

IN THIS TERM'S EDITION

Building Schools for the
Future

New Entrepreneurship
course offered by the
Business Studies
Department

Career Academy
Internship 2011

Cass School links
up with Europe

Comenius Project

School Trips

Parents Forum

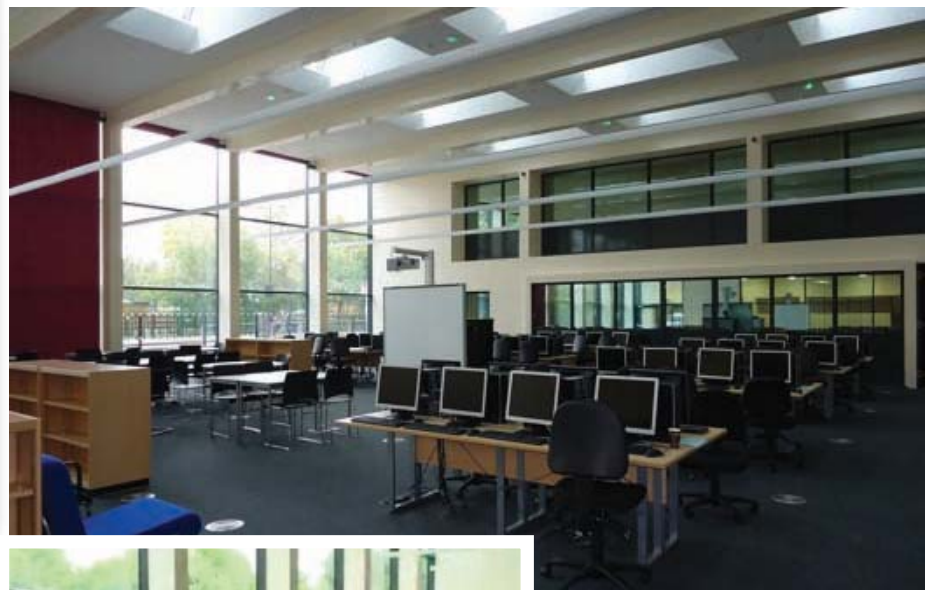
Dates for your diary



SIR JOHN CASS REDCOAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

CASS NEWS

AUTUMN TERM 2011



Sir John Cass School is in the final stages of it's BSF (Building Schools for the Future) Project. We have a brand new 5 storey building, Performing Arts block complete with state of the art theatre, and a new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) as pictured, where students can study and learn. The school is also currently in the process of installing a new video wall in the VLE for use by both staff and students.



Building Schools for the Future

Business College News



New Entrepreneurship course offered by the Business Studies Department

29 students have enrolled on the 2 year fulltime course of Enterprise & Entrepreneurship in the Cass Sixth Form College. This is a new course launched by the Business Studies Department to meet the needs of students wishing to

run their own business. According to the London Assembly, in 2006, Tower Hamlets had a relatively high figure of business start ups. It has experienced twice the number of new businesses created in that year than the figure for London. This equates to almost 1200 new businesses.

The Cass Business & Enterprise College is also ideally located close to the City of London, Canary Wharf, and Stratford's Westfield (Europe's largest urban shopping centre). There are other perks to being a student on this course: You can apply to be part of the Careers Academy Programme and experience a six week paid internship during the summer holidays. Students can also take

part in the Young Enterprise Company programme, and experience first hand, setting up and running their own businesses.

The Enterprise course is accredited by Edexcel /BTEC but designed by the National Enterprise Academy, founded by Peter Jones. He is Britain's best known entrepreneur and one of the experts on Dragon's Den. This 7 Unit qualification is a level 3 course, equivalent to one A'level. In the first year, students study Innovative Entrepreneurship, Business planning, Leadership and Teamwork. In the second year, students study Finance, Social Enterprise, Market Research & Analysis, Brand Development and Promotion.

