Dear Parents

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

There is a great deal to celebrate in this edition. The Easter holiday saw two fantastic school visits one led by Mrs Kyrke-Smith to Turkey and another led by Mr Parkin to New York.

The school is very proud of the achievement of many students who have recently won awards. The Key Stage 3 badminton team won the London regional final and will be taking place in the National Finals later in May. The school chess team won the national final held at St Catherine’s in Bramley. Akshaya (Yr8), Victoria (Yr10), Kivitha (Yr13) and Soumiya (Yr9) beat some very tough competition from both state and private schools. Amadea in Yr13 won the annual Canning House Essay competition for her essay, written in Spanish, on the challenges facing Latin America over the next 10 years.

Finally, in Yr9, Lauren, Amy, Mollie and Anna won the Wings of Hope competition for their fund-raising for children who live below the poverty line in Malawi and India. This does reflect the huge variety of opportunities that are available at Nonsuch and is perhaps an important reminder that success comes in many guises.

This term we have already had a very successful Gym and Dance show as well as two music concerts. Parents are very welcome to attend these and other events.

Later this term we will be putting the calendar for 2014-15 on the school website. We will also be putting up some additional information for parents with regard to reports and assessment. We realise that different schools use different reporting systems and ‘language’ and that this can be a bit of a minefield for parents, We hope that this new guide will explain ‘levels, ‘grades’, ‘FFT’, ‘ALPS’ etc in more depth.

The exam season is now upon us. Please ensure that your daughter undertakes focused revision interspersed with regular breaks, exercise and rest.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the school sets high standards in terms of uniform, dress and appearance. Your help in supporting maintain these high standards is very much appreciated.

With best wishes

Peter Gale

Headteacher
**WOHAA Winners-Press Release**

A group of Year 9 students from Nonsuch High School who took part in the Wings of Hope Achievement Award (WOHAA) this year have won first prize. Team Young Volcanoes, made up of Lauren, Amy, Mollie and Anna, as well as Natasha from Greenacre School, have won an expenses-paid trip to India. Their award was presented at the annual Awards Ceremony held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, at the start of May 2014. The team have spent the last six months fundraising as part of the award, running a number of wonderful events including a Netball Tournament at which His Excellency the High Commissioner of Malawi and the Worshipful Mayor of Sutton made guest appearances, alongside Tom Brake MP, England Netball player Rachel Dunn and two Surrey Storm netball players.

Their efforts, on behalf of the Wings of Hope Children’s Charity, have helped support the education of underprivileged children in India and Malawi. Following on from the Semi-Finals, in which the team managed to highly impress the panel of prestigious judges led by Sir David Jason at the House of Lords, they went on to win the award for Best Overall Team. Each year six awards are handed out to the lucky Finalists at the WOHAA Awards Ceremony, the most prestigious award of which is an expenses-paid trip to India.

**History and Politics**

**Chris Grayling MP’s visit**

In late April, the History and Politics Society were lucky enough to welcome the Lord Chancellor and current Secretary of State for Justice, Chris Grayling to the school. Chris gave an interesting and informative talk to a large group of students from all year groups about what it is like to serve in the Cabinet and answered a range of question about local, national and international issues.

**Nonsuch Palace Tour**

On 6 May a group of Year 13s and their History teachers went for a walk in Nonsuch Park during their last week before study leave. Their aim was to find the site of Nonsuch Palace, which had played an important role in several events from their A2 History course on the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Nothing sadly remains of the palace today except for 3 bollards marking its main gatehouses, but there are some useful information boards which help you to imagine what it might have looked like 450 years earlier. Whilst the group was there Mr Coy read out the story of how the Earl of Essex burst into the palace at short notice on 28 September 1599, and found the queen in her bedchamber without her wig and makeup on. Elizabeth never forgave him for this embarrassment, and within 2 years he had been executed for treason. As we walked back, we agreed that, although sad that the palace was no more (sold and demolished to pay for Charles II’s mistress’ gambling debts), we were still very lucky to have the historic site close by, along with the beautiful park in which it stands.  

