



## The Thomas Aveling News



Dear Parents

As we approach the February break, I am pleased to report on a very successful half-term, culminating in a very exciting Book Week with some famous visiting authors.

The Mock Examinations for Year 11 passed smoothly with some extremely encouraging results. The continuing active role of parents in supporting the completion of coursework gives students the best possible chance of good GCSE grades in the summer. Advice for revision has been given to all Year 11s, along with a revision framework.

Year 9 are working towards their Key Stage 3 tests, and Sixth Form students are busy working towards their AS, A2 and vocational awards. The government is currently considering the future of the 14-19 examination structure and it seems likely there will be changes following the Tomlinson Report, shortly to be issued.

School security remains a very high priority and I am grateful to parents who have responded positively to our request not to drive onto the site. We now operate a digital CCTV system and keypad-entry front door. Whilst we all might lament that this is necessary, parents may be assured that the school is taking all reasonable measures. It is opportune to remind parents that the school takes no responsibility for mobile 'phones, and Walkman and computer games must not be brought to school.

The school remains a popular choice for parents and again we are heavily over-subscribed in Year 7 for September. Sixth Form applications indicate one of our largest intakes and this is good news for the breadth of courses we can offer. This year for the first time students may be able to take one of their courses within our Rochester and Walderslade Consortium of schools if we are unable to run the course here. Any late applications should go to Mrs Whelan as soon as possible.

We are shortly to undertake a parent survey and will be asking all of our parents to make comment on the quality of education and services at the school. I very much hope that all parents will wish to respond, helping us to continually improve as a school. When the questionnaire arrives, please complete it and return it promptly to your child's tutor.

Yours sincerely

Richard Hart  
Headteacher





### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004:

Staff Development Day when students should not attend school.

#### FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004:

Academic Tutoring Day for Year 7 and Sixth Form. Please note that all parents from these Year Groups will have already received relevant information relating to this day.

#### MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> – FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY (inclusive) - HALF TERM

All Students should return to school on:  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004.**

### TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

I should like to take this opportunity to inform parents of the school's position with regard to parental requests for term-time holidays in light of recent proposed Government legislation.

The Governors have authorised the Headteacher to continue to consider requests of up to 10 school days leave of absence per calendar year for family holidays during term time. Each request will be considered by the Headteacher on a case-by-case basis, taking into account individual circumstances, such as the child's attainment, attendance and ability to catch up. It should be noted that holiday leave is granted entirely at the Head's discretion, and is not a right, and that where a child's average attendance is below 90%, request for holiday leave may not be granted.

The Governors will again review the position with regard to the granting of holidays during term time prior to the start of the Academic Year 2005.

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### PARENTS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

#### DATA PROTECTION ACT – Fair Processing Notice

Schools, Local Education Authorities and the Department for Education and Skills, all hold information on students in order to run the education system, and in doing so, have to follow the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that the data held about students must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law.

### Providing information to Connexions

For students approaching or above the age of 13, the school is required to pass on information to the Connexions Service. This includes name and address of student and parent, and any further information relevant to the Connexions Service's role, which is to support young people, helping them to achieve their potential and to realise benefits from education, learning and employment. However, parents, or students if aged 16 or over, can ask that no information other than name and address be passed to Connexions. **If you do not wish any further information, other than name and address, to be passed to Connexions by us, please contact the school within two weeks of receiving this note. If your child is aged 16 or over, please share this note with them.**

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### HEALTHY EATING



Congratulations to **Amy Austin** from Year 8 for winning a family trip to Disneyland Paris with the wise words **"Take Five to stay alive, Keep healthy every day, Five for Life, it makes sense, Vegetables and Fruit are essential"**.

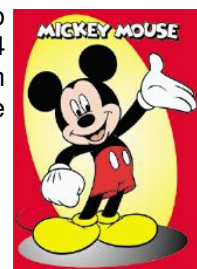
Amy and her family received her prize from our Caterers, Scholarest, during a special presentation held in school in January.

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I entered a Competition when I was in Year 7. All I had to do was buy something from the Canteen, then I got a scratch-card. I had to sniff the apple and if it smelt of apples, I had to fill in the back of the scratch-card. I had to write a slogan about healthy eating, and I won the competition!

At the beginning of Year 8, I had a letter come through my door. It said that my Mum and Dad were invited to see me collect the prize. On 20<sup>th</sup> January, I went to school and Mr Hart took me to meet Mr Trevor Ford (he is the Manager of the Company who run the Canteen). He took loads of photographs of me, Mum and Dad, Mr Hart and everyone who was there. I won a big Mickey Mouse and a weekend to Disneyland Paris for a family of 4 people, travelling by Eurostar, with tickets to stay in a hotel next to the Theme Park.

