

Committee Newsletter

ISSUE 1

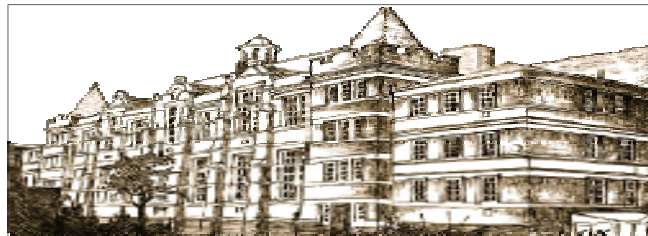
NOVEMBER 2009

WELCOME

On behalf of the Committee, we would like to welcome all of you who are new to our school. We hope your children are happy and can achieve their personal best with us. Although there is no obligation to produce an annual report to parents, as the 'governing body' of the Community school we feel that good communication with our parents is key to the success of all involved. We hope you agree.

It is our role as Committee members to work closely with the headteacher and members of staff to create a learning environment where children can give their best. This means we need to make sure that you, the parents of our school, are aware of all our endeavours.

Last year was excellent in both academic and social terms. Many of our teachers have been highly praised (in their weekly teaching positions) by Ofsted and this is reflected once again in our high GCSE, AS and A level results. We also put on some wonderful social events and are currently planning how to celebrate 10 years of our amalgamated community school.



All of our successes clearly speak volumes about the pupils, staff and headteacher of our school; we are justifiably proud of them all.

However, we are also very grateful to you. Without the continuing support of our parents our school would not be the special place that it is. Thank-you!

Co-chairs

Vassilia Kastelanides & Christina Michael

"WITHOUT THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR PARENTS OUR SCHOOL WOULD NOT BE THE SPECIAL PLACE THAT IT IS"

At GCSE, AS & A level
100% of students
passed with grades A-C

"TEACHING JUST FOUR HOURS A WEEK PRESENTS A HUGE CHALLENGE TO OUR STAFF AND PUPILS BUT EACH YEAR THEY RISE TO THE OCCASION AND DELIVER OUTSTANDING EXAM SUCCESS"

ANTONIA
KASTELANIDES
HEADTEACHER

ACHIEVEMENTS

Once again, thanks to the hard work of the staff and pupils our results were magnificent.

The figures below represent the percentage pass rates for the academic year 2008 - 2009. It is with great pride that we have been able to maintain such impressive results over the course of our 10 years.

2008 GCSE National % Scores	A*	A	B	C	D
Greek @ Community School	14.3	28.6	50.0	7.14	0.00
Spanish	16.5	17.5	17.1	21.2	15.1
French	10.3	14.7	18.8	24.5	17.3
Our results 2009	50.0	10.0	40.0	0.00	0.00

This year, all pupils achieved their predicted grades and many exceeded expectation.

Of course, this is also credit to the strong foundations laid by the staff of the early years and primary department.

We also have a growing dance troop that has represented our Community school at many professional venues. They are highly respected by dancers and other performers

While the number sitting Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is steadily declining nationally (since the government made languages non-compulsory for 14 yr olds) our numbers are steadily increasing!

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Maintaining high standards means that we have to constantly search for ways to improve our services to you. Here are some of the areas on which we are currently focusing:

Staff development

Our new extended day begins at 9.00am. This has given staff the opportunity to plan and prepare for lessons as well as offer support to one another regarding individual pupils and their progress.

As the largest Greek community school in South London it was becoming increasingly difficult to run the school efficiently. Our decision to employ a school administrator has enabled us to become more effective in our administrative responsibilities to you.

Although we have had to reduce our INSET days from 3 to 2 over the course of the year, many teachers have led in-house training sessions and we are fostering links with other community and mainstream schools to continue sharing best practice. (In January we have an art specialist coming to deliver a training session for staff on how to promote the learning of Greek language through art.)

A new classroom observation rota has been put into place, enabling the headteacher to monitor children's learning.

Cultural hour

Our proposal to end our school day at 2.30pm went to the Head of the day school, Kate Magliocco, at the beginning of the year. It is with regret that we will be unable to offer this to you for the time being.

The aims of the cultural hour were to extend our provision to pupils and the wider community under the Extended Schools Agenda. This would have involved a variety of extra curricular classes such as music, dance and cookery.

Creative curriculum

We have allocated some of our funds to improving classroom based activities such as music, arts and crafts. (Our first **Christmas craft workshop is on the 5th December** please place your children's gift orders with our school administrator.) As a community school we do not often have access to the same resources as a day school so if you are able to run a workshop please contact either Vassilia or Christina.

Our inventive timetabling of staff has enabled us to offer music lessons (piano, guitar and bouzouki), a great achievement for a community school.

Language

The current timetable allows the headteacher to offer one-to-one reading support to some pupils.

We also offer one-to-one intensive conversation skills for students in the run-up to their oral exams.

Please refer to the following website for more information on the exams: www.edexcel.com or to our own website: www.stcyprianscs.com.



Pupils perform at a tribute event to Manos Hadjidakis

Value for money

Currently our school is able to function because of your kind donations and ongoing support. We understand your concern regarding the closure of the Tuesday school but sadly this was economically no longer viable. While this has had an impact on our ability to maintain progression links for students wishing to gain academic qualifications, we can assure you that we are doing all that we can to offer our pupils every chance to learn Greek language and culture.

As a community school, fees are our main and most important source of income. We have had to raise our fees by £15 this year (an increase of 6.7%) to cover increased rental costs. (This is subject to change as per the contract with day school states). Staff support from the Cypriot and Greek Embassies and a modest grant from the local LEA for community languages make a small but valued contribution to our rising costs.

School lunches

We have improved the quality of food on offer and would like to continue to promote healthy eating. Please see either Vassilia or Christina if you can donate cakes or help Effie in any way.

Online shopping

We have signed up with a fundraising site: easyfundraising.org.uk. The idea of this site is that you do your online shopping by going to it first and clicking from there to the site you want to shop from. The retail site pays a commission to the charity site and a portion of this then comes back to us. Remember to register us as the organisation you want to support. We are listed.

Communication with parents

Last year we made more improvements to our homework diary. We feel that clear communication and ongoing feedback between classroom teachers and parents is paramount to your child's development. For this reason we have not only indicated class learning objectives but also your child's individual targets for the term. This is a vital learning tool and helps your child develop their organisational skills. Please feel free to ask the headteacher for anything else that you may require.

By now you should all be aware of who is your class Committee representative. If you are unsure of who we are please ask and we will try to make time to introduce ourselves to you.

It is our responsibility to listen to your views and we promise to take these into consideration. Please take the time to complete the short questionnaire and hand to our administrator at your earliest convenience. Thank-you!