

The View from Chanel

July 2017

Below is Charlotte's winning poem:

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a busy and exciting year for Chanel. From raising money for important charities to developing our artistic skills, from success in national poetry competitions to an impressive showing at sports day, the students of Chanel have made it a memorable first year for me as their head of House. I hope you enjoy reading about their achievements and look forward to sharing more celebrations with you next year.

Mr Taylor-Richardson
Head of Chanel

National Poetry Competition

During tutorials throughout October, students in Chanel wrote lyric poems, in which they expressed their thoughts and feelings on topics they felt passionate about. A diverse range of themes were showcased, from family to the environment with students recounting memories or looking ahead to the future. These poems were submitted to *Busta Rhyme*, a national poetry contest organised by Young Writers, an association that since 1991 has been engaging young people in creative writing.

Mr Taylor-Richardson has entered work from students previously but this was the first time that a school house had competed in such a competition. Overall, there were entries from 900 schools but the work of Chanel clearly stood out as Highsted was awarded third place with 58 pupils selected to have their work published in an anthology of poetry. The school was awarded £250 for this accomplishment and, even more impressively, a Highsted student was selected as the winner of the grand prize. Charlotte T from Year 10 produced so powerful a poem that she saw off competition from 22,000 students to win £1000, proof that the creativity of Highsted students knows no bounds.

Harming Me

Looking up through small gaps in my cage,
Workers working their daily wage
Harming me.

Pulled by my ears, legs, neck or whatever they hold first
Dragged by unashamed faces in a hearse
Like I'm dead not alive
Harming me.

What for? You may ask,
I'll inform you that your daily tasks
To be beautiful,
Are
Harming me

Black acid in my eyes for long lashes
Your blood red lipstick causes me long rashes
What for?
Harming me.

A child's shot is what they fear the most
However, did you know it's one of my daily costs?
Needles full of poison not prevention.
Feeding this barbaric convention
Harming me.

How large is the body count?
We get no memorial mount
It's not my choice
Harming me.

I'm alone in the universe
With four universal daily truths:
Pain, chemicals, experimentation, repeat
Each day is another defeat.
Harming me.

It's been like this my entire life,
Here and now until I die
Do you ever know why?
Like a prisoner, like the beast
Like a freak, like the least
I am not
I am a living being
Not
An experiment
You know why?
It's harming me.

Chanel Photography Competition

In term 4 the students of Chanel put their phones to good use and engaged in a photography competition. The theme of the contest was 'Contrast' and below is the winning entry and the two runners-up. Congratulations to all who took part.



Winner: Tallulah L, Year 7



Second Place: Ella L, Year 9



Third Place: Katie E, Year 12

Harvest Festival

Pupils of Highsted were given the theme of 'Inspiration' for the Harvest Festival 2016 and the standard of harvest boxes was truly inspirational. The 30 form groups were awarded a mark out of ten and the possibility of being crowned the winner for the following three criteria: Relevance to theme, Generosity and Creativity. Boxes were presented and judged in two assemblies and forms from Chanel scooped two of the prizes!

Overall winner: C4

C4 made a significant effort in the creation of their box: a fantastic globe decorated with the names of a number of inspirational people.

Generosity: C3

C3 donated a significant amount of food for harvest: there was a variety of products which would have undoubtedly helped the local community.

Well done to the students of C3 and C4.

The Chanel Summer Fete

To raise money for our chosen charities (Save the Children and Motor Neurone Disease Association), the students of Chanel arranged a summer fete. With traditional events like hook the duck and a raffle combined with the human fruit machine and smoothie bars, the event was a huge success, raising £286. Special thanks go to C1 for their sweets and craft stalls and to all of the students who volunteered to receive a sponging from their peers in the name of charity!

Sports Day

At the recent Sports Day, the students of Chanel showed they were not only creative and charitable but also athletic. Placing third overall, notable successes came in Year 7 with the girls winning the Dodgeball and Rounders tournaments and the relay. Great individual successes were achieved by Pelumi O (Year 7) and Tierney S (Year 10). Congratulations to all who took part and supported the house.



Each house had a designated theme for the event with the theme inspired by major sporting events of the year. Chanel's theme was the Women's Cricket World Cup: consequently cricket whites were the order of the day. Special thanks to Lauren A and Megan B of Year 12 for taking the lead on designing cricket ball costumes and a bat shaped banner to cheer on the team as they competed.

