

ISSUE 8 / SPRING TERM 2018

*Convent of Jesus and Mary
Language College*

*Le Couvent de Jesus et Marie
College Specialise en Langues*

*Students exhibit exemplary
behaviour...They are prompt
to lessons, arrive well
prepared and ready to learn.*

OFSTED 2013

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAR 29	End of Term – Early Closure 12.40pm
APR 16	Whole School Returns 8.40am
APR 16	INSET Day - School Closed for Students
APR 23	Scholastic Book Fair Starts
APR 25	Scholastic Book Fair Ends
APR 26	Year 10 Parents' evening Early Close - 3.10pm
MAY 7	Bank Holiday
MAY 13	Our Lady of Willesden May Procession
MAY 28	Last Day of Half Term School Closure 3.20pm
JUN 4	Return to School 8.40am

CONVENT TIMES



Our twitter account is super busy! Follow us on **@cjmhc** for updates



UNIVERSITY PRESTIGE

The Year 9 Urban Scholars attended the prestigious Urban Scholars' Family Day at Brunel University on Saturday 10th March. It was in honour of our hard work and dedication to the programme and highlighted the importance of education and striving to be the very best you can be through hard work, recognising and learning from past mistakes and knowing what your own personal goals are and steps to achieving them. The day started with a talk about university options and the benefits of further education.

We then took part in a competition which had taken months of planning and research in preparation. I delivered and shared our work on the day. The day ended with the British Olympian and law graduate, Julz Adeniran, who gave an amazing presentation to us and our families. He explained that despite all his setbacks he had found that hard work, commitment and perseverance will get you where you are heading. Do not give up, even if your goals change.

.....
FELICIA, 9 BETHLEHEM



Advent Fundraising

During the period of Advent our School Community chose different charities to support. The table below shows us the charities which benefitted from your generosity, hard work and unwavering support from staff, students and parents at this very busy time of the year.

Yr 7	The Passage , a charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people.	£929.79
Yr 8		£691.62
Yr 9	CAFOD , a charity that helps people living in poverty across the world – whatever their religion or culture	£642.70
Yr 10	St Luke's Hospice , a charity that helps people in Brent and Harrow who have incurable illnesses. To raise money, many of the students along with staff participated in the Santa Dash	£1421.52
Yr 11	The Catholic Children's Society , a charity that helps disadvantaged children and families in the UK living in physical and emotional poverty.	£565.04
Yr 12 & 13	Our Lourdes Red Caps , monies raised help support our Sixth Form students to look after very sick people who want to make the pilgrimage to Lourdes. Our girls accompany them every step of the way and support them throughout the pilgrimage.	£806.41

As a community we collectively we raised **£5057.58**. Thank you for your good acts and for thinking of your neighbour.

MRS A SYLVESTER-CHARLES, CHAPLAIN

Thank you so much for the very generous donation of £565.04 raised by your Year 11 students during Advent. The support of your school is so valuable and makes a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and families. Thank you for making a direct and life-changing difference to vulnerable children and families.

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CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you for organising the cheque presentation. We are very grateful for the fantastic sum raised. Thank you to everyone at the Convent. We are delighted to receive the funds raised by your Year 9 students during Advent. Thank you so much. The money will help children and adults all over the world who are struggling against poverty and injustice.

.....
CHRIS FUNNELL, CAFOD

MESSAGE FROM MRS L MCGOWAN

Where does time disappear to? I cannot believe as I write this that we are almost two thirds of the way through the school year. This term we have faced many challenges, the most notable being the harsh weather that we experienced recently and led to us losing three days of school. In fact as I am writing this message it is snowing (again!) in the village where I live. Hurry up Spring and show yourself!

I think when the warmer weather does eventually arrive we will really appreciate the wonder of our Lord's work. I hope that all our girls and members of our community will try to see the beauty that surrounds us. There is beauty everywhere, but we are often too busy to notice it. But Easter is the perfect time of year to think about renewal. We can renew our faith, refresh our relationships with friends, families, peers and colleagues; we can renew our goals and where we want to be and we can renew how we feel about ourselves and try to find some peace and contentment with who we are now and how we are living our lives.

Our school is such a vibrant and exiting place to be. There is always a whole range of things happening and many of these are reported on in this edition of the newsletter.

