



OUR LADY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL

Issue No. 457

Friday, 20th November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Open Evening and Taster Day for prospective Sixth form students was held on Thursday 12th November. We were delighted to see so many students and parents from our own Year 11, as well as welcoming other students from a variety of different institutions. During the day members of Year 11 had enjoyed a wide variety of taster lessons with their prospective A Level teachers. General feedback from students was extremely positive and most felt that it has enabled them to gain a better sense as to their options next year. We realise that making the correct choice for post 16 education is most important and we will continue to offer advice and guidance to our Year 11 students throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information.

Children in Need Day – Friday, 13th November – Report from Dr. Blackwell

I am pleased to say that our non-uniform day for Children in Need last Friday was a huge success. The total raised so far is just over £1400. Thank you for all your support and generosity.

Year 9 Parents Evening

Just a reminder to parents of Year 9 students, our consultation evening is on **Thursday, 3rd December** from 5pm. You should have received a separate letter with the details, please return your reply slip as soon as possible.

Tackling Britain's Knife Crime Conference - report by Sephora Mulema (13P) and Natalia Montoya Palacio (13H)

On Monday 9th November, the year 13 Sociology class attended a conference on Tackling Britain's Knife Crime that was organised by XLP. Whilst there, we received a talk from Duncan Brew and Sheldon Thomas who are experts in the field of gang violence in Britain. Sheldon Thomas himself was an ex-gang leader in the 1960s therefore, it was interesting to see how he changed his life around and is now helping other young teenagers to do the same.

During the Conference we heard stories from young boys who were victims of knife crime and mothers who had lost their sons as a result of gang violence. We learnt about some statistics that we found quite shocking. For example, 61% of black families lack a father figure in comparison to 22% of white families, also 80% of gangs in London are black in relation to 80% of white gangs in Liverpool. This was particularly interesting from a Sociological perspective to see how ethnicity plays a key role in knife crimes and how it is influenced by the area we live in. It is also important to note that 6,000 girls were gang raped last year, it is likely that these statistics are higher as these are figure from only reported cases.

Overall, this conference was useful as Crime and Deviance is our next topic in Sociology. This gave us an insight into the effects of knife crimes in Britain and elsewhere and we learnt how they are tackling this situation and future plans for ending knife crimes and gang violence in the UK.

We would like to thank Mrs Stanton and Mr Shine for organising the trip for us.

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School Outfitters

Fosters Schoolwear will be in school on **Monday, 23rd November** from 3.30 to 5pm to sell school uniform.

“Macbeth” Show – Wednesday 2nd December – report by Mrs. Read and Mrs. Barnett

A limited amount of tickets will be available to buy from Mrs Billings in the Office, from Monday 23rd November.

Prices are:

Adults £2 per person

Children (under 18s) £1.50 per person

Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £6.

The show will start promptly at 6.30pm on Wednesday 2nd December. Latecomers will not be admitted.

If you are year 10 student, you will be watching a second performance of this play, during period 5 of Friday 4th December.

Anti-Bullying workshop – Report by Mr. O’Leary

On Monday 9th November Actionwork educational film and Theatre Company visited Our Lady’s to perform their award winning anti-bullying roadshow. Actionwork have visited the school before and were excited to return as they always receive a warm welcome and students response to their shows have been overwhelmingly positive.

This year’s show touched on a number of issues about bullying, cyberbullying, friendship and empowerment. The show was 60 minutes long but packed in a lot. It was funny in places and included elements of science, song, dance and even a quiz. It explored bullying from many angles including cyberbullying, face-to-face bullying, violence, name-calling, anger management, friendships, survival and confidence.

The message was an important one and the story left students to come to their own decisions about the issues raised. Students did the school proud with excellent behaviour and a willingness to participate and engage fully with the performance, some of which was interactive. The cast members said that they were really impressed by our students and cannot wait to return next year with a brand new show.

Review of Anti natal Maternity session at The Royal London Hospital by Kezia and Renisha Year 12 HSC Extended Diploma Students

Kezia Bangura ‘We were at the Royal London for four hours with the midwifery team who were delivering antenatal classes to prospective parents, it was very interesting because we learnt a lot of things such as, why skin to skin contact is important after birth, the different positions for safe sleeping, feeding techniques, the real truth about childbirth and demonstrations with videos and pictures. I (Kezia) got the most from talking with student midwives, a typical day on a labour ward, shift work and how to handle different scenarios.’

