



HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

July 2010



La Sainte Union Winners of Best Silver CREST Award

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

The last half term has been incredibly full with examinations as well as Year 10 Work Experience, Parents and Friends Association International Evening, Healthy School Week, Maths Week, Sports Day, the Music Tour to Barcelona and concerts by Gospel and Tour Choirs, Sixth Form Talent Show and many other class activities to ensure a very broad range of opportunities for your daughters and sons. My very warm thanks to all the staff for their dedication in arranging these activities, alongside marking examinations, writing reports and teaching!

Building Schools for the Future

We were very disappointed to hear earlier this month that La Sainte Union, along with other Camden Schools, would no longer be funded £24 million for redevelopment of the school site. We had hoped to refurbish the Junior Listed Building including improvement to the old heating systems and build new facilities including a Sports and Drama Block and better Science, Sixth Form and Vocational Studies classrooms. As you will have noticed, refurbishment of some areas in the school has been postponed as we were anticipating that buildings would be demolished in the next two to three years. Over the Summer, I am planning for some classrooms to be repainted, but major works, such as replacing draughty windows in the Senior Building, will now need to be considered. This

is in the context of what will probably be significant cuts in schools' funding. Until the Government's Autumn Review of Spending, I do not have any clear information of the extent of any cuts to our budget.

We are a Voluntary Aided school, which means the Government fully funds our costs for teaching and the running of the school, but the School Governors have control of the school's Catholic ethos including our Admissions. However, the school is only funded at 90% for any major capital works and we will not be able to afford this if we do not receive the voluntary contributions from parents of £100 per year. I do know that a number of families are facing very difficult times financially at the moment, and some have their jobs at risk. Please let the school know if this is the case, as we will try to ensure you are accessing any benefits to which you may be entitled through our Parents' Support Adviser. However, many families are able to give and I am even more grateful to you for your contributions to the School Building Fund.

Over the next few months, I will be examining different ways of developing bids for essential improvements of the site, such as our sports facilities. I will keep you informed of any fundraising programmes the school will be launching.

La Sainte Union Expectations

We continue to focus on upholding high standards of behaviour and appearance and I would like to thank all the parents for signing the last Newsletter, confirming their support of our Uniform Rules. Three reminders please :

1. No coloured hair/hair extensions
2. Skirts must be below the knee
3. Leather shoes which are robust enough for walking between the
to ends of the building in rain and snow.

Behaviour has shown some improvement since the distinction between bad marks for behaviour and organisation was introduced. Far fewer girls are now in Friday detention and they do see the system as fairer whilst the number of Fixed Term Exclusions has reduced very slightly over the last three years. I have permanently excluded one pupil this year for persistent defiance of our school rules. This decision was upheld by the Governors. I will not tolerate continued poor behaviour at La Sainte Union and will take firm action if necessary.

Please see the separate item on attendance and punctuality and on our tracking of patterns of poor behaviour on Pages 8 and 9.

Please also note that any holidays taken during term time are unauthorised and I cannot give permission for such absences.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

Art

Art Exhibition

Congratulations to all our examination students! Our annual Open Evening was possibly the most successful ever. Thank you to all students, families and staff for helping to make it such a wonderful evening.

Visits

Year 12 and a small group of Year 11 students had the opportunity to visit Mother Advertising Agency in Shoreditch. We were given a guided tour and a talk from one of the Art Directors, Michael Almond. Their campaigns include Boots "*Here Come the Girls!*" : Coca Cola, Schweppes and the PG Tips Monkeys. Our students were very inspired and some have changed their ideas about future careers.

Following the visit to Mother, we visited the Whitechapel Art Gallery, where we looked at work from the Dimitris Daskalopoulos Collection, "*Keeping it Real*" and thought about how exhibitions are curated.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Year 12 Business Studies Projects

The Year 12 students were busy this Summer Term organising and running their own projects. Events included a Rounders Tournament for Sports Day and signs and assisting on La Swap Induction Day, with a group organising the catering for all the staff on this day.

The final group laid on afternoon tea for twenty elderly members from Our Lady Help of Christians. They also sang a song or two for their guests who reciprocated with their own songs and poetry readings.

