



OUR LADY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL

Issue No. 439

Friday, 15th May 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the examination season is now in full swing – please may I remind all students sitting exams to check their timetables carefully and make sure they leave plenty of time for their journey, we have already had some late arrivals and it is not a good way to start the exam!! All other students can make a really positive contribution by observing the 'Silence Please' notices while exams are in progress.

School Catering

We have been very pleased with the quality of provision from our in-school catering team since the improvements that came from our move into the new building and we have managed to avoid any price increases for over five years. However, as I am sure you will appreciate, food prices have risen over the same period and we now need to make some increases to prices charged. The new prices will come into effect after the half term holiday on 1st June – the price of a school lunch will change from £2.00 to £2.20 and some individual items will also be slightly increased. Whilst making this change, we have also taken the opportunity to find a new commercial supplier for our sandwiches and other cold items. We are confident that this will improve both the choice and quality of our offering throughout the day and will be seeking feedback from our School Council representatives to ensure that the choices available meet with the students' approval.

School Outfitters

Fosters Schoolwear will be in school on **Monday, 18th May** from 3.30 to 5pm to sell school uniform.

Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge – Report by Ms. McGinley, Head of Year 10

On Monday, two of our Year 10's, Stephanie Atta and Ruth Matia, took part in the Regional final of the prestigious Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge. Both spoke eloquently and passionately about their chosen topics – Stephanie made a very thought-provoking speech about time, how we use it, and whether we should consider the term "the right action" to be a more accurate saying than "the right time". Ruth spoke about courage, and had a very personal and moving speech about developing courage like one would exercise a muscle. Both girls did Our Lady's and their families proud; a huge WELL DONE to both!

Year 7 Literacy Programme trip to Muswell Hill children's Bookshop – Report by Mr. Meyers

On Friday 8th May sixteen Year Seven girls, accompanied by Mr Thornton, Mr Meyers and Mr Metcalfe visited the children's Bookshop in Muswell Hill. The Lit Programme is designed to enhance their confidence and pleasure in reading, but this was definitely taking the excitement to a different level.

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Following a journey which involved a change of buses at Finsbury Park and a short walk along the pavements of Muswell Hill, we suddenly saw the red shop sign sticking out. The bookshop was smaller than we expected, but what a treasure trove! It looked just like the sweetshop in Roald Dahl's memoirs 'Boy', with all the colourful covers and spines on the packed shelves, but thankfully without the horrible shopkeeper. We easily filled the shop and had to move carefully, after leaving our bags in the corner at the back. Some of us quickly found favourite authors, others recognised familiar book covers and many were already reading blurbs and leafing through shiny new books, when the bookseller started her talk. She explained where the fiction was, (along one side of the shop) how the shelves were organised (alphabetically) and how helpful it would be if all the books that we took off the shelf would be put back exactly where they came from, or, if you couldn't remember (which happens!), if we could put them neatly on their side on the shelf in front of the others. In fact, the place was very much like our Reading Room, but without the comfy chairs! Mr Thornton and Mr Meyers had put us in three groups, so we could go round the shop in a circuit and look for several authors: Malorie Blackman, Morris Gleitzman, Patrick Ness and David Walliams. We were surprised to see that the story 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness came from a book with the most amazing illustrations. We had been reading the story in class, experimenting with expression in our voices and these dark pictures were as nightmarish as our worst imaginings.

Each group was told they would receive a book for themselves, if they could agree on which one. One group chose Red Leaves by Sita Brahmachari, another picked A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness and the third group After Tomorrow by Gillian Cross. We could take one copy of each book back to the Reading Room and the rest would arrive in a week or two.

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 8th May 2015. Congratulations to these forms and a special mention to 8J with 100% Attendance.

| | Attendance | | Punctuality | |
|---------|------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | Form | % | Form | % |
| Year 7 | 7H | 97.58 | 7H,J | 98.39 |
| Year 8 | 8J | 100 | 8P | 99.58 |
| Year 9 | 9J | 96.88 | 9M | 98.39 |
| Year 10 | 10J | 99.14 | 10M | 99.11 |
| Year 11 | 11P | 98.33 | 11H | 95 |

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Jane Gray
Head Teacher