

Dear Parent/ Carer

Welcome to the first newsletter of this year. We have only been back at school for seven weeks but pupils and staff have been very busy both inside and outside the classroom.

This first half term is often about welcoming new people into the school and establishing new routines and I am particularly pleased to see how well our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled into life here at The Charter School North Dulwich. As well as welcoming over 250 new students, we also opened the school to over 2000 visitors across our two Open Days. The comments we received from prospective parents and carers, as they met our pupils and saw the work they have produced across the school, serve as an additional reminder of how proud we are of our wonderful pupils and fantastic staff.

As we progress through this year we are increasing our focus as a school on the various ways we can work harder to reduce our impact on the environment. With the introduction of the new drinking water fountains last term we have already stopped well over 30,000 plastic bottles going to landfill and we continue to work closely with our catering providers, Harrisons, to ensure that we hit our deadline for becoming plastic free by September 2020, as requested by students and parents. We are also going to be trialling 'meat free Mondays' in school after half term in order to reduce our carbon footprint even further and encourage our pupils (and staff) to try some delicious vegetarian meals at least one day a week. This is another example of the great work our students are doing to encourage and support the school to be more eco-friendly. Students and staff are all very committed to this and we will continue to share news about any progress we make in the coming weeks and months.

Finally, during October we have been celebrating Black History Month (BHM) with a range of clubs, events and visiting speakers. This has included trips to special BHM events at the Southbank Centre and Southwark Cathedral, a visit from author, Paul Crooks who spoke in assembly about tracing his African Roots, and will culminate on November 6th with our Black History Month Showcase, a student led celebration of our Black cultural heritage here at the school. There have been many other events during the course of the month and Black History Month is a very important event for the school. We are very grateful to Ms Gray and the students for making it such a success this year.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter, which will give you a taste of the exciting and varied events and activities that have taken place this half term as well as looking forward to what's coming up next term.

Yours faithfully



Christian Hicks, Headteacher



Key Dates

HALF TERM: Monday 21 October – Friday 1 November

Wednesday 6 November: BHM Showcase from 5:45pm

Thursday 7 November: 6th Form Open evening 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Monday 11 November: School closes at 1:10pm to all pupils for Staff training

Wednesday 13 November: Friends of TCSND committee meeting 6:30 – 8:00pm

Thursday 21 November: Y12 achievement evening 4:00 – 7:00pm

Thursday 28 November: The Charter School ND Christmas Fair 5:30 – 8:00pm

Monday 2 December to Tuesday 10 December – Practice exams Years 10, 11 and 13

Thursday 5 December: Parent Forum 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday 11 December: Christmas Concert TBC

Wednesday 18 December: Friends of TCSND committee meeting 6:30 – 8:00pm and Christmas Drinks

Friday 20 December: Last day of Autumn term, school closes at 1:10pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY:
Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January



Author visit - Paul Crooks

Special guest, author Paul Crooks, kicked off Black History Month at the TCSND, with a series of special assemblies to all year groups and interactive sessions with 8M, 9M and the Sixth Form.

Paul is a pioneer in tracing African ancestry and pupils heard about his journey to trace his own African roots back six generations from London, to Jamaica, to West-Africa where his ancestors were enslaved. He told students that he was originally inspired by Alex Haley, the author of the award-winning book, *Roots*.

Year 13 students, Suliaman and Gio, finished the assemblies with a performance of '100 Times', the rap they wrote as a call to eliminate black stereotypes, raise awareness of the struggles faced by those young and black and to celebrate identity, race and strength.

The Charter School North Dulwich Celebrates Black History Month

The KS3 debate club has focused their discussions on whether the right to freedom of speech conflicts with the law that prevents speech of an intentionally abusive and antagonistic nature, a topic chosen by themselves.

Students articulated assertions on racism and the influence politicians have on controlling the narrative around people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

The KS3 film club has had full attendance, with students eager to watch *The Help*, a film that highlights the struggles of African-American maids in 1960s Mississippi whilst working for white families.

In the last week of term we hosted a **Food of our Culture** event, whereby KS3 students and their parents celebrated African and Caribbean delicacies by cooking and bringing in foods of their choice to sell to the students at lunchtime. Thank you to all those who supported in this event. It was a great success



KS4 students have been on a variety of trips across South London for Black History Month.