Everyone involved was very impressed with the Year 12 students who proved to be very efficient and arranged events that were enjoyed by all.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology Club

Congratulations to Technology Club members, Bernadette Fernandes [8D], Emmy Lam Yuk Wang [8A], Tatiana Maio Olival [9C] and Chantelle Linane [10C].

The girls took part in a three part competition sponsored by *Sport Aid* and the *Construction Youth Trust* to design a new sporting venue. They reached the finals stage where they displayed and presented their work at offices of Arup, the internationally renowned engineers. The girls were worthy Runners-up and were congratulated on their innovative designs. Well done girls!

ENGLISH

Rehearsals for the school's performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* are well underway as part of the *Shakespeare Schools Festival*. In preparation for the play - which La Sainte Union is setting in the 1940s as soldiers return from the war - some cast members visited the Rivoli Ballroom in Brockley, South London, to experience the atmosphere and watch dozens of couples dancing in 1940s style.



The girls were given a tour of the Ballroom, which began life as a Picture Palace and was later converted into a ballroom in the 1950s. It still attracts dancers, musicians, celebrities and film-makers from all over the world. The students found inspiration for 1940s sets and costumes while taking the opportunity to try out some dance moves themselves. We look forward to the performance in November.

Staff in the English department are excited about introducing Philosophy within English lessons for Years 7 and 8 next year. They enjoyed an inset session after school from an expert in 'P4C' - '*Philosophy for Children*'. The aim of the organisation is to develop children's reasoning skills and encourage them to become more articulate.

MATHS

Maths Week

The Mathematics Department celebrated *Maths Week* from 12th - 19th July, and every pupil from Years 7 to 9 took part in a mathematical event.

Year 7

Teams of Year 7 pupils solved practical problems with the *Happy Puzzle Company* on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th July. They worked in teams of six to solve a variety of lateral thinking puzzles and developed their spatial awareness and thinking skills.

Year 8

Year 8 pupils visited St. Paul's Cathedral on 13th, 14th and 16th July, where they followed a maths trail around the nave and the crypt, looking at the geometry in the architecture. Most pupils also made it up the hundreds of steps to the galleries at the top of the dome, where they saw spectacular views over London. Other Year 8 pupils were also involved in creating maths computer animations.

Year 9

Pupils from all forms in Year 9 competed against each other in a *Spaghetti Bridge Building* competition on 12th July. Using only tape and dried spaghetti, they designed and made bridges which had to keep their structure and withstand the force of a 200g weight. A group of Year 9 pupils also attended a *STEM Big Bang* event at King's College London on 13th July, where they took part in activities and looked at careers involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



The Mathematics Department would like to thank all pupils and staff for their support and enthusiastic participation during *Maths Week*.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Do you speak another language fluently at home? Are you in Year 9 or above?

You could get a GCSE in your home language in addition to the other foreign language you are learning at school. There are many languages on offer, from Italian to Japanese, Arabic to Polish, Greek to Portuguese.

Due to the changes to GCSE examinations this year, there are no longer final writing exams in all languages and, therefore, you will need to complete your controlled assessments throughout next year, starting in October.



We will call a meeting early next term for anyone who is interested, so please make a decision over the summer and attend the meeting in September or address enquiries to either Mrs. Arnold, Examinations Officer or Ms. Bond in Modern Foreign Languages Department.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Rounders

Congratulations to the following girls who were selected to represent Camden in the National Rounders Finals on the 2nd of July in Corby Northamptonshire. Ify Obanye 11C (captain), Lucy Batikyan 10B, Brogan Blackburn 10B, Carrie Caceres 11B, Erowho Eseine 10A, Ehi Ehizode 11F, Leah King 10D Laura Mackinney 10D, Karen Pallas 11M, Claudia Quinn 10A, Roxanne Rosales 11F. We are also delighted that two outstanding players from Year 8 were also selected, Natalia Bus 8A and Madeline Wallace-Sinnott 8A.

Sports Day

On Friday 9th July La Sainte Union hosted our very first Sports Day for many years, for Years 7, 8 and 9. The girls had the opportunity to take part in three exciting events : Rowing, Rounders and Athletics. We were delighted with all their enthusiasm and energy throughout the day. A special congratulations goes to the "D's" who were overall House Champions of 2010. We look forward to another successful Sports Day next year.