I have felt very proud of our Year 13 girls who have been reaping the rewards of the hard work applying to universities and now have several offers to choose from. We recently learned that Sara in Year 12 will be taking over the important and prestigious role of UK Youth Parliament representative from Brent; a role that has been held by Samira. Sara was victorious after an externally validated vote beating nine other candidates and demonstrating that Convent girls are not only well thought of for their dedication to addressing serious issues affecting young people in the community today but are also great public speakers and debaters!

At the end of term we will be saying a sad farewell to Ms Fassio in the RE department who leaves us to join another all girls' Catholic school close to her home. We wish her every happiness and blessings in her new school.

I wish all our girls and their families a very happy and Holy Easter. Don't forget to notice the flowers and the new signs of life all around us and give prayers of thanks. God bless.

.....
MRS L MCGOWAN
HEADMISTRESS



Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales

Guidance for specified authorities

PREVENT DUTY

From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the Prevent Duty. In light of this we invited representatives from Equaliteach to deliver a workshop to our Sixth Form students.

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DR BONELLI, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales

Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert was a festive delight from start to finish. We are incredibly lucky to have a wealth of talent in our school amongst students and staff and that they are generous enough to share it with us. The fabulous presenters, the excellent drama performance, the beautifully lit stage, the generous canteen and site staff and the wonderful performances all deserve our applause and recognition. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!

.....
MS E BURGESS, HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS



This was my first performance in the Christmas Concert. It was fun but nerve wracking at first. When I got on stage, seeing the audience smiling made me calm down. I felt very Christmassy after watching everyone else perform too.

.....
HANNAH, 8 MARGARET

The concert was really enjoyable and we got to share our.

.....
HERMELA, 8 MARGARET

It was honestly the best one I've ever seen and I shed a tear or maybe ten!

.....
ALICJA GORSKA
(FORMER CONVENT STUDENT)

Loved being part of the staff band. Gave me a chance to take part with the girls in something they love to do (and secretly something I love to do!).

.....
MS C PAISLEY, HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Reward Trips



8 Brigit : Best Form Group

As 8 Brigit won best form last year, we were able to go on a reward trip to Flip Out in Brent Cross. We had such a fantastic time and the girls were a joy to take. We're now working hard to try and win again!

MISS ANTHONY, 8 BRIGIT FORM TUTOR

I enjoyed the laser beam maze so much. There was a ninja obstacle course and the guy there was really nice and he shocked me about how he completed the course many times as I couldn't even complete half of it.

FLEUR, 8 BRIGIT

The teachers who helped out on the trip also took part in the activity and it was fun to see them having a good time and enjoying themselves.

LITEA, 8 BRIGIT



Year 9 : Eurovision Song Contest Winners

On 12th December the Year 9 French class that won the annual MFL Eurovision Song Contest went on their reward trip to the Lexi Cinema. They watched Hidden Figures, a film based on the non-fiction book by Margot Lee Shetterly. The story is about black female mathematicians who worked at NASA during the Space Race. A well-deserved cultural treat with lots of popcorn!

MRS MITCHELL, MFL TEACHER

Mrs Mitchell's class went on a trip to the cinema in Kensal Rise. It was a lovely trip and we watched an amazing movie that really made you think about what the world used to be like in the early 1960s.

ELLIE, 9 GALILEE

I enjoyed my time at the cinema because it was a small cosy cinema which made it more fun. I liked the film because it was eye opening and interesting to learn about the people who have made an impact on our world.

LATIDRA, 9 ROME



Cadbury World

Cadbury was really fun. We got to experience the pure smell of chocolate, the exciting history of how it all started and got FREE chocolate. Learning about how they applied class topics such as added value, quality control and marketing was really great.

NIROMY, 11 IPSWICH

Being able to learn outside of school was very exciting. I learnt a lot of techniques and skills as well as gathering information that I can put to use in my exams. Going with friends made it more enjoyable and I am glad I went.

NEHDEEN, 11 WILLESDEN



This year's trip to Cadbury World's Bourneville factory in Birmingham included 35 Year 11 to 13 Business Studies students, and some girls from the school's Fair Trade group. We gained a great insight into all aspects of chocolate production during the tour of the factory and were also given free samples of chocolate throughout! We finished off by visiting their 4D Cinema where we were whisked away on an adventurous journey, complete with 3D glasses and motion seats.