A variety of assessment methods are used but most work is through assignments where you complete real work tasks to meet deadlines as you would for a business enterprise but within a supportive Business & Enterprise College environment. On successful completion of the course, students are well placed to start up their own company or to work within an established business helping it to grow. Alternatively, students can progress to a higher education course in Business, Management, Enterprise, Marketing or Finance.

For further information, please see Mr Bhadare or Mr Shahid.

Career Academy Internship 2011 - My Experience by Mehrujahem Begum

My name is Mehrujahem Begum. I am currently in Year 13 studying Law, Personal Finance and Health & Social Care. During October last year notices were put out for business students asking for applicants who were interested in taking part in the internship of career Academy which consisted of trips, meetings and a six week paid internship at Barclay's capital.

Miss Miller was responsible for selecting twelve students whom she thought had the capability in representing the sixth form college and making the most out of this opportunity. She sent out forms which were to be filled and from which she would select a few and interview them. The selection process was quite competitive as from sixty students only twelve would be confirmed. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky people who were selected after two interviews.

After being selected I visited places and meetings which gave me an idea of working life. In these visits I came across amazing people with great experience and from all one thing was very clear "Education is indeed relevant" After a year of trips and meetings finally in the summer I went for my work experience at Barclay's capital. I worked with the operating team in a sourcing



department. This department was similar to the trading department. People working in that team were known as sourcing managers whom carried out deals in which they purchased items for a reasonable amount and also had to meet their target saving which the head of the team would provide them weekly with.

There were many things that I did whilst working for example; I did a lot of spreadsheets, reports and observations. Whilst doing so I learnt different aspects of banking. I went through training which the bank provided and in which I improved many skills. For instance, personally I am not so confident in speaking in front of a group but through meetings and presentations I built my confidence. I am now able to speak without worrying. Also my computing skills were improved as I had to constantly use it. One of the key things that I learnt was "networking is significant" since my induction day until my last day the people I met all said the same thing and I agree with this.

Additionally I had to be very punctual and formal. I was required to dress smartly, talk in a professional manner and to be polite. Also one thing that made me very comfortable was that if I didn't understand certain task I should ask.

Also for those who will be applying this year do not assume that you will not have fun or will not be able to meet your other friends. You can! I met up with my friends but also you should remember that the six week work experience is a great opportunity and it must be used wisely. You can meet friends whenever but at that time you should think of yourself.

To summarise my experience in few words I would say that it was fun, exciting and I enjoyed meeting new people whom I still miss and I wish I could go back.

Language College News



This term sees the start of an international project between Sir John Cass and schools in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Spain. This "Comenius Project" which receives funding from the European Union will focus on how schools will develop in the future and how we can develop greater opportunities for international cooperation. As part of the work students will also be selected to visit our partner schools and represent Sir John Cass. This will all start with a visit from teachers to our school in November. For updates on the progress



of the project please see the website www.ourcomenius.wordpress.com and those interested in becoming involved in the project should attend the meetings after school on Wednesdays with Marie Zlámlová, our Comenius Assistant.



In the picture you can see students from our partner school in Poland who are working on the project.



Sir John Cass School plays host and links up with Europe

Sir John Cass School is hosting Marie Zlámlová from the Czech Republic as part of an EU scheme giving young people better insight into life across Europe.

Marie will work as a member of staff until May 2012, gaining experience in teaching across the curriculum and raising

awareness about their home country and culture.

The Comenius Assistants programme is funded by the European Commission and managed in the UK by the British Council. Comenius Assistants provide an important free resource for their host school and can add an international dimension across the school curriculum and support language learning.

Comenius Assistants are future teachers from across Europe. The programme aims to develop knowledge and understanding of different European cultures and languages, and help young people gain skills for their future lives and careers. As well as learning about their assistant's home country, the programme also helps young people learn more about their own culture and build links within their local community. In return, the assistant gains a valuable insight into a different education system and culture and develops their

language and teaching skills.