Special Awards

Congratulations to Leah King 10D, who is ranked Number One in the Under-17 category in Great Britain for Fencing.

Well done to Janice Monakana 10D, who was selected for the Under-16 England Basketball team. Janice recently played a tournament in Dublin and was the top scorer. We wish her every success in the European Championships this summer.

A big 'thank you' to all of the girls who dedicated their time and effort to extra-curricular clubs. We look forward to another successful year next year.

SCIENCE

La Sainte Union hosts 'Fusion' Schools Lecture 2010

This year's Institute of Physics' (IOP) Schools Lecturer, Dr Melanie Windridge explained to 250 students from seven different secondary schools how scientists, working on nuclear fusion, hope to replicate the behaviour of the Sun here on Earth to produce a plentiful and environmentally friendly energy source.



Melanie has a PhD in Plasma Physics from Imperial College London, and has appeared on BBC One's *Bang Goes the Theory* and National Geographic Channel's *Mad Labs*. She believes "Fusion is the ultimate energy source - clean, green and safe with almost unlimited fuels. One

kilogram of fusion fuel releases the same amount of energy as 10 million kilograms of fossil fuel. Fusion has the potential to satisfy all our energy needs without resource problems, greenhouse gases or long-lived radioactive waste.”

Melanie hopes to inspire thousands of students across the UK to join her one day in the physics-based fight to overcome some of our world's most pressing concerns.

Science Clubs Day at the Science Museum

In July, our Science Club members attended an exclusive day at the Science Museum, with fantastic activities and events, and a chance to meet students from other Clubs. The Science Museum is renowned for putting on amazing shows, events, and experiences for audiences of all ages. The day included the IMAX film *Deep Sea 3D*, interactive galleries (*Launch Pad* and *Energy Lab*) and a spaghetti and marshmallow tower building challenge. Everyone, including the teachers, had lots of fun.

Salter's Chemistry Camp

Three Year 10 girls have been given places at Salter's Chemistry Camp; Eruwho Eseinune University of Cambridge, Laura Mackinney at Heriot-Watt University and Emily Okunowo at University of Sussex. Congratulations to the girls!

The Salter's Institute, which plays a major role in the support of Chemistry teaching and the promotion of chemical education, has established Chemistry Camps. These have the aim of encouraging young people to participate in the fun of Chemistry, motivating them into developing a long-term interest in the subject and its applications in modern life. The Camps are a three to five day event involving hands-on practical work in the University Chemistry Labs, together with lectures and a variety of social activities in the evenings. Campers are accommodated in a University Hall of Residence.

Water Rocket Challenge

Two Year 8 teams (Ashley Akingbade, Kia Augustine-Lambe, Sofia Baeta, Samira Conteh, Camilla Dadea, Tania De Freitas-Teixeira, Sian Donovan, Anais Ellis, Saphia Ezziene, Stephanie Okereafor, Katherine Polycarpou and Amanda Selormey) accompanied by Ms. Blake and Ms. Bould represented the school at *Water Rocket Challenge* 2010 held at National Physical Laboratory, Middlesex on Wednesday 23 June. This popular day has been running since 2003 and since then has had over 400 teams of six enter the competition. Awards were initially based on altitude and distance but now include landing accuracy combined with flight-time. The girls enjoyed taking part in this very competitive event and have returned to school with lots of ideas for improving their design for next year.



Nuffield Bursary

Congratulations to Yasmin Osei-Kuffour for being accepted on a five week work placement during the Summer holidays in the Immunology Department, Guys Hospital, through the Nuffield Foundation sponsorship.

Why We Are Scientists - A Science Expo for Schools at Queen Mary University.

Ms. Ware accompanied Year 12 Biologists to the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Queen Mary. The students were able to find out about the excellent research currently in progress within the School. The day included talks, laboratory demonstrations and poster presentations from staff and postgraduate students covering a range of topics within the fields of Biology and Psychology. The day was opened and attended by Ms. Diane Abbott MP.

Year 12 Chemists attended AIMS 2010: Adventures in Molecular Science

This one-day summer school at Department of Chemistry, University College London was designed for Sixth Formers studying 'A' Level Chemistry. The morning included a lecture, workshop, tours and laboratory work followed by a careers event and UCAS information session in the afternoon, finishing with an entertaining demonstration lecture. The day aimed to allow all participants to make informed decisions about the importance of Chemistry and related disciplines and of degree programmes based on it, as well as giving them a brief taste of university life.

