



The Thomas Aveling News



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Dear Parents

As we fast approach the Christmas holidays I know both students and staff are looking forward to a well earned break. In the New Year there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress at our annual Academic Tutoring Day on Friday 12th January where appointments are made with the Form Tutor to review progress and agree targets for the remainder of the year. Parental support and attendance has been very good over the past three years and I hope that every child will be represented on the day.

At the end of term we say goodbye to Mr Adam Mahomed who is moving to a promoted post in a Maidstone School. We would like to thank Mr Mahomed for his five year service in the science department and his contribution to the life of the school. Mr Gorman has been appointed with effect from January.

Our annual **Presentation of Certificates Evening** took place on Wednesday 29th November with the prizes being presented by our Chair of Governors, Mr David Stoddard. The evening was very well attended and provided a welcome opportunity to award examination certificates and reward both excellence and endeavour over the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to raise two issues of health and safety with all parents:

- The growth of mobile phone technology and internet chat rooms such as MySpace have been responsible for instant discussions between young people at any time of the day or night. There is a worrying national trend in the misuse of such technologies and we would ask that parents monitor the use and content of messages sent by children. Mobile phones are allowed to be brought to Thomas Aveling and should remain off and out of sight throughout the school day. Taking photographs and video clips is strictly forbidden.
- Medway Council have asked all Headteachers to remind parents that the Police will seize any motor vehicle (including mini motorcycles) that are being used on unauthorised areas or causing annoyance. This year alone nearly 500 bikes have been crushed.

In case of bad weather in the New Year I would ask parents to listen to Radio Kent, where schools news is regularly updated. We only close if the site is dangerous or insufficient staff are able to attend.

We close for the Christmas break on **Friday 15th December at 1.15pm** and return on **Thursday 4th January**. We wish all parents and students a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.



Yours sincerely

Richard Hart
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

In our continuing efforts to maintain good attendance and in the best interest of all students, Governors wish to strongly discourage students from taking holiday absence during school term time. Parents who do submit a holiday form should be aware that the granting of authorised absence by the Headteacher is entirely discretionary and that Governors will not allow him to authorise absence in any of the following circumstances:

- Students with an attendance record of less than 90%.
- Students in the upper school (Years 10/11/Sixth form). This decision is based on the fact that this is a crucial stage in a student's education when they will be working towards public examinations and completing important coursework.
- Periods immediately preceding or following a school holiday break. This decision follows an increasing number of applications requesting extension of school holiday periods.
- During school curricular activities, all of which are published in the school calendar, i.e. during work experience weeks, arts or technology event days, periods of internal or external examinations etc.

Should parents have exceptional reasons for requesting authorised holiday leave, they should inform the Headteacher in writing.

We are also asked by the Local Authority Education Welfare Office to advise parents that a Fixed Penalty Notice may be imposed in certain cases where unauthorised holiday leave is taken.

I must also take this opportunity to point out that from **September 2007**, Governors have made the decision not to authorise any holiday leave during term time. Extreme exceptional circumstances will, however, continue to be considered.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

We would be grateful if any of your contact details change during the year (such as

telephone numbers, address etc), you should send those details to Mrs Holdsworth at the school as early as possible in order that we can keep our records up to date.

Mrs K Gunn - Deputy Headteacher

ACADEMIC TUTORING DAY

Academic Tutoring Day for Years 7 to 13 will be held on **Friday 12th January 2007** from 9am to 5pm. Please note the school is closed to students on this day, however, some Year 11 students may be invited in to complete coursework.

Ms R Gray
Senior Head of Year

APPLICATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form Opening Evening
is on
Thursday 25th January 2007
from 7.00 – 8.30 pm.

We have a wider choice of courses than ever and we look forward to meeting you then to discuss our Sixth Form offer at our Sixth Form Open Evening. We have received a number of applications already and students who intend to apply are urged to do so promptly as popular courses tend to fill up quickly.

Students should see Mrs Whelan if they need advice before completing their option choices.

Mrs S Whelan
Director of Sixth Form Studies

A LEVEL ENGLISH VISIT TO ROCHESTER MATH SCHOOL

As part of the Medway schools learning consortium, A Level students and teachers were invited to take part in "An Evening To Remember": an evening of poetry and literature of the First World War organised by staff and students at the Joseph



Williamson Mathematical School. Readings were given by Sarah Nolan (13APL), Ms Esland and Miss West.