Marie, our Comenius Assistant, said: "In August, I finished my studies of Czech and French languages and literature at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Ostrava, in the east of Czech Republic. The post of Comenius assistant will let me experience another culture, language and its approach to teaching and discover new points of view for life through education.

My work in French lessons and observing English teaching in Sir John Cass will inspire me in my own career as a teacher. I would like to start with Czech club as well where I can hand over the knowledge about my language and country. Although the Czech Republic is a small state, it could be interesting for students to discover the culture of central Europe and maybe get to know who Comenius was and where he came from.

I understand that cooperation

between schools in Europe is very important; I would like to become a teacher and I want to organize exchange visits among schools in the European Union. The Comenius Assistant Program will enable me to become familiar with structure of this process."

Head of EU Programmes at the British Council Simon Williams said: "We have a responsibility to prepare young people for life and work in our global society. Programmes like this one not only help to build trust and understanding between people of different cultures, but also broaden pupils' horizons, bring languages and other subjects to life in the classroom, and equip young people with the skills and understanding they need to become global citizens."

There will be around 150 Comenius Assistants from 28 countries across Europe working in UK schools over the 2011-12 academic year.

School Trips Mews

Year 11 trip to World Skills event at Excel

On the 6th of October, eager year 11 students went with Mr Wallace to Custom House - Excel's on-site train station for the annual World Skills event - the world's largest international skills competition. So why haven't you heard of it you ask? Well, the last time the World Skills was held in London was 22 years ago. It's similar to the World Olympics. Contestants compete to be the best in their country and the 1000 winners from 50 countries then contend in 45 skill areas over four days for the world title.

As we observed the many skills on display from painting, cooking and hair-dressing to engineering, plumbing and web-designing, we were able to try out the skills for ourselves at the 'Have a Go' zones. The activities ranged from electronics and fashion to cabinet making.

There were many professional employers such as the BBC, L'Oreal Fashion, HSBC and Acer. The stars of 'The Only Way Is Essex' were there too, engaging visitors in designing dresses for them to wear!

Specialist careers advice was on hand to supply information regarding a skill we took a particular interest to. The event inspired many and gave us the opportunity to learn about the world of skilled professions.

Rima Rashid 11A



Nazim 11A and Co. showing off their dance moves at World Skills! Help them win the Arbesko Facebook competition by liking them at Arbesko Facebook/97 Cass Pirates



Just a few of the hairstyles the competitors created.



Thasnim 11D and Marzia 11C posing with a cutout of Korean band Big Bang. Somebody should tell Marzia they're not really there.

Year 11 Trip to Oxford

Thirty Year 11 students were given the opportunity to visit Oxford University as part of the Aim Higher programme. After the long coach journey we all nearly froze walking down to the prestigious university in the cold weather. First, we took part in a workshop to experience academic research. Here we were split into groups and given evidence such as a Viking account of an attack written in old English along with graphs of a country's annual

temperatures and population before linking them. This activity showed us that University doesn't require the teacher to simply teach the facts but to carry out research beside the student.

After that we were given a tour of Wadham's College grounds including its Junior Common room and gardens. We were told the gardens consisted of trees that biology students had grown after realizing that they were not extinct and we learnt that most of the trees weren't even originally from England as the central tree was from Persia. We also discovered that the gardens were



Walking around campus, Oxford University



used for early experimentation as we were told dogs bled to death for research and blood transfusions during the first stage of scientific research, leaving thousands of corpses below.

Next we got to see the university's Bodleian library which contains every book ever published in the UK and underground is home to a remarkable 11 million books- a writers dream!

There are altogether 6 Bodleian libraries in the whole UK. But the awe didn't end there as we found out Oxford owned a total of 40 libraries!