Year 10 - Silver CREST Awards

In June Year 10 (Carianne Annan, Nadine Caballero, Eruowho Eseinune, Simisola Fatona, Joana Freitas, Saron Gerahtu, Alison Hernandez, Nicole Martins Freitas, Sian Smalley) presented their *Millennium Seed Bank Project* on extending the longevity of stored Foxglove seeds to Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Ewing, Mr. Gulliford, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lyons, Stephanie Sinclair from the Wellcome Trust and



Anna Davis, a STEM Ambassador with a background in Environmental Physics and Aerospace Engineering who works for Arup. Susanna Wisborg from SETPOINT London East was in to judge the project. All nine girls were awarded a Silver CREST Award.

Year 11 - Best Silver CREST Award, La Sainte Union Winners

Researchers at the *Millennium Seed Bank* are working to safeguard plants from extinction. This involves collecting seeds from all around the world



and storing them at temperatures of -20°C. Year 11 girls (Carrie Caceres-Taguiang, Ehimemen Edevbalo-Ehizode, Ekenechukwu Okey-Udah, Aoife O'Rourke, Olivia O'Shea, Michaela Rairata, Frances Roe, Roxanne Rosales) have helped in this vital conservation work by conducting experiments to see the effects of accelerated aging on seed germination. The girls presented their project at *'The Big Bang London Fair'* and won the Best Silver CREST Award prize. They will now be able to exhibit at the prestigious National Competition at the *Big Bang* in March 2011.

SOCIOLOGY

This term, our Sixth Formers have studied the Sociology of Crime and Deviance and have focused on the relativity of deviance, competing theories of social control and Marxist theories of crime and deviance.

In July, we were delighted to invite back Professor of Law & Criminology at King's College London, Penny Green, who gave a lecture to Year 12 Sociologists about state crimes and the work of the International State Crime Initiative, of which she is director. Our students have been very engaged in research into the Turkish earthquake, human rights violations at Abu Ghraib prison and the environmental disasters caused by oil spills in the USA and Niger Delta. They have found this research extremely interesting and very contemporary.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

The Support for Learning Department continues to offer a range of activities to encourage pupils' learning and their active involvement in school life.

Homework Club has been offered every day after school from 3.15 to 5.00 p.m. in Room S22. A range of colleagues continue to be available to assist with homework and an ever increasing number of pupils from all Year Groups regularly attend and make use of this excellent resource.

The VIP/Friendship Club continues to grow in numbers and attracts pupils from all Year Groups. Pupils have been involved in a range of activities including raising money for Haiti by designing and selling beautiful badges. Next year it is envisaged that the VIP Club will recruit senior pupils as helpers to assist in the running of the club. For their end of year trip, members will go to the Museum of London and, if weather permits, this will be followed by a picnic lunch on Hampstead Heath. This will be a fabulous experience for all pupils involved.

The Year 9 Drama Club organised by Ms. Molins has worked with Ms. Stone and the Anti-Bullying Committee to produce film sequences to be shown during PSHE and Assemblies.

The Department is working hard, in liaison with other departments, to offer a more differentiated and personalised curriculum to those pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) for whom a mainstream

curriculum is not appropriate. With this in mind, pupils have been offered activities such as Art therapy, speech classes, handwriting and ICT support. In addition, pupils in Year 10, who are studying the new Diploma, Young Apprenticeship and ASDAN courses, are being supported and monitored to ensure that they manage to keep up to date with the commitments of their alternative course and their GCSE coursework.

Members of the Department held the customary end of term summer party for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Prizes and Certificates and Peer to Peer Awards were also given for helpfulness, friendliness, kindness and most humorous pupil to the following pupils :

Helpfulness :	Ninotchka Rai [9C]
Friendliness :	Plum Bou-Assaf [11F]
Kindness :	Tatiana Maio Olival [9C]
Humour :	Rachel Houston [9M]

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Our Year 12 scientists continue to work in partnership with University College London Medical School as part of the *Target Medicine Scheme* and participated in another session on 30th June, meeting clinicians and learning about the application process. As you may be aware, Medicine is one of the most competitive degrees to apply for, so receiving advice first hand from doctors on how best to apply, the necessity of work experience and selection tests they will sit was invaluable.