Mrs Budden
Amadea, a student of Spanish in year 13, entered the prestigious Canning House Essay Competition, which is targeted at students of Spanish aged 17-19 and challenges them to apply their knowledge of language and structures to produce a sophisticated piece of writing. This year’s question was “What are the biggest challenges that any one individual country in Iberia or Latin America has to face in the next ten years?” Amadea’s achievement in reaching the final was considerable, as university students of Spanish also enter the competition, as indeed do pupils from many of the top state and independent schools nationwide. Following the prize ceremony in London on April 23rd, I am delighted to inform you that Amadea was awarded first prize, a truly outstanding achievement. The prize includes a return trip to a Spanish-speaking country of Amadea’s choice, leaving her with a very pleasant dilemma, as she contemplates where she will go! The Languages Department is extremely proud of Amadea’s achievement and we hope that her success will be emulated by future pupils!

P Johnson  Head of Languages

Year 12 Work Experience visit to Liège, Belgium

Making use of a foreign language in real-life contexts is a very rewarding way to see how much you have learnt in language lessons at school. This is exactly what a group of year 12 students of French did in March. They spent a week living with exchange families, working during the day and experiencing Belgian life in the evenings.

The group, which included students from St. Philomena’s, travelled to Liège by Eurostar. Before the busy working week began, a day of sightseeing was arranged by the host families with many students traveling to Brussels or Bruges or taking in the sights in Liège.

Our partner school, the Collège Sainte Véronique, has a nursery and primary section, and so many of our students became teaching assistants for the week, organising games, helping the teachers with the lessons and enjoying a moment of quiet when the class had its daily siesta. Others learnt how to wait at tables in sandwich bars or serve customers in the local newsagents. All agreed that their French had benefited greatly from the experience and hopefully some lasting friendships will have been formed.

The trip was the second leg in this year’s exchange programme. If you are thinking of studying French at AS level next year, then look out for the trip which will take place in January and March 2015.

Mr P Sides
GCSE students have worked hard on a range of projects as part of their Controlled Assessment.

**ASHPREET**
fashion bag inspired by henna pattern and laser cut trend

**LAVANYA**

**JASAGHI**
flat pack shelving unit

**ABIGAIL**
shape & decoration inspired by an African drum

**CHARLOTTE**
board game to promote a healthy lifestyle
Supamathy
flat pack chair designed to reduce wastage of materials

Rosini
children’s activity centre

Hannah
board game for a murder mystery party

Gayathri
flat packed modular storage unit

Lucy
table inspired by the De Stijl design movement
Elements Gym and Dance Display

Every year the Gym and Dance Display is one of the highlights of the PE calendar and this year was no exception. The theme was Elements with performances taking their inspiration from Earth, Wind, Water and Fire. The gym squad opened the show with a spectacular routine with amazing tumbles including somersaults. The dance performances were equally impressive with a fabulous Irish dancing routine, a group ballet routine, as well as a cleverly choreographed sixth form dance. We were particularly pleased that there were so many Year 11, 12 and 13s participating given that their exams are looming.

Everything went smoothly on the evening with the packed audience bringing out the best in the performers. We’d also like to take the opportunity to thank the Year 12s and 13s who helped out during the year with Rhythmic Gym, Gym 4 all and Dance Cub. Well done to all our performers, another great show!
KS3 Badminton Players win Silver at National Competition

Following their success in previous rounds of the competition, our Key Stage 3 badminton team travelled to Centre Parcs, Nottingham on Saturday 10th May to compete in the National Schools’ Finals. This is a first for Nonsuch and the girls, led by coach Sam Philips, were eager to fight hard and perform to their very best. It was such a tough day and the girls had to pull out all the stops to win all their matches in round 1. The girls’ spirits were so high, even though they went through some very frustrating matches. They supported and encouraged each other to move forward. After winning the semi finals, the students realised they had the potential to go all the way. In the final tie the girls faced their toughest competitors, with 3 of their squad being England Internationals, but the students did not give up and battled all the way. At the end of a long day, Gemma Y9, Chloe Y7, Charlotte Y7, Stephanie Y8 and Ellen Y7 were exhausted but delighted to come away with the silver medal. Over 6,300 school badminton teams from secondary schools right across England competed in the competition so we are all extremely proud of their achievement. Congratulations!