It was finally lunch time and we were given free time to explore Oxford's town centre and eat. It was very clear that we were no longer in London as we were surrounded by cobbled streets filled with cyclists rather than cars. The original Victorian buildings were mostly intact but occupied by businesses such as McDonalds and Orange. Overall it was an enjoyable trip. We learnt that anyone can go to university and that Oxford help you financially too with the expensive fee to come in the following years. It maybe is second best in size but its first best in praise!

Aaliya Deen 11S

Year 13 Trip to Oxford

Authors - *Anthony Page, Jubair Ahmed and Kevin Ngo* (Year 13).

"When I arrived at the University, I did not know whether I was visiting Oxford or Hogwarts. The entire university city was like being back in the Victorian era, just without Dumbledore. The magnificent halls, the brilliant greenery, the secret underground library and the mazes of corridors and long-standing buildings; what's not to like!

We experienced mock interviews to increase our chances of gaining a place at Oxford University; it opened our eyes to the kind of mature, independent and hard-working students they required. They consider not just those with great ability but those with great mentality. The university was very generous with students, had great technology readily available, no expense was spared. The University boasts large campuses, great halls of residences and little bits of magic everywhere; who would not aspire to learn at Oxford, possibly the greatest university and site of learning in the country if not the world."



Year 8 Trip to Cambridge

On Thursday 6th October a group of the most able pupils in Year 8 departed Sir John Cass to visit the University of Cambridge. The party was met at Clare College and had the chance to meet one of the college's senior tutors before being given a tour of the grounds and buildings; highlights including the college library, private gardens and bridge over the River Cam and finally, a current student's living quarters. Following an introduction to university

life from the college's Schools Liaison Officer, pupils took part in an activity planning an ideal Freshers Week.

The 27 strong group was accompanied by two members of staff, a number of parents and two Year 13 students who will be applying to Cambridge this year. The pair were able to meet former Sir John Cass student Nobith Miah, who is now at Clare College studying Medicine.



**Nasir
Mohammed
Tahir**

Sir John Cass Alumni

Former Sir John Cass student Nasir Mohammed Tahir tells us what he has been up to since leaving 6th Form college!

After I graduated from Sir John Cass 6th Form College in 2008, I decided to travel to Malaysia to further my studies. I studied a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with the University of Sunderland and achieved a First class result.

I am currently studying a Masters in Science and Aerospace Engineering at Queen Mary University. I would recommend any student to attend Sir John Cass. I received great support from staff, especially Mrs. Barnes, who was Head of Sixth Form. The college is like a home that makes it easy for students to study and succeed.

Parents Forum

The Parents' Forum is to resume this term and a letter will be going out to parents during the first week following the break.

One of the aims of the Forum is to involve parents more in developing the school. It would be particularly relevant at this time of the year as in January we will begin consulting with students, staff and governors, as well as parents, over priorities for change in the new school year.

In the past we have used Concentra, a very reputable evaluation consultancy, in identifying our priorities. However, this year we plan to use the Parents' Forum to test out recommendations by incorporating them directly into the questionnaire that Concentra will circulate early in the Spring term of 2012.