MRS M MACLEAN-THOMAS,
CURRICULUM LEADER OF ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES

The New Wave Girls

During this trip to the BFI at the Southbank, Year 11 and 12 French students took part in a study day to discover the famous French cinematographic cultural movements 'La Nouvelle Vague' (The New Wave). Throughout a very interactive day the girls learnt about the history of the movement but also had to answer questions, comment and reflect on the key concepts that characterize this particular type of cinema. They also had to analyse different scenes and interpret shots by using a specific terminology - and all this in French! The girls came out feeling very positive and happy to have learnt something new about French culture.

MS S JAAFARY, MFL TEACHER

I enjoyed the trip to the BFI in Southbank because we spoke in French for most of the day. I liked how we learned more about how French cinema has changed and how modern cinema has been influenced by it. It gave me a sense of what it would be like to study French A-level.

CHINAZA, 11 FOURVIERE

I found that I really enjoyed listening to the various accents of the different students in Year 12 and 13. I thought that learning about the New Wave was interesting and the day really helped with my listening skills.

LOREN-LEVY, 11 FOURVIERE

Vintage French cinema is my new favourite thing! The film we watched in the afternoon 'La Haine' by Mathieu Kassowitz was great and I would definitely watch it again.

TEMIDAYO, 11 IPSWICH





ITC Steering Group

This group was recently set up to promote e-safety within our school. One of their first tasks was to mark the Safer Internet Day which took place on the 6th of February 2018. They did this by delivering a wonderful assembly to all the year groups on how to protect themselves

from online dangers when using the Internet and gave some brilliant tips on how to maintain their online reputation. They were articulate, confident and a true credit to the school. Well done.

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MS M MACLEAN-THOMAS, CURRICULUM
LEADER OF ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES

When I was asked to join the ICT steering group I felt really honoured and thankful for the opportunity to help us all become safer online.

.....
ANNA KATARINA, 8 MARGARET

I felt honoured to deliver the Safer Internet Day assemblies as it was very informative and beneficial to the young girls in our school. It definitely shed light on some issues many students may have encountered while using the Internet and how they could make the Internet a safer place for everyone.

.....
MONISOLA, 13 FISHER

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If any staff or students feel they have something to offer and want to be part of the ICT Steering Group, please drop me an email or come to one of our meetings in room 312. We currently meet on Wednesdays from 1.00pm to 1.30pm.
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Careers Fair

As an exhibitor I was hugely impressed with the event, the mix of industries present and the efficient organisation of the whole Fair. The students who came to my table showed a real interest in what I do (I run my own public relations company) and asked lots of interesting questions, showing that they were focused and genuinely keen to find out more.

The students were all friendly, polite and engaged with what was being presented and were a real credit to the school. I would also commend the teachers who must have put in a lot of effort and hard work behind the scenes to organise the Fair, to ensure that a really interesting mixture of possible careers were represented.

I really liked the fact that industries outside the traditional ones were also represented, such as animation, physiotherapy, becoming a chef etc and that a number of universities were also present to answer questions.

.....
RE DEPARTMENT



At the Career's Fair, we got some good tips on how to narrow down our choice of university and we asked representatives from companies what they do during their working day and what training they needed to handle any problems that come up. The fashion blogger was especially inspirational and it was great that she'd been a student at the Convent. This event gave us the chance to start linking our interests with possible careers.

.....
SAMANTHA & JASMINA, 10
MONTERRAT & NIAMH, 10 FATIMA

We got to see different paths you can take towards a specific career and also what apprenticeships can achieve. I will definitely be signing up for taster days for universities as was suggested.

.....
CATHERINE, 11 FOURVIERE



Fairtrade Convent

This month, the CJM Fairtrade Committee with Mrs Sylvester-Charles and Ms Lawrence welcomed some Palestinian workers – Bassem Barahmeh and Taysir Arbasi from the Fairtrade based organisation called Zeytoun. Accompanying them was Dr Peter Moore, the chairperson of Brent Fairtrade Network. The visitors told us about their jobs and the ways Fairtrade has impacted their lives. Bassem is a worker in the Anza Village in Palestine mostly picking olives and turning them into olive oil. She has benefited from the use of Fairtrade premiums to buy tools and materials for harvesting.

We also explained to our visitors about the ways CJM are promoting Fairtrade and our hopes for the future as a Fairtrade School. We told them about us maybe opening a Fairtrade shop and how we wish to embark on the Rice Challenge in the summer term.

The CJM Fairtrade Committee have weekly meeting on Monday lunchtimes in St Claudine's - you are most welcome to join!

