**For more information please contact Mr. S. Arnell, the school's IB Coordinator.**

# The STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has made excellent progress following the success of the Year and Form representative elections. For the first time, Year representatives had to go into assemblies and pitch for themselves, as members of the Council are now elected rather than appointed. Following the elections the first school-wide Council met and Form representatives discussed various issues with Year representatives. From this meeting the Student Council Year Team identified a number of priorities which included:

- *Impact on decision making*
- *Raising awareness of the Student Council*
- *Supporting school aims*

There are four main committees with on average 5-7 members in each. The committees are:

- *Environment*
- *Raising Awareness*
- *Respect*
- *Curriculum*

The 'Raising Awareness (Community) Committee' has been active in trying to promote community cohesion. After meeting with a representative from St Luke's Hospice it was agreed that the Student Council's main charity focus would be St Luke's Hospice for the remainder of the academic year. Year Representatives in the lower school have fed this back to their respective year groups via assemblies, and have promoted the forthcoming charity abseil. A return visit to St Luke's will take place during the next half term.

In addition, the Charity committee have been trying to get news about Claremont to the local community and this week they will be distributing the Clarion to local residents in an effort to update them on the positive things the school does.

Future planned events include organising a community football match between local businesses and our school team/staff team. We also want to utilise the expertise of local businesses by having careers talks from people who live or work in the local area.

The 'Staying Safe, Being Healthy Committee' organised the following:

- Year 10 Year Reps went into all-year assemblies to talk about cyber and homophobic bullying during Anti-bullying Week in November 2009.
- Miss Dixon took Year Reps from Years 10 and 11 on a Trip to Brent Youth Parliament in December 2009.
- Representatives attended the Brent Anti-bullying Council meeting last Tuesday with Miss Dixon and Jerkole Thomas – a previous AB post holder.
- Plans for this term – to work on promoting safe practises when out in the community with help of community police officer.

The Environment Committee had a productive meeting with Mr Wardle where a number of improvements the Council would like to see in the school environment were identified. An action plan for the improvements was agreed. The Council then gave a number of assembly presentations on the items discussed as well as showing the school population the designs for the new dining hall and classrooms.

*Mr. A. SKORDI*

## SPONSORED WALK

### For Haiti Appeal

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 7.1 undertook a sponsored walk to help raise money for the Haiti Appeal. I would like to thank all those parents, friends, and school staff who contributed to the form group raising a total of £295.07. In particular, I would like to congratulate Kinjal Meswani who managed to raise £94, as well as Hannah Joseph, Luksha Sharma, and Mayu Mineshima for producing the wonderful banners promoting the walk.

*Mr Dominé (7.1 Form Tutor)*



## Year 12 Woodfield Guided Reading Christmas Party !

As you may know, students from Year 12 undertook a Guided Reading Project last term which involved teaching and helping sixth form pupils from Woodfield School who have learning difficulties.

We mentored the students on a weekly basis for eight weeks. As the weeks progressed we found that the students' reading improved. One student told us, "I looked forward to seeing my mentor every week and I enjoyed reading with them."



We received a lot of positive feedback from the students and teachers. The reading scheme was very beneficial to the students from both Claremont and Woodfield.

On the last week of the term, we organised a Christmas party for the students from Woodfield. We played numerous games, such as pass the parcel, musical statues and a pool tournament. They really enjoyed these games and didn't want us to leave.

They appreciated the help we gave and the party we organised for them. Arjun (Head of the Reading Scheme for Woodfield) said, "We're sure that the students from Woodfield will never forget the experience and it has helped them a lot."

We would like to thank Ms Ho for organising this and would recommend the new Year 12 students fill our shoes and take the opportunity to help those who are less academically able than us. It means a lot to them.

