

The Thomas Aveling News



Dear Parents

This has been a busy and productive term. As we approach the 'examination season', staff are working extremely hard to prepare and support Year 9s (Key Stage 3 tests), Year 11s (GCSEs) and Post-16 students (AS/A2/VCEs). All other year groups have internal examinations that provide information for both students and the school about their progress during the year. It is essential that every student achieves their personal best and I know parents will help to ensure that the holiday period is balanced between some well-earned rest and productive revision. We have increased our very successful Easter revision classes for Year 9 and Year 11 and expect large numbers of pupils to boost their grades through focused revision.

I am pleased to report an exceptionally high recruitment to our Sixth Form for next September. This is excellent news for all students as we are again able to broaden the number of subjects we can offer. It is not too early for Year 10s to be seriously thinking about their Post-16 options, and students are invited to talk to Mrs Allen or Mr Quenby.

Please note the following date for your family diary. **Friday 27th June 2003** will be a **Staff Training Day** and students should not attend school on that day.

For your information, we shall break up for Easter on **Friday 11th April 2003** and return to school on **Monday 28th April 2003**. As is usual at the end of term, we shall be extending morning school – upper school students will be dismissed at 1.10 pm and lower school students at 1.15 pm. School lunch will be available for those students who want it.

Yours sincerely

Richard Harr
Headteacher

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS AND NATIONAL CURRICULUM TESTS

I would like to confirm and remind you of these important dates. Students should not be away from school at these times unless they are too ill to attend, in which case, a medical certificate will be required.

- Internal School exams for Years 7,8,9 and 10 – **Mon. 19th May – Fri. 23rd May 2003** (inclusive).
- Year 7 Progress Tests – **Wed. 4th June- Fri. 6th June; Mon. 9th - Tues. 10th June 2003**
- National Curriculum Tests for Year 9 – **Tues. 6th May – Fri. 9th May 2003** (inclusive)
- Year 11/12/13 Public Examinations – **Tues. 13th May – Fri. 27th June 2003**
- Year 11 Study Leave commences – **Monday 19th May 2003**

YEAR 9 KEY STAGE 3 TESTS (6th – 9th May 2003)

Staff have designed an exciting programme of activities during the first 3 days of the Easter holidays to help selected students reach Level 5 in the National tests in English, Maths and Science. About 80 students have been invited to take part, and others have been asking if they can also join in! Please encourage your son/daughter to revise during the holidays as the tests begin on **Tuesday 6th May**. Guidance for revision is available in the recently issued school guide to the KS3 tests. We all want them to achieve their best!

Mrs B Brocklehurst
Assistant Headteacher



EASTER REVISION FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Following the success of last Easter's Maths and Science revision courses held at Rochester Tutors College, we are pleased to offer the opportunity for some students to attend again.

In addition, a number of intensive revision courses will be offered in school to a far greater number of students this year. Students may be invited to attend up to six two-hour sessions over the first three days of the holiday as part of the ongoing work to promote achievement for all.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

As outlined in the previous Newsletter, a new Attendance Policy was launched on 1st April 2003. Students with excellent attendance and punctuality will be rewarded with spot prizes, certificates and trips, but, their biggest reward is, of course, the benefit of continued uninterrupted learning!

Students who are regularly late for school and lessons will be required to make up the time during the school day – perhaps during a break or lunch-time. Parents will be invited to come to school to discuss ways to improve attendance and punctuality with Heads of Year and, in serious cases, a School Governor and the Educational Welfare Officer.

Please let us know immediately of any reason why a student is absent by leaving a message with the School Attendance Officer. She can be contacted by telephoning the school number (01634-844809) and following the voicemail instructions.

Mrs G Nyangon
Assistant Headteacher

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YEAR 10 ENJOY AN 'ADVENTURE' TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

Over 70 students and staff visited the University earlier this term. We were treated to drinks, a guided tour of the campus, presentations from undergraduates, sample lectures, visits to student accommodation (very tidy!!) and the opportunity to ask loads of questions. There was even an impromptu nature walk for some on the way home! The day was a tremendous success, with everybody enjoying their experience and learning a great deal about University life and the opportunities offered. Comments included:

"Going to Uni opens a lot of doors in your future"
"The atmosphere was really friendly – it was like a miniature town"
"I saw what Uni was really like"
"I would give anything to come to a place like this"

"It looks like a park – very relaxed"
"They even have their own cinema and night-club! I can't wait to come"
"I really enjoyed that psycho, psychic, physio, psychology lecture"
"Brilliant"
"Everybody was so polite"

My thanks to Ms Gray, Ms Job and Ms Magor for their company and support. My congratulations to Year 10 on their splendid attitude and behaviour throughout the day – even during the excitement of a most unwelcome burst tyre on the way home!