Individual Achievement

Elsa in Year 8: On the 4th May, Elsa competed at Millfield School and qualified for the GB Pentathlon Biathle Team who are due to compete at the European Championships this July in Portugal. It was her first attempt at Biathle (continuous run 500m - swim 100m - run 500m), with heats and finals which were very exhausting. Well done Elsa!

Tia & Shanjika in Year 9: Well done to Tia and Shanjika who play football for Carshalton Athletic. Along with their team, they won the Surrey County FA County Cup and Tia was the player of the match. They were also the U15 league cup final champions. A great achievement, well done Tia and Shanjika.

Mollie in Year 9: Well done to Mollie who plays hockey for Surbiton. After finishing the season top of league in the South JAC hockey county championships, with her Surrey U14 Lions team, Mollie headed up to Wakefield, with her hockey club Surbiton, to play in the England Hockey U14 Girls National Club Championship Finals on the 11th May. It was well worth the trip up and the Surbiton Under 14 Girls team are now celebrating after beating Beeston 1-0 in the final, winning the title without conceding a goal.

Lucy in Year 8: Lucy recently attended the ICC British Nationals Cheerleading Competition in Nottingham and her team, Unity Allstars Ruby, not only won their division level 5, the highest level a junior team can compete at, but they also won the ‘Grand Champs award’. As a result of their outstanding performance, their team was awarded a paid bid to attend the World Championships in Florida next year to represent the UK! This is a huge achievement for their club and for Lucy.
Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

The 2013 Nonsuch Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners attended the Borough Wide Presentation at the Secombe Centre on 3 April. The girls won their awards for a variety of reasons including competing at national level in Wakeboarding, winning a national vocab express competition, excellence in music, achievement in chess, creating an embroidery for school, coping with a condition but persevering throughout and contribution to cadets and fundraising. Sofia also contributed to the evening by playing the piano to the audience. It was a super evening of celebration.

The end of the Spring Term also allowed the presentation of certificates to the first of this year’s winners. Emma in Year 11 has been recognised for her contribution to the History and Politics blog. Natalia Wierzbicka won an award for her outstanding contribution to music in the school. Martha Dean won the final Spring Term award for her success in gaining a place in the production of The Malcontent at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The Summer term prize winners will be announced at the end of the school year. I am also pleased to announce that Lolita in Year 7 has been presented with a Jack Petchey Award at her Guide group for her services to the Guides. We are delighted to hear this news.

Nicola Holmes

Maths

Hannah, Year 12, was awarded a Certificate with Merit for her performance in the Senior Kangaroo Challenge, gaining a place in the top 25% of the 2643 participants from 887 schools.

In the Intermediate UK Maths Challenges, Supamathy, Year 11, who qualified for the UK IMOK Olympiad achieved a Certificate with Merit for her participation. Georgina and Uma of Year 10 were awarded a Certificate with Merit for their achievements in the European Kangaroo competition. They are among the top 25% of 6741 participants from 1550 schools.

Well done girls!

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Akshaya (Yr8), Victoria (Yr10), Kavitha (Yr13) and Soumiya (Yr9) have won the National School Chess Championship. The finals took place at St Catherine’s school in Bramley on 12-13 April. It was a powerful team performance with Akshaya scoring 9 out 10 on board 1. Victoria and Kavitha scored 7.5 and 8 respectively in their contests. The school beat tough competition from a wide variety of state and independent schools.
This has been an incredibly busy period for the Music Department with three big concerts in almost as many weeks!! Below is a brief overview of some of the highlights.

