



Dear Families,

We were very pleased to have such a good turnout at the Parents' Forum last week. Thank you to all those who attended and for your feedback about what we can do to make things even better. The issue of homework was raised and I am very keen that we make sure that not only all girls have regular homework, but also that parents know what has been set. Please help us in making sure that your daughter has her diary with her every day and ask to see it on a regular basis. If you are concerned about homework, please contact your daughter's tutor in the first instance. Girls in Year 7 and 8 will always have work to do on their extended homework projects. Some of the outcomes from these assignments are outstanding and really show what the girls can achieve.

At the Forum, we spoke about the new curriculum and new building and we have arranged for a number of parents to visit the site of the new building. If you would like to be included in future tours, please contact my PA, Judy Redding.

Finally, I know many girls are disappointed that they have not been selected for the Washington trip. We had over 200 applications for only 12 places. However, there will be many more opportunities to take part in other events. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, for example, which is International Women's Day, four girls have been invited to accompany me to the American Ambassador's Residence to celebrate the achievements of women.

Next week, Friday is a Professional Development Day for staff so students will break up for half term on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. There will, of course, be revision classes during the half term week for Year 11 students.

Yours sincerely,

# BANKING ON SUCCESS

Recently, a group of Year 7 and 8 students spent a busy day out and about experiencing a different side of London life. In the morning, we visited London Zoo where we spent time looking at the various animals keeping warm during winter. In the afternoon, it was very much down to business as students shared a pizza "networking lunch" with volunteers at the Bank of Tokyo - Mitsubishi Bank in the city - the eighth largest bank in the world. Students discussed their aspirations for the future and

listened to some very motivating talks from staff about working in the city and achieving your goals. Students were then taken on a tour of their amazing offices by staff, where students saw people working with up to six screens on their computers! Some students were even invited into the CEO's office where he showed them some of the work he does. It really was a fantastic afternoon and we would like to thank Louise and the volunteers at Mitsubishi Bank for their time and for creating such a memorable experience for our students.



Siobhan Goulding 8T and Samantha Brewer 7Z with Mitsubishi Bank Europe CEO Clifford De Souza



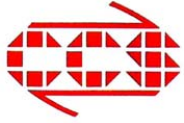
Business Lunch: Nicole Mbuku in 7A with a volunteer from the bank discuss office life

# CYBERBULLYING SURVEY UPDATE

A huge thank you to everyone who agreed to take part in the cyberbullying pilot survey. This took place last half term in some Year 8 PSHE lessons. Following the pilot, Imperial College have gained the funding to extend the survey to the whole school which is the next step to working out ways of preventing bullying of this type. It is important to us that we do all we can to ensure a safe environment for everyone so we would welcome your support for the extension of the survey. If you do not want your daughter to take part in the survey please send a note to Ms Southall. A copy of the survey is available on the school website if you would like to see it in advance. Many thanks, Ms Southall.

# Love Latin...

Last week, Year 8 students enjoyed a Masterclass in the Ancient World. Simon Meiesegeas, who took the class, wrote the letter below to London Mayor Boris Johnson following his visit.



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27 January 2012

My dear Boris,

Re: Love Latin

It is some 29 years ago since you and I turned up at the "City of Spires" to start our Classics degrees.

It is therefore with great delight that I am able to write to you today to let you know how much I enjoyed giving a "Masterclass" to some Year 8 pupils at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School in Islington as part of the "Love Latin" initiative.

We chatted through the differences between today's Olympic Games and those held in Ancient Greece, we learnt about "Wooden Horses" and we completed a number of word derivation games – at all times, the children were highly enthusiastic and conducted themselves beautifully – the air was full of raised hands as they sought to ask question after question!

You and I were privileged to be able to read such a wonderful subject at University – I only hope that my small contribution may ensure that Classics and Classical Civilisation is now seen as a "radar" possibility by these inspirational young minds.

If ever you find yourself on your bicycle passing the school and are in need of a strong dose of inspiration and enthusiasm, then I recommend that you pop into the school for morning assembly; the pupils were a credit to their school and staff.

Vale! Simon

Simon Miesegeas

# Charles Dickens

## 200th birthday



To celebrate Dickens' Bicentennial this month, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February twenty EGA students from Years 7, 8 and 9 will be visiting the town of Rochester, Kent. The town and some of its famous houses are mentioned in a number of Dickens' novels, including *Great Expectations* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Students will spend the day exploring famous landmarks, such as the Elizabethan East Gate House, featured in a number of Dickens' novels, and the ancient fortress of Rochester Castle.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, three Year 8 students will be presenting a dramatised reading from *Dombey and Son*, at the Islington Town Hall as part of the Borough's celebration of Dickens' Bicentennial.

Year 7 students are also participating in a fancy dress competition in which they need to dress as Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*.

There are many activities happening to mark this special Bicentennial. Have a look at [www.dickens2012.org](http://www.dickens2012.org) for more information!



Dickens had many connections to Rochester, Kent.



Islington Community Theatre, in collaboration with Platform, have just started running [new drop-in sessions](#) for young people who are interested in theatre but can't commit on a regular basis or just want to try it out. The sessions are run by a brilliant young director and they're a great chance to build your confidence!

## WINTER

Wrap up warm, get ready to leave  
In your jacket, hold on to your sleeves!  
Now you're wearing your scarf, gloves and hat  
Time to leave with Snowballs the cat  
Everyone's ready, get in the car!  
Ready for winter in the mountains afar.

By Connie, Natasha and Teresa in 8Z

## Knitting Pretty



Congratulations to Elif Ozkes of 7H who is the first student to have completed her project at Knitting Club. Doesn't she look lovely?