.....
ZAINAB 8 FAUSTINA, VICE-CHAIR OF
CJM FAIRTRADE COMMITTEE



Our Palestinian visitors were representing Zeytoun which is a Fairtrade supported company based in Palestine that sells olive oil, maftoul, dates and more. It was a huge privilege to meet and hear them speak.

.....
LAURA, 8 ROME

World Book Day



World Book Day was a busy, creative and energetic day. Year 7 students and aspiring writers celebrated with children's author, Jo Cotterill, and soundscape poet, Caroline Payne. The level of creative writing produced by our girls was impressive.

For the rest of the day, Year 7 experienced a wide range of workshops across the curriculum from learning songs

inspired by literature with Mrs McGowan's musical talents, to a magical maths experience inspired by 'Alice in Wonderland'. Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who made this day possible.

.....
MS J KHAWAM,
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Caroline's workshop was very interesting and I enjoyed it a lot because she was fun and tried to make us feel happy. The poem we made together was amazing.

.....
SAMUELLA, 7 FRANCIS

Author Jo was very friendly and energetic and it was so fun meeting her. I felt so pleased when she read out my work with such drama. Jo also gave us a signed postcard which I will treasure.

.....
ISABELLA, 7 PETER

I really loved having the opportunity to see a famous author, it was so interesting hearing about her past and her journey to becoming an author. I feel really honoured that she read out my story, and she liked it, a lot.

.....
YOUSRA, 7 PETER

I had a great day working with some fab creative students! Thank you for having me.

.....
JO COTTERILL, AUTHOR





This year, Year 9 worked with the organisation FirstGive on a project designed to raise awareness of local charities and get young people involved in improving their communities. Each form researched a charity of their choice and gave a presentation to three judges.

The winning form got £1000 to donate to their charity. The charities were: Let's Get Talking (9 Bethlehem), Brent Mind (9 Damascus), Camden Society (9 Galilee), Ben Kinsella Trust (9 Jerusalem), Rays of Sunshine (9 Nazareth) and Red Thread (9 Rome).

We found that the most difficult thing about the project was the organisation and making the presentation, but we learned to work as a team and got more confident speaking in front of people. On the night the winner was 9 Nazareth and Rays of Sunshine.

.....
HARIR, 9 ROME



This programme gave me an insight into how it feels to work with charities. It was most fun when my group won the £1000 to donate to Rays of Sunshine.

.....
DENEKA, 9 NAZARETH

The presentations were very creative and interesting to watch. You could see the groups had worked really hard.

.....
PATRYCJA, 9 BETHLEHEM





Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge

Speak out challenge started in October for thirty Year 10 Convent students with a day of training and practise facilitated by a public speaking specialist. The students learnt about content, structure and delivery - how best to get a message they care about across to others. Abigail came through as winner in our school competition and had the opportunity to represent our school at the Brent final. Abigail delivered her brilliant practised speech to the audience and judges but unfortunately did not make the top 3. We are so incredibly proud of her.

.....
MR JOHN TIGHE, LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Speak out was a really memorable experience that has built my confidence. It felt like my opinions mattered, my voice was being heard and that I was being listened to. It's quite daunting having to give a presentation in front of an audience and to be in competition with other candidates but I now feel I can face new challenges and push myself harder to achieve. I strongly recommend any of my peers to be brave and to take part, especially if, like me, you have an opinion on the impact social and political issues have upon our progression and development. I'm proud to feel part of something where our opinions are seen to matter.

.....
ABIGAIL, 10 WALSINGHAM

Year 9 Synagogue Visits

Our year group was taken to visit the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, as part of our RE course. The trip was a great opportunity to know more about Jewish culture and to understand what makes a synagogue a holy place. We learnt many new things about Judaism. We saw the Torah scrolls in person which were very beautiful and we were told many facts about them. We were also told about the traditions that have been kept for thousands of years.

.....
JOHANNA AND AIMEE, 9 DAMASCUS

My favourite part of the trip was learning that the lamp is always kept burning to show God is present.

.....
VANESSA, 9 NAZARETH

I was stunned by how beautiful it was and I feel really fortunate to have gone on the trip.

.....
LEANNE, 9 ROME

We learnt lots of things, for example their stained glass windows are similar to what we have in churches and they tell a story of their history. The most valuable part of the Synagogue is the Torah; it was amazing to see how they look after it.