On 9th July, Conquest Medical School came to La Sainte Union to run a seminar on *Getting into Medicine* for Year 12 students. Dr Marie-Claire Wilson and Dr Fiona Pathiraja organised a very engaging and demanding session for our students. They were put through their paces in a mock interview for a place at a 'medical school' and had to defend their position on several medical and ethical issues. Students found this session extremely useful and very hard work!

In September, our Careers Consultant, Andy Gardner and Ms. Jones will be running a series of sessions on applying for Oxbridge for Year 13 students who have achieved the requisite GCSE and AS grades and are interested in studying at Oxford or Cambridge.

La Sainte Union continues to be a member of the *Chrysalis Programme* at Highgate School. The partnership is aimed to raise both the aspirations and attainment of our most able students at both GCSE and 'A' Level. Highgate offers seminars and lectures for all state school pupils in the scheme as well as offering Oxbridge preparation sessions in the Autumn Term for students who are applying to top universities and who will need to go through an interview panel. In August, a group of Years 10 and 12 students will attend the *Chrysalis Summer School* at Highgate School We look forward to hearing their feedback from the course.

E-SAFETY IN 2009/2010 AND OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Over this school year, we have experienced a rise in the number of e-safety issues we have dealt with in school.

We have completed a programme of education and advice this year :

- Students have had a range of sessions during ICT lessons, PSHE lessons, assemblies and Community Drop Down days
- Staff have had training and information sessions on E-safety
- Governors have had an E-safety information session
- Parents have been offered E-safety sessions and have been provided with information. They have also received the Camden E-safety booklet in a recent newsletter.
- We have been approved by CEOP to host the CEOP report abuse button on our school website

Often this school year, both parents and students have used the school as the first point of advice for e-safety issues (primarily regarding issues relating to social networking sites). We are encouraging parents to take more responsibility for knowing what their children are doing online and how to deal with situations that they are unsure about. Recently Facebook have launched the ClickCEOP app. This application contains advice on what to do about inappropriate and incorrect posts, account hacking and feeling uncomfortable about something found online.

La Sainte Union strongly advises all students using Facebook to download the ClickCEOP app and have the ClickCEOP badge. Information relating to this has been put in all Form classrooms. Please spend time with your child downloading the ClickCEOP tab and talking to them about keeping safe online.

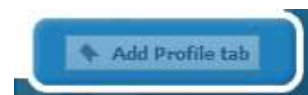
Get the Click CEOP tab



The click CEOP tab will help you stay in control.

It will guide you through easy steps to stay safer online.

Add the tab today and it will be there on your profile whenever you need it.



Share the ClickCEOP badge



Real friends watch out for each other, do it online.

Send your friends a badge and tell them about the ClickCEOP app.

Help them help themselves!



Add the ClickCEOP bookmark



Make it easy

Don't forget to bookmark the ClickCEOP app so you can access it on your Facebook homepage.



This gives you another way to access the latest help and advice.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Good attendance is crucial to a good education. Students must aim for a minimum of 95% attendance in any school year. Parents should note that Camden are raising their threshold for an automatic court order/penalty notice to **90%** (it was 85% until now). Camden are also introducing an automatic fine for families taking five or more days holiday in term time.

Lateness to school is also an issue for some pupils for which parents are held responsible. In September, we will be introducing same day detentions for all students who are late to school. Any student arriving between 8.30 a.m. and 8.50 a.m. will be asked to stay behind for 30 minutes plus the number of minutes they are late. Students arriving between 8.50 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. will be asked to stay behind for one hour. Parents will be notified by text message. Lateness after 9.30 a.m. is treated as an absence and must be accounted for by a note.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We are very pleased by the level of support that parents at La Sainte Union give us in managing the behaviour of their daughters. In order to uphold the good behaviour that the school enjoys, we wish to bring the following information to your attention :

Tariffs for Bad Marks

Bad Marks for Organisation

Number of Bad Marks	Sanction / Consequence
Four	Organisation workshop on a Wednesday after school
Second consecutive week on Four	Reporting to the Learning Mentor on Monday mornings at 8.00 a.m. for three weeks

Third consecutive week on Four	Referral to the Learning Mentor for one-to-one work.