The readings and dramatisations were well organised and presented in a moving and inspirational way, creating an emotional but enjoyable atmosphere. Many of the readings gave additional insight into the life and experiences of those affected by The Great War. This included the experiences of many female writers, some of whom were nurses on the front line, and some of whom had their lives at home dramatically altered by the war.

Sarah feels the production was beneficial to her A Level course giving her the opportunity to gain deeper knowledge and understanding of World War One literature, helping towards her final exam.

Throughout the evening songs and music were also contributed by staff and students, and the event concluded with a trumpet solo of The Last Post – a touching and appropriate finale!

Sarah Nolan 13APL
Miss S West - English Department



SAMARITANS PURSE THANK YOU

Years 7 and 8 again this year decided to support the international children's charity 'Samaritans Purse'. Each tutor group was invited to put together some 'Christmassy' shoe boxes containing a large variety of gifts anything from toiletries to pens, paper and sweets. These are then distributed worldwide to bring a little seasonal happiness to children in less economic developed countries.

A massive well done and a big thank you to all who took part this year as we broke all records and were able to donate 70 boxes.

Ms R Gray - Senior Head of Year

PE KIT

Students are reminded that they should have the correct PE kit for their lessons.

YEAR 7:

Rugby shirt (outdoor) dark blue (with white) reversible
Black shorts
Polo shirt (indoor) – White
Dark blue or white socks
Trainers
Football boots (optional)
Tracksuit (optional) – Black or dark blue

YEARS 8 - 11:

Indoor:

Red or white polo shirt; Black shorts.

Outdoor:

Red or white top – sports sweatshirts can be worn

Black or dark blue tracksuit trousers

Note:

Please be prepared for outdoor lessons. On cold days correct coloured sweatshirts should be brought and layers can be put on underneath to keep warm. Football boots for football or rugby are also advisable when the ground is wet.



TERM 2 SPORTS REPORT

Due to the early nights drawing in, the fixtures have dried up this term and much of after school P.E. activity has been spent on training. However, the Kent Cup has continued for the two football teams involved. The year 9 team's brave run came to an end against Kemnal Technology College but not before they had reached the last 16 of the competition. The year 10 team showed great spirit in overcoming Wilmington Grammar 3-2 in the 3rd round and now face Holmesdale School for a place in the quarter finals. Two goals from Charlie Ryder and a cool finish from Dean Knights ensured victory.



The Year 8 netball team started their league season in excellent fashion with a 9-4 victory over Rainham Girls and then followed this up with victory over Hundred Of Hoo. The year 9 team unfortunately tasted defeat against Rainham but for their first game of the season they showed excellent spirit and potential for the rest of the season. The year 10s fought hard but came up against a very strong Fort Pitt side which ended in defeat.

There have been two hockey fixtures which have both been successful. Our year 11 team travelled to Gravesend Grammar School to record a 2-1 victory and the year 8 team visited Maplesden Noakes School and won 5-0. This is excellent news and a reward for all of the training that has been taking place with Mrs Beck and Miss Wellman at Holcombe Hockey Club.

Well done to all concerned.

Mr A Moss - Subject leader for PE

CLEARING OUT YOUR WARDROBE?



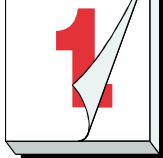
The Art department would welcome any old T-shirts or shirts you are throwing out!

Mrs M Taylor - Subject leader for Art

EXTENDED SERVICES

As an Extended Services School, in partnership with Warren Wood Community Primary School, we are running activities for the whole community. It is our aim to have before and after school activities until 6pm during the week. *Community Update* magazine can be downloaded from our website: www.thomasaveling.co.uk for forthcoming events.

Please contact me if there are any activities you would like to see put on.



Paul Wintle - School Project Manager

TERM DATES SPRING 2007

Weds 3rd January

Staff Development Day –
Students should not attend school.

Thurs 4th January

First day of Term 3 (Week B)
All students return to school.

Fri 12th January

Academic Tutor Day (* see article on page 2)
Students should not attend school

Mon 12th - Fri 17th February (inclusive)

Spring Term Break

Mon 19th February

First Day of Term 4 (Week B)

"GREASE IS THE WORD"



The production of the musical "Grease" will be performed on:-

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th January
(curtain up at 7 pm)

Tickets are on sale in the school hall at breaks and in reception.

Adult	£5
Child/Concession	£3.50
Family ticket: (2 adults & 2 children)	£13

Please come & support us.

The Thomas Aveling School (A Foundation Technology College & Training School)

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Working and Learning Together for Success