'Black Sheep' screening at The Southbank Centre

A group of Y10 and Y11 students attended the screening of the Oscar award winning short film 'Black Sheep' at the Southbank Centre with Ms Gray and Mr Francis. The short film depicts the true life story of Cornelius, a young black teenager from London, whose family moves out to Essex after the high-profile killing of Damilola Taylor.

Our students, stunned by Cornelius' decision to take a drastic step to survive in a town of racists, had the chance to ask him questions in a special post-screening discussion. One of our students, Favour Garuba, showed her curiosity and insight by asking whether the racists felt jealous and threatened by Cornelius' black identity.

Overall, the students found this personal crisis of race and identity both harrowing and thought-provoking.



Black History Walk at Southwark Cathedral

Y10 students also had the opportunity to visit Southwark Cathedral for a special Black History Walks talk on black scientists and inventors with Ms Gray and Ms Batey. Students braved the wind and the rain on a cold Tuesday evening to learn a fascinating and comprehensive run down of everyday appliances developed by black people across the world, as well as phenomenal scientific achievements that have gone unnoticed.

Entrepreneur workshop

Mr Somerville also took a group of Y10 and Y11 girls to Balham Library for a special talk from entrepreneur Loretta Awuah, whose presentation involved a workshop activity where the girls got to discuss ways in which they could possibly turn a passion into a business idea!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SHOWCASE

On Wednesday the 6th of November, TCSND will be hosting a special event for Black History Month, the 'BHM Showcase'. Featuring a whole array of brilliant performances by our students, from spoken word, to dance, to drama, the showcase will be celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our diverse student community. As well as performances from all across the arts, you will also have the opportunity to sample delicious African and Caribbean food on the night. We do hope that you can join us for this fun and lively event!

Date: Wednesday 6th November Time: 6pm – 7:30pm

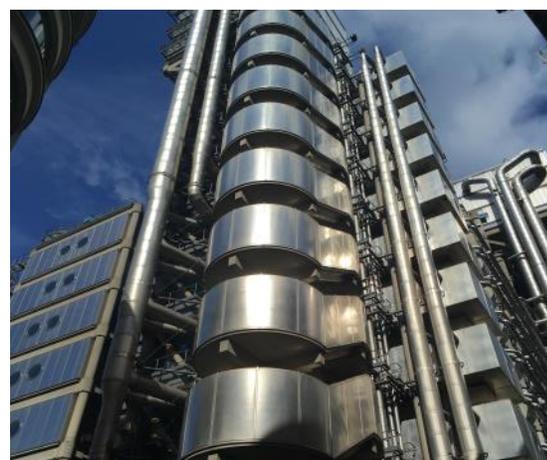
To reserve your place at this FREE event please click on the link [HERE](#):

Careers Update

- Y10 have begun the work experience process, working on their CVs during allocated extended tutor times. All 183 Y10s will be out of school from May 11th-May 15th 2020 experiencing the world of work. Students are reminded to ask around for placements with family, friends, neighbours and local businesses. If you think you might be able to offer a work experience placement to a student, please email:

HRHolloway@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

- From this half term, Y11 will all be scheduled their individual meetings with the independent careers adviser, Ms Cumberbatch. The meetings will give them the opportunity to think about their plans in terms of further and higher education, apprenticeships or training post-16 and explore the options that are available to them.
- A group of KS4 students attended a trip to the Park Plaza Hotel where they learned about the many roles and career paths available in hospitality. Students had the opportunity to get involved in many activities including party planning and cake making. The experience gave our students the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills, impressing the staff at the Park Plaza Hotel.
- During the summer half term, six of our Y12 students were selected to attend 2 days of work experience at Hermes Investment Management. They had the opportunity to work with a professional, learning about the day-to-day running of a large investment bank. As a result of his excellent performance over the two days, one of our students, Stephen Amedu, was offered a 4-week paid internship in the summer. Well done Stephen.
- In September a group of sixth form students visited advertising and media company, Havas UK, in central London. Students spent the day networking with professionals and getting involved in interactive workshops. It was an enjoyable experience for all and we hope to be able to work with Havas UK in the future to offer more opportunities to Sixth Formers.
- Sixth Form students have also had the opportunity to attend an exciting day run by London Market Group, looking at the London insurance market. It was a full day for students with various workshops such as a Lloyd's of London tour, CV surgeries, speed networking, financial planning, practice interviews and much more.
- Do you know that apprenticeships now offer young people an alternative to college and university for students who would like to earn while they learn at both post 16 and post 18—you can find parent information packs on apprenticeships on our website if you would like to know more: Click [here](#) to access the careers page on the website.






SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE
YOU TALK WE LISTEN

A voluntary service for ALL students Year 7 – Year 13.

Just like our physical health, our mental health can also be impacted.

If you would like to speak to the school counsellor, please go to the school website to access a counselling referral form.

Email Head of Counselling, Miss Leanne Chapman
LChapman@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

ROOM 023 – C BLOCK GROUND FLOOR

“It is OK not to be OK, but you deserve to be happy”




TIPS FOR REDUCING ANXIETY

- 1 A DAILY ROUTINE OF PRACTICING BREATHING**
Use the Headspace App to get started 
- 2 GRATITUDE**
Having an attitude of gratitude helps. List 2 Things you are grateful for every day.
- 3 PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON YOUR DAY**
Check out my haiku deck "Put A Positive Spin on your day" by Susan Spellman Carrin. Google it!
- 4 TAKE ACTION**
Exercise, get outside, change your thinking patterns.
- 5 TALK THINGS OUT**
With a friend, a trusted adult or when necessary a School Counsellor, a Doctor, a Therapist.
- 6 CONFRONT THOSE FEARS**
Feel the fear, confront it and face those fears one fear at a time.
- 7 CREATE**
Find something you love to do and do it! Art, Music, Drama, Writing, Sports - Create Create Create.
- 8 DISCOVER**
Discover your triggers and journal them.
- 9 BE KIND TO YOUR MIND** 
Find ways to talk to yourself in a positive way. Challenge those anxious thoughts. Treat yourself like you would your best friend.
- 10 GIVE BACK**
Volunteer... make a difference in someone's life. Helping others helps ourselves.

Enrichment News... clubs and wellbeing

This term we have more clubs on offer than ever before. The full timetable is available on the VLE and website and will be regularly updated. Students in all year groups have had opportunities to attend a wide range of clubs during lunchtime and after school. As always our Sport and Music enrichment offers have been broad and busy.

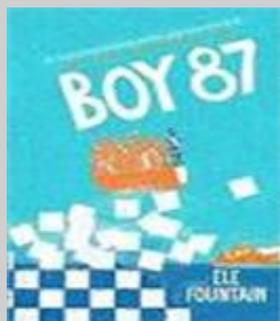
This term we have a few exciting new opportunities. To support student well-being and with much valued support from The Friends we have been able to offer a Boxing Club for students in KS3 and an after school Yoga Class for 6th Form. It has been great to see our students trying new things and extending their learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Having a chance to relax at lunchtime has been valued by students, with over 30 KS3 students attending the very popular Ghibli film club on Monday and some new dance and choreography sessions run by the inclusion team for year 10 and 11.

We have growing number of clubs being led by 6th Form students including Dungeons and Dragons and a new Contemporary Dance club dues to start after half term. Finally, we are very excited to be extending our enrichment offer and as of next term we will be introducing the LAMDA Public Speaking to year 8 students(more news of that to come).

Library News

- ◆ Ele Fountain visited The Charter School to deliver a talk to our Year 7s. They had been given the book *Boy 87* to read over the summer holidays as part of our library book gift scheme. They produced some amazing work inspired by Ele's book and they had lots of questions to ask Ele on the day of her visit.



- ◆ Our second event celebrating Black History Month was held in the library with Wendy Shearer, a professional storyteller based in London. Wendy Shearer's Black History month workshop engaged some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students with stories of inspiring Black British people like Mary Prince and Mary Seacole. She brought to life stories from Africa and the Caribbean, with traditional music and beautiful, sensory props which reflect the diverse communities within the UK.

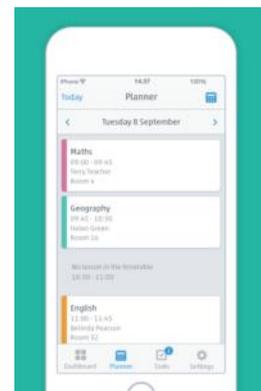


Firefly for Students

The school VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is called Firefly and can now be accessed by students using an app on their phone which can be downloaded for free.

Firefly for students allows pupils to view their timetables and manage their tasks on their phone:

- * Tasks—check and respond to homework that teachers have set or create their own 'to-do' lists
- * Messages—review messages sent by teachers
- * Planner—access their timetable
- * Dashboard—an overview of upcoming lessons and tasks due



Full details on how to download the free Firefly for Students App can be found on the website by following the link [HERE](#).