**Young Musician of the Year 2014**
This was a first for Nonsuch and the students performed a challenging programme with the standard of all the performances being incredibly high. Our judges were ex Nonsuch student Charlotte Ansberg (currently Violinist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra) along with Jane Highfield (International Opera Coach) were hugely impressed with the overall standard of our seventeen finalist and congratulated all the girls. After much deliberation the following girls were announced winners: Chloe (Yr 9) on Piano ; Yasmin (Yr 10) on Harp and Natalia was awarded the overall title of *Nonsuch Young Musician of the Year.*
Spring Music Concert

The annual Spring Concert included all our larger ensembles with over 50 students taking part. It was attended by a large and appreciative audience of parents and friends and opened with the School Orchestra’s regal performance of Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance followed by a spirited rendition of Offenbach’s Can—Can.

Numerous smaller ensembles performed including the brass quartet and clarinet quintet who performed challenging new pieces.

The world premiere of Mr Dave Johnson’s very beautiful Magnificat was written for and performed by a specially selected group of students: Yasmin Yr 10, Hannah Yr 12, Natalia Yr 13 and Vocalists Rhian, Mala and Amy from Year 13.

There were vocal performances from the School Choir, Chamber Choir and Vox Celestes.

The Concert Band played the wickedly challenging musical numbers You’ve Got a Friend in Me from Toy Story and a Medley from Wicked and the Jazz Band gave us a tantalising taste of what we were to hear in the following week’s Jazz Evening. The evening finished with the Symphony Orchestra giving a fabulous performance of Vivaldi’s Double Violin Concerto with six talented violinists from across the Year groups Lorna, Safia, Marietta (Yr 9), Ghiani (Yr 10) and Natalia and Mala (Yr 13) The Symphony Orchestra went on to play the 1st movement of Schubert’s 5th Symphony and the foot tapping Perfidia by Rodrigues.

This was also an opportunity to say thank you and good bye to some of our Year 13 Stars who are going on to exciting new adventures next year. We wish you all the very best in your exams and your future studies — and especially to Rhian, Natalia and Mala who are going on to study Music at Cambridge (with a Choral scholarship), Trinity Laban Conservatoire and Kings College, London. We will miss you all!
Jazz Concert

Once again the Jazz Night was a toe-tapping success with the Big Band and smaller groups performing hot numbers from the 1930s to 1960s. This year it was a great pleasure to have the involvement of School Choir, and The Rose Room Trio also gave the girls a chance to play with a professional group. They all played with outstanding confidence and swing. We also had three impressive jazz vocalists: Michele, Sophie and Rhian. The music was arranged by Mr Johnson and he would like to add a tribute to those girls who have been with jazz band for so many years and made it truly excellent with their commitment and good humour: Laura, Lizzy, Jaime, Jennifer and Natalia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: 

Exam success on Flute:  
Grade 1 : Anna 7N (Merit)  
Grade 2 : Natasha 8My (Merit)  
Grade 2 : Raina S 8N—(Pass)  
Grade 3 : Rachel 8S—(Pass)  
Grade 3 : Ha-Neul 11S—(Distinction)

Violinists:  
Grade 1: Nivashine Yr 9 (Distinction)  
Grade 1: Huma Yr 8 (Distinction)  
Grade 4: Anna Yr 11  
Grade 7: Yiyi Yr 13

Vox Celestes won the prestigious Under 18 Vocal Shield at the Reigate and Redhill Music Festival. Rhian, Ella and Catherine represented Nonsuch at the Banstead Young Artists Concert.

STILL TO COME: Forthcoming Programme of Concerts and Events:  
26th June Recital Evening - another opportunity to hear more from some our most talented students  
9th July Final Music Tea of the Year – more delicious treats and temptations!