**Arjavi Patel & Amar Shah (12.10)**



## Term Dates



### SPRING TERM 2010

Half-term 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February

Students return to school Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February – NORMAL TIME

Last Day of Term Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

### SUMMER TERM 2010

First Day of Term 19<sup>th</sup> April – NON PUPIL DAY

Students return to school Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April – NORMAL TIME

Half-term 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

Last Day of Term, Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July

### AUTUMN TERM 2010

Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September	First day of term - NON PUPIL DAY
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	New Year 7 Induction – Years 12/13 Registration
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	New Year 7 all day – Years 12/13 Registration
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Return to school



All Year 9 music students are taking part in the Bronze Arts Award. The Arts Award is a qualification which enables students to learn new skills and develop those gained through music lessons. The qualification is split into four assessed areas:

Experiencing and reviewing a show; putting on a concert; researching an arts hero or heroine, and teaching a new skill to another member of the group.

The students participating in the arts award recently went to see the show 'Stomp' at the Ambassadors Theatre in London. It was an enjoyable experience and demonstrated very imaginative and entertaining ways of portraying music. It was brilliant and we all enjoyed it very much. Most of us were surprised at how funny the show was.

Thanks to the teachers who organised and accompanied us on the trip.

**Izzah Elahi & Georgia Raingold (9.1)**



## Year 9 Options Evening

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Session 1 4.45 to 5.45 pm in the Main Hall

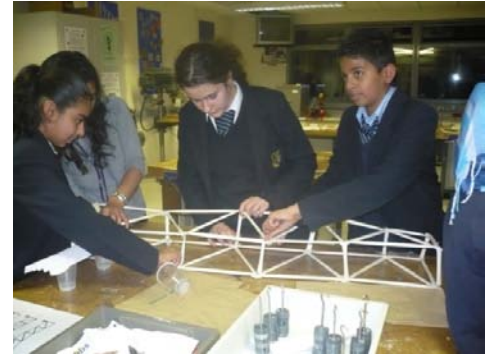
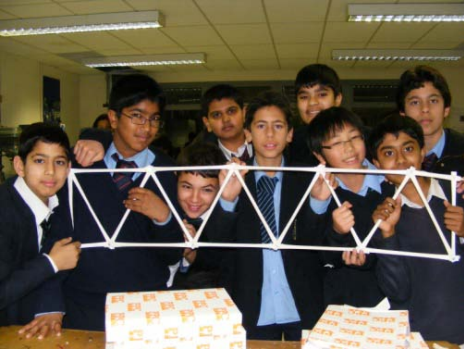
OR Session 2 6.15 to 7.15 pm in the Main Hall

# S.T.E.M Club

*Ms T. Patel*

Every Wednesday, after school, I attend the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (S.T.E.M) Club. 28 pupils who are in sets 1 and 2 for Maths attend and they've had an opportunity to do fire writing, bridge building, making a volcano and designing and racing a Formula One car. We have had a civil engineer and a mechanical engineer visiting us and have learnt a wide range of things, for example how to calculate what the safe speeds are in Formula One Car racing, using percentages, and what the properties of different chemicals are. We also learnt that when six sheets of paper are shaped in different ways they can carry the load of six reams of paper! Everything I've learnt at S.T.E.M club has been fun and enjoyable, the teachers are very friendly and help out when we are stuck on something. *By Gejbi Karaj 8.5*

My favourite activity so far in STEM club has been the Formula One racing activity. We had to design a car to race round the track at Monaco. This was all done on the computer. We worked in teams and had to make a lot of decisions, for example by looking at the weather forecast for the race we had to decide which type of tyres to use and how many pit stops to make. It all got really exciting at the end when we raced all our cars.



*By Joshua Russell 8.9*

## Year 10 Geography on the road!

For the first time ever, the Geography Department at Claremont High School will be taking pupils on a residential fieldtrip. After spending many years on trips to Epping Forest, the decision was made to spice things up a little; spending 3 nights and 4 days on the Norfolk coast to give this year's Geography pupils the chance to be fully immersed in the studies they will need to write about in the all-important "Controlled Assessment" at the beginning of Year 11!