.....
FAITH, 9 NAZARETH





Spring Concert

This concert was an amazing event filled with a variety of performances. It was absolutely incredible to be part of as it was put together so wonderfully. I felt empowered as a woman and grateful to be participating. Our teachers showcased their talents as well and together we displayed what makes us a unique school.

.....
HIMASHI, 10 VLADIMIR



This was an amazing way of celebrating the beautiful and extraordinary talents we have across the year groups at our school. As the theme was empowering women we definitely showed how talented we are and how grateful we are for the many women in our lives who guide us. The performances went immaculately thanks to Ms Burgess and Mr Dixon and the tremendous help we received from the Sixth Formers. The evening revealed how beautiful we are and how we always go beyond what we expect and hope of ourselves.

.....
JERUSALEM, 10 GUADALUPE

The concert was an amazing experience and very fun. We enjoyed seeing all the year groups coming together and supporting each other and the quotes about women's empowerment between each performance really marked International Women's Day in a special way.

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MIA, 9 JERUSALEM, FELICIA, 9 BETHLEHEM & LAURA, 9 NAZARETH



It was an amazing opportunity performing with my music class, showing what we've learned with Mr Dixon. It was a chance for all of us to build our confidence.

.....
ANNA, 9 GALILEE



Holistic Wellbeing

We have recently launched a whole school initiative which focuses on the holistic health and well-being of our school community. It is a cross-curricula initiative linking healthy eating and physical activity. The aim is to improve the spiritual, emotional and physical wellness of both staff and students.

We have activities on Monday and Wednesday at lunchtime and on Friday mornings we kick start our day with ‘wake up and shake up’ from 8:15-8:30. At the end of each activity the girls are given the opportunities to sample fresh natural juices prepared by the food and nutrition team. This now forms a major attraction and incentive for the students.

We’ve been skipping and hula hooping to music and taking part in a huge Cha! Cha! Slide on the MUGA. The ‘Candy’ dance was a particular hit with over 180 girls participating. We’ve had a blast!

The activities continue up until the end of Lent where we will remember the sacrifice our Lord and Saviour made for us all. This is truly a very special event and the only one of its kind. It is our hope that the activities will continue and will crystallise into a healthy Convent culture in the near future

MS P JOHNSON (PE CURRICULUM LEADER)



Sports News



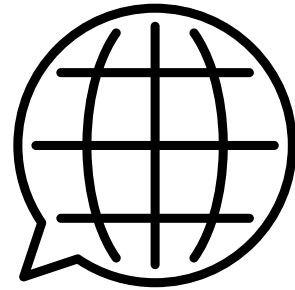
This season has been a tremendous success so far for all teams. Every year group has shown great improvement and there have been some magnificent team and individual performances.

The Year 7s are still in with a chance to win their Brent Championships as are the Year 8 team. Year 10s are on course to win the QPR League securing a spot in the final to be held at Loftus Road Stadium where they will defend the title they won last year. Keep it up girls – you can do it!

MR J JAMES, PE TEACHER AND HEAD OF YEAR 10

Year	Opponent	Comp	Score	Scorers	Woman of the Match
10	Hammersmith	QPR League	Win 5-0	Sian 2, Rozalia 1, Beatriz 1, Andressa 1	Rozalia
10	Chelsea	QPR League	Loss 2-3	Sian 2	Sian
8	CCA	Brent Champs	Draw 0-0		Maraiah
8	Crest	Brent Champs	Draw 1-1	Sara	Kenza
7	QPCS	Brent Champs	Loss 2-0		Brilinda
7	CCA	Brent Champs	Draw 0-0		Yvonne
10	CCA	Brent Champs	Loss 2-0		Kiyana
10	Crest	Brent Champs	Win 5-0	Lauren 2, Lucia, Sian 2	Tara
10	St Thomas Moore	QPR League	Win 3-1	Lucia, Sian, Tara	Emma
7	CCA	Brent Champs	Draw 2-2	Olivia 2	Jadine
10	Wembley High	Brent Champs	Win 4-0	Andressa 2, Sian 1, Tara 1	Lucia
8	Burlington Danes	QPR League	Loss 2-0		Montanah
10	Sion Manning	QPR League	Win 11-4	Sian 5, Lucia 4, Emma	Kiyana