Bad Marks for Behaviour

Number of Bad Marks	Sanction / Consequence
Four	Friday Detention for two hours
Eight or second consecutive week on Four	Friday Detention for two hours and meeting with parents
Twelve or third consecutive week on Four	Saturday Headteacher's Detention for two hours and meeting with parents.

Students with an overall total of **SIX** Bad Marks will also go on the Report Card system. Parents will be notified by letter. Students on Report Cards will set themselves targets for improvement and will take their cards home each evening for their parents to see and sign. There are three levels of Report Card :

1. Green (to the Form Tutor)
2. Amber (to the Head of Year)
3. Red (to the Head of Key Stage) Red reports may lead to Fixed Term Exclusions.

GLOBAL GENERATION

It's been another successful term for the Global Generation team. The garden layout was completed this term and the girls have started to grow their own crops. Watering the garden over the summer is our biggest challenge so if anyone is interested to help or has any other ideas for the future of our growing site, please contact dgrocott@lsu.camden.sch.uk . Jessenia Paz-Lopez [9F], who was recently nominated for the Jack Petchey award decided to give her £200 prize for long lasting crops for the garden such as soft fruit trees. The garden site also won second prize for the school's entry in the 2010 *Camden in Bloom Award*.

CITIZENSHIP

The Eco Committee has entered a competition run by Camden Council's Recycling department (a free, fully supported film project for schools in Camden). The Camden Waste and Recycling Advisor recently came into school to advise the pupils on making the film, which they have since completed successfully, with promising results. There

are four categories from which the films can win awards – Creativity In Context Award (Most creative use of the recycled materials in film), Documentary Award (The film that best informs the viewer about the new recycling services in Camden), Filmmakers' Award (The film that best demonstrates an understanding of quality of image, framing and photography), and the Ribtickling Recycling Award (The film that is the most entertaining and makes the judges laugh). Every film will be shown at the EVERYMAN CINEMA in Belsize Park on July 14th, with the pupils involved invited to attend – giving students the chance to see their work (and themselves!) on the big screen and portray their efforts to a wider audience. Every film will be entered into a competition to win £1,000 worth of prizes in what promises to be a wonderfully rewarding project for the children and teachers alike.

HEALTHY LIVING WEEK

The school celebrated healthy living week from the 5th-9th July. Students were able to take part in a number of activities designed to encourage everyone to lead a healthy lifestyle. A healthy breakfast was served every day in the canteen, with a friendly team of fruit and vegetables to give out badges! Years 7 and 8 were able to take part in the *Cyclicious Smoothie* event, in which



each pupil had to pedal to work the blender. Year 9 had a session from the *Young Minds* team about keeping healthy mentally. Year 8 made and gave away over 400 portions of delicious salads. They were also taught how to salsa dance. Forty-two students were given a whole

day's cycling proficiency training to teach them how to cycle on the roads safely. Students took part in the Odometer Challenge to see who cycled the most at the weekend.

In Geography, students studied lifestyle differences between themselves and people in poorer countries and looked at where our food comes from.

In History, students learned to dance to 1940's music. In ICT students made healthy food fact posters and in Art, students made seed pots and drew fruit and vegetables.

PEER MENTORING

July 2010

The current Peer Mentors ceased their activities when they went on study and examination leave. Judging by the number of questions from both staff and students about their whereabouts, they are being sorely missed. But, no fear! They will be back in September accompanied by seventeen new Year 11 students. The new mentors are giving up a weekend at the end of July to take part in a residential training programme. But even before that, they excelled themselves at the Year 6 Transition Evening, running sessions for the Year 6 pupils to help them feel at home when they join La Sainte Union in September.

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND 'SAFE PLACE TO BE' 2010/2011

A new programme of clubs and activities will run next term. PE Clubs and Homework Clubs will begin week commencing 13th September. All other clubs will start the week commencing 20th September. Clubs are run both at lunchtime and after school. These clubs are rarely cancelled. In the event that they are, pupils will be able to telephone parents. Alternatively, parents can ask their daughter to go to Homework Club, if this happens (see below if you would like her to register). Parents can then rest assured that their daughter is fully occupied at school until 4.30–5.00 p.m. on the days you need this.