BEST WISHES FOR THE COMING EXAMS

As this is the last newsletter before Year 11 exams, can I take this opportunity to wish all Year 11 students the very best for their coming exams. It is never too late to make a difference and I hope that all will continue to prepare to the very best of their ability. Can I also thank the following Year 11 prefects for their support, help and good humour during the past year:

Neil Chambers (Head Prefect); *Ami Cormack* (Head Prefect); *Louise Stapenhill*; *Vicky Norcutt*; *Sean Bones*; *Kirsty McDonald*; *Kayleigh Cruickshank*; *Sam Beadle*; *Daniel Connelly*; *Sam McNaught*; *Sarah Burle*; *Donna Haughey*; *Dominic Caprice*; *Jorge Butler*; *Dawn Fassum*; *Claire Godman*; *James Barton*; *Lauren Hall*; *Steven Perks*; *Holly Moloney*; *Stacey Smith*; *Ben Griffin*; *Ross Barnard*; *Lauren Parker*; *Mark Perkins*; *Jessica Stanley*; *Scott Dalligan*; *Ben Mackenzie*; *Ellie Phelps*; *Chris Kent*; *Richard Smith*; *Demetris Eliades*; *Jenna Bethell*; *Lauren Jackson*; *Victoria Foster*; *Mark Mynott*; *Amy Stedman*; *Tom Skinner*; *Jamie Fordham* and *Halima Khanum*.

They have proven to be a most professional group.

Good luck to you all and may you enjoy deserved success in the summer.

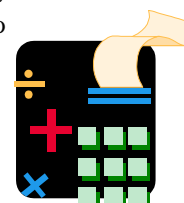
Mr T Scott
Assistant Headteacher/Key Stage 4 Manager

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UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

After last year's successes, the Maths Department encouraged 22 Year 10 students to solve the problems in this challenge aimed at the top 35% nationally. *Claire Hansford* was awarded a Silver certificate (top 7% nationally). *Peter Cameron* and *Jonathan Magee* gained Bronze certificates (top 14% nationally). Congratulations to all who took part.

Mrs T Donnelly
Head of Mathematics



INVIGILATORS/SUPERVISORS

We are still seeking a small number of parents/friends to act as paid Invigilators in our Summer examinations. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact **Mr G Winter**, Deputy Headteacher, at the school.

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VISIT BY THE TRANSPORT POLICE

On 7th March in PSHE, the British Transport Police came to our school to give us a safety talk. Their video showed us how dangerous it can be if you go too close to trains. Also, the video showed pictures of people who had been killed by trains (it was too horrible to look at!). One of the 18 year olds had been killed by a train, and his mother said that he was such a good boy and how much she loved him. It was horrible to see that even adults can be killed by trains. The video was to tell us not to play or go too close to trains because they can kill you very easily. One boy who was nearly killed then lived for only seven hours – some of the children lived for about one minute or die instantly. A lot of people die because they don't think about what they are doing.

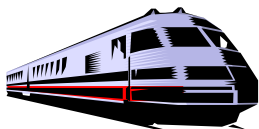
Natalie Landers – Year 8

On Friday 7th March, we had the Transport Police into PSHE to talk to us about the dangers on railway lines. It was very interesting. First, we watched a video which showed us a group of actors acting as a group of friends playing chicken on the railway. Afterwards, it showed us real life pictures of children that had tried to cross the railway lines and got killed. He told us how many volts there are in an overhead line, and in the rails. In the overhead line, there are 25000 volts and in a rail, there are 800 volts. 800 volts can, and will, kill you. Trains travel at a speed of 210 mph. He also told us never to stand in front of the yellow lines, because if a train is not stopping at that train station and is travelling at 210 mph, it will come past and cut your head off or it will take you under the train, and then you will get electrocuted.

Kadie Masters – Year 8

The transport policeman introduced himself to begin with. He told us that he dealt with train accidents and he put on a video. The video was very gruesome. In the first part of the video, there were actors playing around on the railway. Someone fell over, and then got run over. He told us bits of information such as the overhead lines carrying 25000 volts all the time and the fact that it can take 2 kilometres to stop. There were photos of people who have been hit and killed by trains. The policeman then stopped the video and asked questions.