MFL News

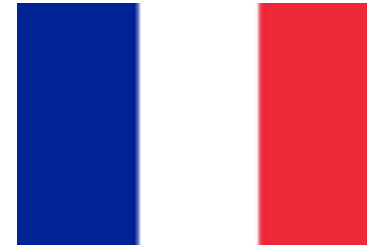


El Carnaval de Barranquilla

Colombia es un país lleno de alegría, somos gente agradable y apasionada con nuestra cultura y tradiciones. Una de las tradiciones más importantes y famosas de Colombia es El Carnaval de Barranquilla que tiene el genial dicho "Quien lo vive, es quien lo goza!". El carnaval es una oportunidad para unir a los habitantes de la ciudad y a los turistas para disfrutar cuatro días de festividades intensas. El Carnaval comienza el sábado antes del Miércoles de Ceniza con 'la Batalla de las Flores', que se considera una de las actividades principales. Luego sigue 'La Gran Parada', una celebración que dura dos días enteros, y está marcada por un Festival de orquesta con grupos musicales que son caribeños y latinos.

El martes marca el final del carnaval, anunciado por el entierro de Joselito Carnaval, un personaje que representa la alegría del carnaval de Barranquilla. En general, el Carnaval incluye danzas como el paloteo español, el congo africano y el baile 'el mico y la mica' indígena. También es un momento para la música colombiana, con la cumbia como la más destacada, y los instrumentos incluyen tambores y conjuntos de viento. Finalmente, el Carnaval de Barranquilla fue proclamado Obra Maestra Cultural de la Nación por el Congreso Nacional de Colombia en 2002.

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ISABEL, 12 EDITH



Visite du président français en Grande-Bretagne

Le président français et la Première ministre britannique ont signé un traité contraignant le Royaume-Uni à accepter davantage de migrants. Londres s'est dit prête à payer 50 millions d'euros de plus pour contrôler la frontière à Calais. Le sommet fut également l'occasion pour les deux pays de renforcer leur collaboration dans le domaine de la défense.

Theresa May a ainsi annoncé que Londres affecterait trois hélicoptères Chinook pour soutenir les opérations militaires françaises au Sahel. De son côté, Emmanuel Macron a annoncé que des soldats français seraient déployés en 2019 en Estonie au sein du contingent britannique, pour faire face à toute menace venant de Russie.

.....
MARISA, 12 GIANNA



Il carnevale di Venezia

Il Carnevale di Venezia è un festival annuale che termina con la celebrazione cristiana della Quaresima, quaranta giorni prima di Pasqua, il martedì grasso. Il festival è famoso in tutto il mondo per le sue maschere e costumi veneziani. Si dice che coprire la faccia in pubblico fosse una risposta unicamente veneziana a una delle gerarchie di classi più rigide della storia europea.

Ogni anno circa 3 milioni di turisti visitano Venezia per il Carnevale. Questo è un momento di allegria, danza, mimo, teatro, opera e feste. Uno degli eventi più popolari del carnevale di Venezia è la competizione per la maschera più bella messa all'ultimo fine settimana del Carnevale ed è giudicata da una giuria di costumisti e stilisti internazionali.

.....
KRISTIN, 12 GIANNA



JACK PETCHEY ANNUAL AWARDS

I was a Year 8 Jack Petchey winner. When going to the ceremony I felt like a star. We were all welcomed to the hall and took our seats. The night was fun and amusing as the presenter got us to clap along with the songs and stomp our feet. This made everyone feel special as they walked on stage. I collected my well-earned trophy which made me feel happy and proud not just for myself but for all the young achievers. The presenter read out the reasons why each of us had been elected for the award. I shook hands with the Mayor of Brent and then had photos taken backstage. It was a wonderful and sentimental experience I will never forget.

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CHENIQUE, 8 BRIGIT

UNIQ SUMMER SCHOOL

Being accepted onto one of the UNIQ summer courses at Oxford University was such a shock at first; I really didn't think I could get in! However I managed to get a place in the Beginners Language course, which will give me an insight into what learning languages at university is really like. It's ideal for me as I'm planning to take on Spanish and Portuguese. I believe that spending a week in such a prestigious setting will be an enriching experience where I'll be able to live and learn like a real student at university.

.....
SOFIA 12 THERESE

Last academic year I was lucky enough to receive a Jack Petchey Award. I felt extremely proud of this achievement which had been a goal I set for myself when I was in Year 7. The annual award ceremony was held in January and showcased different performances by some of the other award winners. My favourite was a duet performed by students of Capital City Academy. The evening was very entertaining and felt like a professional awards ceremony. My mum really enjoyed it as well, especially the host and the great photographs.

.....
SIAN, 10 LOURDES