How do we know what is available? Our clubs and activities will be advertised on Fronter, our website and on noticeboards. We will also send a summary brochure home on Friday 17th September. A PE brochure will be available in the first week of term.

Why should pupils join out of school clubs and activities?

We strongly encourage students to join clubs and take full advantage of the wide range of activities the school provides after school. This year's programme will include a wide range of sports and physical activities; music clubs, including our highly successful Gospel Choir and LSU voices; Drama Club, voice coaching, Science, healthy cookery, film, fashion and many more.

Research shows that young people who take up physical activities when they are young are more likely to continue in future life. Clubs also provide a more informal atmosphere for pupils to work with school staff; the chance for them to develop skills, confidence and the opportunity to try out things which are not available in daily lessons. Attendance at clubs also helps pupils to feel more a part of our LSU community and therefore more committed to their success at school.

Study Provision

Getting into homework routines is absolutely essential if pupils are to reach their full potential at school. Many pupils find it useful to take advantage of a quiet computer study space in school to do homework before leaving school

each day. This year we are going to provide a separate Senior and Junior homework space and support by graduate staff will be available for pupils who may have questions about their homework.

'Safe Place to Be'

La Sainte Union provides a supervised Homework Club between 3.15 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. every day in Room S22 for **all Years 7 and 8 pupils**. If you want to be sure that your daughter attends on any evening please ask Mrs. Reilly (Junior Building Admin Office) for a Registration Form. Room 12 will also be open from 8.00 a.m. every morning for pupils who wish to study before school.

CAMDEN'S REFUGEE PUPILS' AWARDS CEREMONY, 22ND JUNE 2010

Camden's Refugee Pupils' Awards Ceremony is held to recognise pupils' contributions within their school communities and takes place during Refugee Week. One of the purposes of this Week is to celebrate refugees' contributions to the United Kingdom.

Here in La Sainte Union, three pupils were nominated to receive awards :

Keziah Doudy Yempo [7B] for significant academic achievement

Hermine Mpuati [7F] for supportive and caring attitude

Joelle Bisimwa [11A] for significant commitment and effort all round

They received their award certificates from the Mayor of Camden. They are a credit to themselves, their school and to their parents.

RAG DOLL WORKSHOP

The traditional rag dolls the girls are making in aid of a children's charity should be finished next week. Their completion will mark the end of much hard work by the girls who have shown great selflessness and commitment and also the end of many hours of preparatory work by Madame Sinclair (Congolese Link Worker for this year) and Madame Zola (Design Expert). The dolls are made of organic materials and conform to British Standards. They are cute. At the time this newsletter goes to press they are not dressed so you will have to wait for the next issue to see photos of them!

Girls who have participated in the workshop are : Deborah Badolo [9C], Deborah Dikanda [7B], Melissa Fund [7M], Vanessa Gbadoe [7M], Lelliott Kapesa [8B], Sarah Kusaka [8A], Jessica Makenda [8M], Abigail Ndongo Domingos [8A], Delicia Tasinda [8A], Plefilia Tampwhuo-Eyab [8A] and Plenty Tampwhuo-Eyab [7B]. Aurellie Ndosa [10B] also gave some of her work experience time to the project.

IRISH TRAVELLERS' DISPLAY AND ASSEMBLY

Irish Travellers in the school have designed a display and written a presentation for an assembly to inform pupils about their way of life. Ms. Jo Davey from Camden has offered to be their spokesperson and deliver their words but they will be there to operate the PowerPoint and the music and video clips they have selected. The presentation begins *'We are Irish Travellers. We are normal people. People say bad things about us because they don't know the facts'*. The facts they present include the importance of family and marriage, the Catholic faith and keeping traditions and their work definitely extends our understanding of their culture. We hope that other groups will also want to share their traditions with us.

END OF TERM CELEBRATIONS

I hope all the girls enjoy their end of year trips on Wednesday 21st July 2010 :

Year 7	Kenwood
Year 8	Woburn Abbey
Year 9	Phasels Wood
Year 10	London Zoo

On Thursday, there is a reward for all pupils and I hope the girls enjoy the treat to be put on by staff.