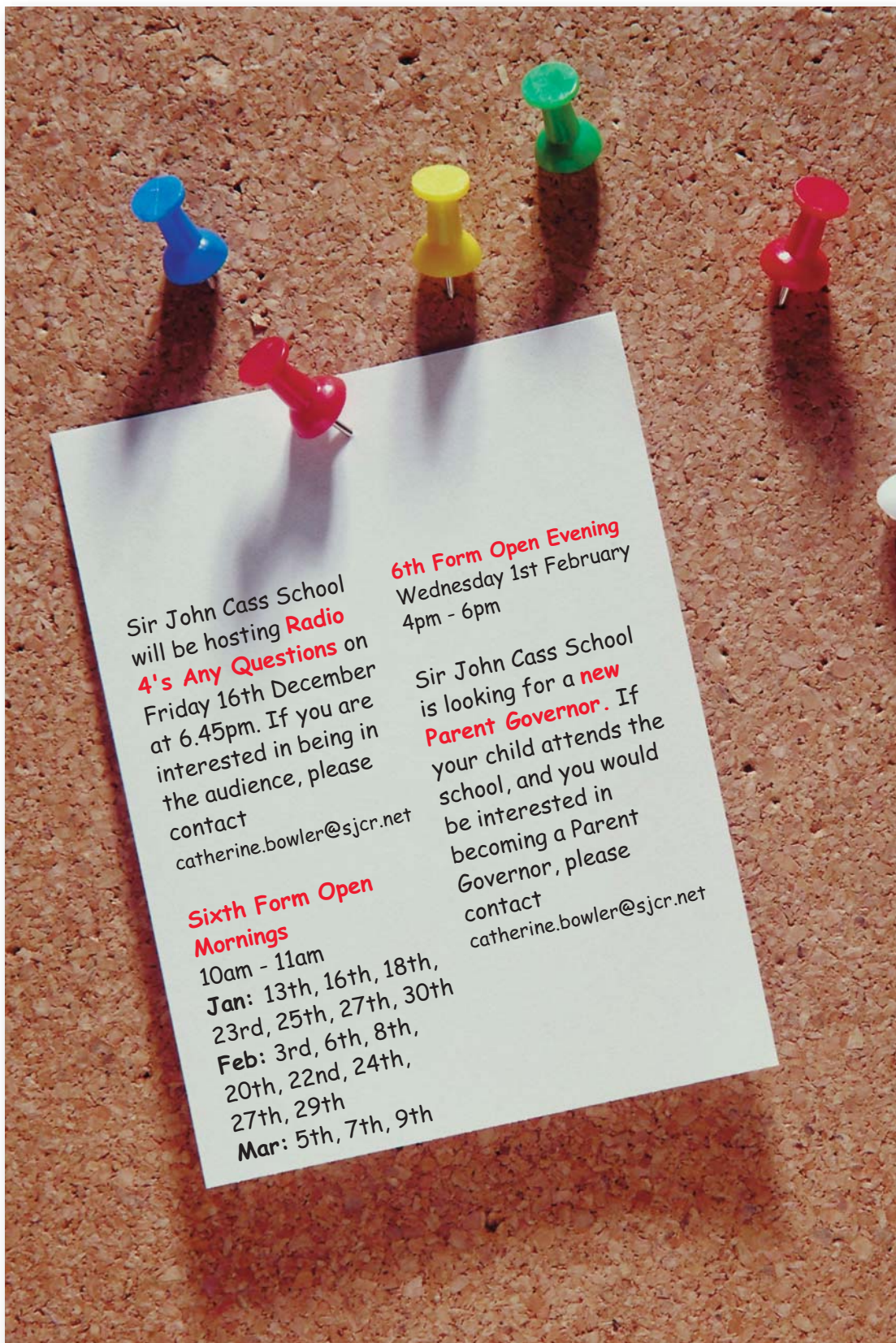
There are many aspects to the work of the Parents' Forum in addition to school planning. Other areas of interest include fund raising, presentation topics, home

school liaison and whatever else becomes an interest. At this time of the year the priority just happens to be school development planning.

All parents are invited to attend the Parents' Forum. If you have any questions about it please do contact Ms S. Uddin, Head of Learning and Home School Curriculum Coordinator, through the School office.

Haydn Evans, Head Teacher

Events Diary



Sir John Cass School will be hosting **Radio 4's Any Questions** on Friday 16th December at 6.45pm. If you are interested in being in the audience, please contact catherine.bowler@sjcr.net

6th Form Open Evening
Wednesday 1st February
4pm - 6pm

Sir John Cass School is looking for a **new Parent Governor**. If your child attends the school, and you would be interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please contact catherine.bowler@sjcr.net

Sixth Form Open Mornings

10am - 11am
Jan: 13th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 30th
Feb: 3rd, 6th, 8th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 27th, 29th
Mar: 5th, 7th, 9th