Year 8 visit to Apple

In October, a group of our Y8 computer science students went on a field trip to the Apple store in Regents Street where they took part in a robotics workshop.

Students were given iPads to use block coding to control Sphero robots. Working in teams they were given challenges to get their robots to dance, light up and speak. Everyone was given the opportunity to show off their work to their classmates and they all received a certificate and an Apple badge on completion.



Wellbeing and Safety – Mr Williams - Deputy Headteacher

Great Men

We were delighted to have our first Great Men sessions of the year for year 8 and 9 boys on the 23rd and 25th September. Year 8 boys discussed issues on gender stereotyping and Year 9 boys discussed violence. Our next sessions are in February and cover Mental Health for Year 8 boys and Pornography for Year 9 boys.

PSHE lessons for Year 7 students

We have started teaching PSHE formally to Year 7 classes. Each class has one hour of PSHE per fortnight and this year we will be covering Health and Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationships.

We shall be discussing with Year 7 parents the content of the Relationship and Sexual Health aspects of the curriculum before we teach these topics in the spring and summer terms.

US sessions

We have been holding fortnightly parent forums on Wednesdays and have had around 30 parents join us so far to discuss issues around Negative Peers/Grooming and Mental Health/ Vulnerabilities. Future sessions are on Wednesdays from 6.30 – 7.30pm and we would love to see even more parents attending. If you would like to come along to any of these sessions please contact Hayley Holloway at HRHolloway@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

Please feel free to visit the US website - <https://www.ustakingastand.com>

- ⇒ 3rd session – Wednesday 13th November 2019 – Social Media
- ⇒ 4th session – Wednesday 27th November – Criminal Justice System
- ⇒ 5th session - Wednesday 11 / Thursday 12 December – Drug use/County lines
- ⇒ 6th session – Wednesday 15th January – Respect and Parental boundaries

Safeguarding presentations to students and parents

Mr Williams and senior colleagues have delivered safeguarding assemblies to all students, and parents of students in Years 7 -11. The PDF found via this [link](#) also gives e-safety advice and information about staying safe in the community. We have unfortunately seen a few recent incidents of personal robberies and so please speak with your children about staying safe when they are out and about.



Police Community Cohesion Project

In November, students from Year 8 and 9 will work with the police and peers from The Charter School East Dulwich, Harris Academy for Boys East Dulwich and Harris Academy for Girls East Dulwich to help create a better understanding between schools of staying safe in our community.

A huge thanks to all the parents who have supported us over the last year. We hope to see many new parents getting involved this year. Dates for all our meetings are on the Friends page on the school website.



New officers and committee

The Friends appointed a new set of officers and Committee members for this school year at our October AGM (see below). We still have vacancies for a co-chair and vice-chair. We really hope other parents will step forward to take on these roles. Please contact us if you can help - even for part of the year. The Friends relies on parent volunteers alone - it's a great way to meet people and connect with the school.

Our new officers are:

Co-chair: Anna Couzens

Co-chair: vacant Vice chair: vacant

Secretary: Jaqui Moseley, Anita Dawood to support from January

Co-treasurer: Eleanor Hayes Co-treasurer: Kavitha Nava

A huge welcome and thanks to them all.

Events this term

The Friends have organised two cheese and wine evenings for parents this half term at Terroirs Wine Bar in East Dulwich. We have also worked with the home economics department and Terroirs to support a cookery club for Charter students.

Funding for the school

This half term we have contributed Friends funds for new water bottles to support Plastic Free Charter, the year 8 trip next summer and the cookery club, particularly to enable pupil premium students to participate in both these activities. Funding has also been allocated to the reading garden project and work continues to design and contract the landscaping work for the garden over the winter.

Coming up:

Sports awards evening 8th November

We will be providing food and drink at the sports awards evening.

Christmas Fair 28th November 530-830pm - SAVE THE DATE

We hope to see you and your family there!

Don't forget if you would like to run your own stall, help on a Friends stall or are available to help before or during the fair please let us know as soon as possible. We also need parents to have a Hamptons board up or to help distribute fliers for the fair on neighbouring streets.

Want to meet new parents, get involved or suggest ideas? Please contact the Friends at friends@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

Our next meeting is 13th November 6:30pm

Follow us on Twitter @foTCSND

Join our Facebook group: Friends of The Charter School North Dulwich