On Friday 23rd July, we will close the year with a whole school Mass at 9.30 a.m. Girls will be dismissed at 12 noon.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Parents and Friends Association has grown very successfully this year and the International Evening on 2nd July was one of the highlights of the year. Singing, dancing and recitals from different national cultures were performed. The Senior Hall was bedecked with many flags showing the diversity of nations represented in La Sainte Union and parents were extremely generous in providing a banquet to feed the 350 people who attended. There was a great atmosphere, as people showed pride in their backgrounds and set a very high standard for future events. Ms. Shakespeare and the PE Department and Ms. Barker are to be congratulated for their contribution to the smooth organisation of evening.

My thanks also go to Mrs. Liz Doyle who has been so successful in leading the Parents and Friends Association for the past year and ensuring the success of the various fundraising activities. She is stepping down, due to other commitments and so the PFA will be looking for a new Chair in September. If you are interested in the role, do ring the school in September and speak to Ms. H. Taylor for further information.

Again, my warm appreciation to Liz and all the Committee for their support of the school.

LA SAINTE UNION'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

In 2011, La Sainte Union will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. LSU Sisters set up the school in Camden in 1861 and moved to our present site in 1864. This was reported in *The Tablet*, at that time praising *“the exertions of the good Sisters of La Sainte Union who had lately settled in Kentish Town and who were about to add to the education advantages of the locality,* and the rest is history.

We will be celebrating that history throughout 2011, including a Mass at Westminster Cathedral, producing an historical project to discover information about in Highgate in the 1860s and a celebration of the work of the La Sainte Union Order both here and abroad. We do hope to hold an event for past pupils, as well as parents, so do pass this information on to anyone else who may be interested and check our website for updates over the next year.

Unusually for La Sainte Union, we have had some girls leaving the school, most often due to family relocations. You may have seen a notice in your parish Newsletters and whilst places are now filled in Years 7-9, there are still a few places in Year 10 for September 2010. Please contact the school for an application form, if you are interested in a place.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Stevensons have informed us that on-line ordering will be available from 2nd August. Please email htaylor@lsu.camden.sch.uk if you have any concerns about the service provided by Stevensons or telephone the school during term time.

FAREWELL

We will be saying goodbye to a number of staff and my very sincere thanks to all who are leaving, for their service and dedication to the school. We wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We say farewell to :

Ms. R. Barker	Head of EMAG
Mrs. C. Haviland	Head of Year 10/Teacher of English
Mrs. S. Leonard	Assistant Headteacher
Mr. R. Mayers	Head of Media Studies
Mr. D. Patel	ICT Strategy Manager
Ms. G. Andrews	}
Ms. U. McAuley	} Learning Support Assistants

Ms. K. McManus }

Ms. M. Madden }

Ms. N. Manning } Cover Supervisors

Mr. F. Wynne }

Mr. S. Craig Design and Technology Technician

RETIREMENT OF SR. AIDEEN KEANEY

We do say a particularly huge 'thank you' including farewell to Sr. Aideen Keaney, who has taught at La Sainte Union for 36 years, as Head of Year 7 and latterly as Child Protection Officer. She is the last La Sainte Union Sister to teach at the school and I have been very appreciative of her help and guidance in my first two years as Headteacher.

Sr. Aideen knows so many of the past pupils and their families and her knowledge of the school and its traditions will be sadly missed.

END OF YEAR PRAYER

Let us give thanks for the past year.

For the things we have learnt, for the fun we have had

for the skills we have gained,

for the help we have had,

and for the friends we have made.

Let us pray for those leaving school at the end of this year.

For pupils, teachers, helpers; for their new careers, new friends and new activities

and for their well-being,

Let us pray for ourselves

For a happy holiday time,

For safety for those who travel,

For families and friends,

For help and guidance in the new school year

and for continuing growth in faith and hope and love.

all the days of our lives. ***AMEN***

May I finish by thanking all the Parents and Friends of La Sainte Union for the overwhelming support the school receives from you and the shared sense of responsibility of providing the very best for your daughters and sons. Our continued success is dependent on this support and it is good to hear this reiterated as I meet so many parents who appreciate the many opportunities we strive to create.

A Calendar with dates for the beginning of Term etc. is attached to this Newsletter.

With every good wish for a good summer holiday for you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. M. Williams
Headteacher

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REPLY SLIP

Newsletter: July 2010

Name of Pupil : _____ Form : _____

Signature : _____ Parent/Guardian _____