Renisha Dornelly ‘At first when the spot opened up to attend Antenatal Classes, I felt a bit lost because I had already figured out what my career pathway was which, is Social Work. I knew however that i wanted to work more with the children or kids who are very vulnerable. So at this stage I was thinking to myself how exactly would a visit to an Antenatal class benefit and, then I realised that within the class we would be learning about; How a father should spoil himself right before his wife is about to give birth because, she will most definitely needs all his power and

attention. How all babies need a big dose of 'Vitamin K' which, is vitamins that help to form blood clots, help prevent any heart disease and, help to form stronger bones. Also we learnt that for a mother's point of view being able to produce breast milk is vital because she will lose all the weight in which she had gained through her pregnancy. We also got taken to one of the birthing rooms where someone had just given birth, it was just an amazing and wonderful sight. This visit was a pleasure to go on and on behalf of myself and Kezia we would like to thank Anne who is the Head of Family Services at The London Maternity Unit who invited us out to one of her classes and, to Ms Stanton, who arranged for it to happen.

Visit by Cllr Linden, Deputy Mayor of Hackney – Report by Ms. Stanton, Head of Health and Social Care

On Tuesday 17th November 2015 Cllr Linden, Deputy Mayor of Hackney and Lead Equality and Diversity visited the Health and Social Care students. She discussed issues within Hackney and nationally around equal opportunities, diversity and disability awareness giving the students vital and interesting information for their curriculum units and their vocational and applied practices. The students found it very interesting and asked great questions. Many thanks Cllr Linden for making time to be with us.



E-Safety Information Evening Thursday 26th November – Report from Mr. Smith, Assistant Head Teacher

This is a final reminder for parents that the E-Safety Information Event is on Thursday 26th November. We are deliberately starting this event at the slightly later time of 6:00pm to allow as many parents as possible to attend.

The topics that will be covered by our guest speaker, Luke Brent-Savage who is a specialist in this area, really do affect us all. More importantly they affect your daughters.

While topics such as cyber-bullying, online grooming and child sexual exploitation may cause us to recoil in horror they are a real danger in this age of electronic communication and mobile devices. As such we want you, as a parent, to have some knowledge that will you to make a judgement about whether or not your daughter is using social media in a safe way.

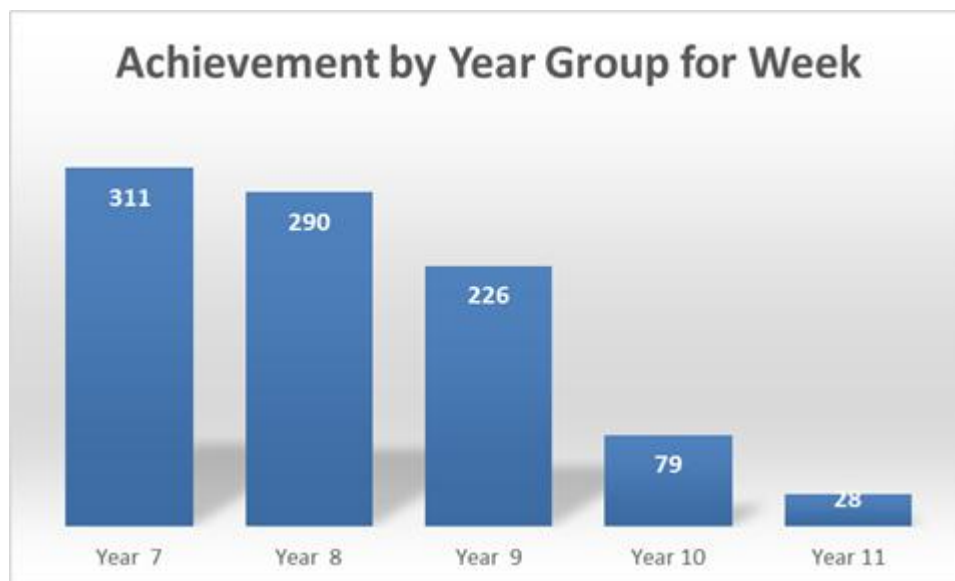
Attendance at this event will be an investment of your time; everyone who attends will learn something they didn't know before.

Full details of this event and a reply slip are contained in a letter that your daughter should have brought home from school on Tuesday or, at the very latest, Wednesday evening. Please do ask your daughter for this letter if you have not seen it. Spare copies are also available from the Reception area of the school.

We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Recognising Achievement – update from Mr. Smith, Assistant Headteacher.

The table below shows the total number of achievement points received by each year group for week ending 13th November 2015.



Attendance and Punctuality – Information from Dr Blackwell

The table below shows the Form within each year group achieving the best attendance and the form achieving the best punctuality for the week ending 13th November 2015.

	Attendance		Punctuality	
	Form	%	Form	%
Year 7	7P	99.35	7P	97.42
Year 8	8H	98.13	8H	98.75
Year 9	9M	99.35	9P	96.45
Year 10	10M	97.59	10H	98.33
Year 11	11P	99	11M	98.57

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Jane Gray
Headteacher