

Shene News

For
Pupils & Parents

9th October 2009



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

reading the report by Ms Callaway and Mr Costello about their visit to Africa makes very clear how lucky children living in the UK are when it comes to the wealth of resources and facilities they enjoy – but which they may take for granted. I am so pleased we are able to make a difference in our own school by improving our exam results so much and by supporting children to be the best they can be; I am also delighted that we can make a difference to children on another continent as well. The number of books packed up to be sent was testimony to how Shene children and staff embrace charitable and humane causes so enthusiastically: Ms Callaway and a group of students worked for hours sorting, packing and taping boxes full of books ready for collection. Another example of our work for others is this week's Sponsored Walk around Richmond Park which is intended for all except Year 11s. An article on this walk will be available in the next edition of Shene News.

Local primary parents are in the process of receiving an Information Bulletin from Shene School about secondary school issues. I will do one per term, approximately. This first edition covers the new Government White Paper, which lays out some important changes for parents and students, and brief details about the Diploma, a qualification introduced a couple of years ago for students seeking a different kind of 14 – 19 course. If you

would like a copy, or would like your primary school to receive copies, please let the office know and we will arrange to send one to you.

Finally, a welcome and a big thank you to all our new Year 7 parents who attended the 'Settling In' evening run by Ms Roach and a dedicated team. It was a very pleasant evening and everyone seemed very positive about their child's progress in Shene School. I know that many of you shared your details with Lis Molge, Chair of the PTA, and I hope some of you will be at the meeting this week. Please come to the Car Boot Sale on Sunday as well which goes from 10am to 2pm on the field. I hope to meet many of you there!

Best wishes,

Lesley Kirby
Headteacher, Shene School

LIKOMA ISLAND, LAKE MALAWI

During the summer Ms Callaway and Mr Costello travelled to an island called Likoma situated in Lake Malawi. They were there to take part in a charity football tournament for local islanders which had been funded and supported by a lodge on the island called Kaya Mawa. Mr Costello participated in the tournament as well as refereeing the matches, while Ms Callaway was responsible for the organisation of the teams and order of play.

Over 1000 people attended the tournament, with some of the teams walking for up to 3 hours in order to

participate. Although many of the teams were able to play in a team kit, most of them played all of their games in bare feet! 16 teams entered the tournament and the matches were played in 4 pools.



The winners of each pool went through to the semi-final and were also therefore eligible for some prize money; this increased depending on final position. As well as prizes such as caps and t-shirts, the overall winning team won the equivalent of a month's salary! During the stay on island, Ms Callaway and Mr Costello visited a local school and presented them with some sports equipment which many of the pupils had never seen before. These included a basketball, a vortex and an aerobic, which was all donated by Shene School.

They then also visited a pre-school called Chisomo where the children, despite being on their school holidays, came in especially to say hello. This school has become very popular for the local children as they are provided with breakfast every day; a meal that otherwise they may not be able to have.

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Kaya Mawa Lodge is now merging with the charity 'Malawi Dream' in order to help the islanders become self sufficient. Due to the funding and support of this charity, the island now has electricity, and some of the villages have access to clean water which is pumped up from the lake.



Shene School is now in close contact with the island, and a shipment of old text books and football kits started their journey to Malawi yesterday.

For more information on Malawi Dream please see www.malawidream.com.

FOOTBALL NEWS

"I've seen it, but I don't believe it"

The Year 8 football team deservedly won their **first ever** match yesterday with a fantastic team performance, triumphing 5-3 at Christs. The squad was bolstered by some excellent Year 7s (Nemanja was even man of the match) and debutants Sam and Louis. They passed the ball nicely

and were strong in the tackle throughout.

They showed resilience and determination coming back from 1-0 and 3-2 down to eventually win by 2 clear goals. Faiswal and Harry both scored 2, threatening the Christ's back line with their skill and pace and Sam capping a fine display in central mid-field with a timely strike to draw Shene level. They are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship and the manner in which they represented Shene! A great result!

Team: Yll, Louis, Nemanja, William, Michael, Leo, Harry, Sam, Billy, Faiswal, Alex, Erdal, Jacob, Freddy, Aidan

A massive thanks to the Mr Chevous, Ms Gillespie, Mr Johnston and Mr Roberts taxi service.....



LITERACY DRIVE

We are driving literacy to the front of pupils' and teachers' minds here at Shene. Year 7s are using word mats in all their lessons to improve their vocabulary, and teachers are focusing on good literacy in homework marking - you've probably seen yellow highlighter pens used to emphasise particularly good pieces of written work.

Word of the Week has been running since the start of term, and so far 7MM and 10T2 have won prizes and certificates for correctly guessing what the Word of the Week has been. Every pupil should have the words so far, *effective* and *advantageous*, written into their diaries. It would be advantageous to do this ~ watch this space....

Can I encourage parents and carers to spend time reading with your child, and ensuring they have a reading book or something to read (even if it's a write-up of the latest CD or football match) ~ particularly useful if they ever find themselves at a loss as to what to do! Good levels of literacy make a big difference in life, academic and otherwise.

E. Carbro

Director of Literacy

TARGET SETTING DAY

Friday 23rd October is Target Setting Day. Parents/Carers should have received a form to complete in order to fix a time for them to accompany their children to this important day. Pupils must come to school in full school uniform bringing their planners with them. We look forward to meeting you on 23rd.

Dr. J. Johnston

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