The location is the stunning Overstrand Hall and, as well as spending days out in the field learning about coastal processes and their impacts on people and the environment, there will be a chance in the evenings to take part in some outdoor pursuits (the focus of the trip is work, but there is always space for pupils to try something different once the job is done!). All the staff involved are really looking forward to taking a talented cohort of pupils to see some 'real' Geography in action...and to making this a permanent fixture for all future Year 10 Geography students.



## Delving deeper into Claremont High School



In the second half of the Spring Term, pupils will have the chance to learn more about aspects of their local area using GIS. The concept of scale is very important in Geography and, in a new action group, pupils will investigate more about their local area before mapping data onto brand new computer software.

GIS is an essential, but hidden, part of our lives. Think about how supermarkets know when to buy more stock, and how you can find out the house prices in your local area and, for the first time, students in the Claremont High School Geography department will be getting to grips with this useful tool. The first study will look into our local climate, and how climate change might affect us.

**More details will be available at the end of February but, if you are interested, please contact me or anyone else in the Geography department!**

*R. Gardner, Head of Geography*

Dear Parent

We would like to invite you and your child to take part in a project we are working on with the BBC to evaluate their websites. In particular, we are looking at how easy it is for children aged 10-11 years (Key Stage 2 level) and 15-16 years (Key Stage 4, GCSE) to use the BBC websites.

The BBC is keen to ensure that all of its websites are an accessible resource for as wide an audience as possible. We have been asked to make sure that these websites are accessible, and therefore are looking for children with a range of accessibility needs to test out the sites for us. For example visually impaired, dyslexic, mild motor disabilities, and/or those who require a range of accessibility requirements when viewing the internet on a desktop computer (e.g. children who are visually impaired, blind, deaf, only use a keyboard (no mouse) or who use a non-standard input device). It is on this basis that we would like to ask your child to take part. We would like them to spend some time exploring some of the educational aspects of the sites, as well as the games and activities. Obviously, you are also invited to accompany your child to the evaluation, and if necessary you can also take part (if you usually help your child when they access the internet).

The session will last no longer than **1 hour**, and your child will receive a **£20 voucher** (valid in many high street stores) and you will be provided with an **incentive of £30 cash** to thank you both for taking part. The sessions will take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February** (half term week) at our offices in central London

Ideally we would like to video record the sessions which will include recording your child using the site. We review this footage after the session to see where your child went on the site and to make a note of any comments. This footage would be for internal use by the project team only and not for use anywhere else. However, if you or your child were unhappy with this, then please discuss it with us beforehand.

We follow Market Research Society guidelines for interviewing children and will be happy to give you more details about this. Further information about our company, System Concepts can be found at [www.system-concepts.com](http://www.system-concepts.com)

I do hope that you will be able to help. If you are interested in taking part in this or any future studies, or if you would like any further information please get in touch with me at [Rebecca@system-concepts.com](mailto:Rebecca@system-concepts.com), [Alan@system-concepts.com](mailto:Alan@system-concepts.com) or ☎ 020 7240 3388. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely, Rebecca Bartlett



## Community Matters



September 2009 – February 2010

<b>Haiti</b> £2,019.02	<b>NDCS</b> £100.00	<b>Breast Cancer</b> £706.17
<b>Jeans for Genes</b> £691.93	<b>Sickle Cell</b> £158.42	<b>Crisis</b> £200.00
<b>Gosh</b> £53.00	<b>Race 4 Life</b> £85.00	<b>Dance 4 Life</b> £65.42
	<b>Children in Need</b> £2,573.41	

Another very simple way we can all raise money every day is to use the Staff/Student Web Search on the desktop. Just by clicking 'Search' will generate money for charity. *P. McCann*









**HAITI FUNDRAISING** This year there was a tragic earthquake in Haiti. There are lost children on the streets who have nowhere to go, injured people and some people are still being found and taken out of the rubble. Claremont have been very supportive and have raised an exceptional amount of money to donate to Haiti. Year 7s have raised £134.14 in just a ONE hour pastoral period. Year 7s are still donating money to help Haiti. *By Anneka Townsend and Lauren Brown 7.9*