David Barnett – Year 8



OUT OF HOURS LEARNING

Spring has sprung and the Ground Force Team have been out planting and clearing. There are now nuts hanging in the woods for the birds and pansies have been planted beneath the trees. A new group of Year 7 and Year 8 students have begun to work towards the bronze level Eco-School Status. A committee has been formed and reviews of the school and grounds are being carried out.

- The Film Club continues to develop their skills in editing, and on the other side of the drama studio, the Tai Chi students are continuing to exercise their inner peace.
- A six-week course leading to a certificate in First Aid has been booked with the St. John Ambulance team, and twenty Year 8 students have enrolled. The session on resuscitation should be interesting to watch!
- Year 7 Ceramics Club have worked on pinch pots, coil pots, slab pots, sculpted figures and faces – just the painting stage to go.
- Mod Roc masks in African design have been underway with Year 10 and Year 11. Soon to be seen in display cabinets around the school.
- A new Modelling Club is under construction (not for the archetypal fashion victim! purely hard hat and nails!)

The photograph below shows the librarians who have completed their training in the Learning Resources Centre. We are hoping to see them develop their skills, whilst helping set up a library in one of our local feeder primary schools.

Mrs T Donnelly *OOHL Co-ordinator*



THE THOMAS AVELING LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

Year 8 Library Assistants:

At the beginning of the term the Librarian, **Mrs Jeanes**, advertised for Library Assistants. Students in Year 8 were invited to apply for the job of helping in the new Learning Resources Centre, at lunchtimes and after school. Applications were 'short listed' and the students were interviewed by a panel consisting of Mrs Jeanes, Mrs Nyangan, a Sixth Form student and a Year 10

Librarian. Students took the process very seriously, dressing smartly, turning up on time and thoughtfully answering the questions put to them.

The successful applicants then had to attend a number of training sessions after school and are now able to wear their Library Assistant badges with confidence.

Here are comments made by some of the new Library Assistants:

“Being a Librarian is great, but it does take responsibility, patience and a good sense of humour! It’s a good opportunity for making friends and reading loads more books. I’ve had great fun so far, it’s a lovely environment to work in though I sometimes get muddled with the computer.” *Kate Fitton – 8E*

“Being a Librarian is great fun because you can learn how a library works and what it would be like to have your own Library. It’s nice to have the responsibility.” *Jasmine Conkie – 8E*

“Being part of the Library is the best. I get to help others with homework and to find the right books. It’s a laugh because I worked in the old Library in year 7. It’s helped me in lots of ways – I feel responsible and all grown up.” *Billy Stanley – 8W*

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SIXTH FORM BALL

Under the guise of “*Extravaganza Productions*” the Year 13 Business AVCE students managed another very successful night of music and dancing. Over 120 people supported the event in aid of Barnardo’s and the group managed to raise an impressive **£1,150** for this important charity.

The hall was transformed from school canteen to ballroom in a matter of a few hours using clever lighting and hundreds of balloons. Students arrived in formal wear and some had even hired stretch limousines to enhance their experience of the evening.

The ball was widely supported by numerous local firms who donated generously to the prizes for the raffle. Thanks also must be passed to *Anita Colyer*, who contributed over £100 through her photography.

The event has contributed to over a third of the coursework assignments necessary to complete the 12 Unit award and has provided a real life scenario for the students to experience the highs and lows of running a

business enterprise and allowed a very close team spirit to develop.

Feedback since the event has been very positive and the current Year 12 AVCE Group have a great deal to live up to.

Mr Noel Gibbons
Head of Business Studies



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COMIC RELIEF

The Comic Relief Show produced by the Year 12 AVCE Performing Arts group was a great success, reaching just over £1,000 profit. The show was staged over two nights in March.

Highlights of the show include a special edition of ‘Pop Idol’ performed by the Performing Arts Group themselves for Senior Citizens, and including a talented group of singers offering renditions such as “*What if*” and dances such as “*Shake and Shimmy*”.

The Year 12 Performing Arts group would like to say a special thank you to *Mr Dawson* and *Mr Plank* for their encouragement, to all the cast for their commitment – you were fantastic!! – and to *Chris Boast, Jaide Bowie* and *Lisa Butler* for the sound and lighting. Thanks also to the backstage crew, to the caretakers, and most of all, to those of you who supported the event, either by buying tickets to see the show, making a donation or buying raffle tickets.

Thank you once again and we hope that everyone who watched and participated in the show enjoyed it as much as the producers, the Year 12 Performing Arts Group.

Carleigh Simpson and Nicola Furbank

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Working and Learning Together for Success