**Amy Austin 8M**



## YEAR 12/13 AVCE ART & DESIGN WORKSHOP

The Art Department was offered the opportunity to visit Rochester Art Gallery and take part in a practical workshop. The work of the Kent Sculptor, Sean Lucas, was introduced to the students and they were encouraged to touch and feel the sculptures. This is a rare experience in a gallery and provided a further insight into the pieces exhibited. Lighting effects are essential to the final work and with this in mind, students recorded their responses to chosen sculptures. Student drawings have been exhibited on the stairway leading into the exhibition. If you are in Rochester High Street, the exhibition continues until the end of February and is well worth a visit.



**Miss A Jones**  
**Head of Art and Design**

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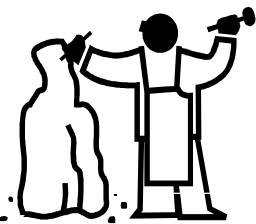
We visited Rochester Art Gallery to see the exhibition of innovative porcelain sculptures and 'light lines' by Sean Lucas. The sculptures are made from porcelain that is poured into pre-made shapes and fired to create a solid shape of light and line. In dimmed lighting and using chalk and charcoal, we drew the sculptures from different angles. The sculptures really showed areas of tone. It was interesting to see this unusual work.

**Chris Reader - Year 13**

We visited Rochester Art Gallery and were initially given a talk about the artist, Sean Lucas. We were in a quiet room full of the artist's sculptures and were given the time to study each different sculpture. Individually, we made our own drawings using charcoal, pencil and black and white paper. Everyone was proud of the work they achieved. Our work at the end was put on display with the work in the Sculpture Exhibition.

It was really good to look at a new artist and work in a different, more professional environment.

**Hayley Oddy - Year 13**



The trip to the Gallery was good fun and I thought that it was interesting being able to look at sculptures made in an extraordinary way. It showed us another way of working in different media. Being able to interpret our ideas about the sculptures using pastel to show tone was a really good way of showing our interest in the sculptures.

**Ross Barnard - Year 12**

## INSTRUMENT TUITION

If anyone is interested in taking up an instrument, please see Mrs Best to be added to the waiting list.



I would also like to remind students who already receive instrumental lessons in school that their payment for tuition is due by February half-term. The cost is £30 for paired lessons or £45 for individuals. We regret that lessons are unable to continue if payment is not made by this date.

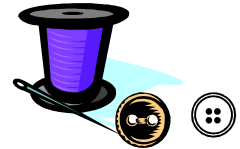
**Mrs B Best**  
**Teacher i/c Instrumental Tuition**

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## REQUEST FROM THE TEXTILES DEPARTMENT

We are again looking for donations of unwanted dress and furnishing fabrics, yarn, threads, ribbon and lace off-cuts, spare buttons and tailors dummies. Also, if anyone has any examples of vintage dress and fashion accessories from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century tucked away in their attics, we would be very interested in giving them a good home. This would help us to expand our resource bank for 'A' Level students.

Please contact Ms Saunders.



**Ms J Saunders**  
**Teacher i/c Textiles**

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## A VISIT FROM THE POLICE!

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2004, a woman Police Officer came into our class to teach us about her job as a Police Officer. Her job was to sort out behaviour of children and teenagers. First, she asked us questions like if we have ever got stopped by the police, and things like "do you know any other types of police officers?". Then my friend asked if we could look at her equipment. First of all, she showed us the spray, which is sprayed into the victim's eye to make them get to the ground. The next weapon was a hard metal stick, which can hit someone and can break their bones. Also, there were handcuffs, and finally, her radio which we listened to. The Police lady asked us if we wanted to look at her car. She drove it onto the back playground for us to look at it and we discovered lots of different things about the car and about her role.

**Kim Dhani 8M**



## PSHE – YEAR 9 OPTIONS AFTERNOON

On the afternoon of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Mr Scott gave us a talk about our Year 9 Options. It gave me lots of confidence afterwards.



He explained what would help us to get into the Sixth Form, College and University and about future jobs. We were given a booklet which told us about the subjects that we were and were not capable of choosing.

The talk helped me think more deeply towards the job I want and I am sure it helped others too.

**Hannah Mitchell – 9M**

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## PSHE PLAY – “IT’S YOUR FUTURE”

The play was great and helped a lot of the students with our options. The play was very educational and now I know what I want to do. The play told us that we should not pick an option because our friends are doing it, but because we like it or we want to do it. I thought the play was funny.

**Louise Davey – 9M**

The Choice play was very useful as well as funny. It helped us with a lot of things, mostly about Options in Year 9. When we had the talk about it from our form tutors, we really didn't understand why it was so important, but then we saw the play, and it made a lot more sense to us. It explained that these decisions were very important, and if we made the wrong choice, we might regret it for the rest of our lives.



In the play, they dressed up and tried to make us have as much fun as we could. This play also helped us understand why we should not take drugs.

I recommend the play for the next Year 9 because I think they will really enjoy it.

**Hayley Collins—9M**

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## LOST PROPERTY



If your child has lost any items of clothing or equipment, they may go to Student Services during the lunch-break on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**, when lost property can be reclaimed. After this date, unclaimed items will be held for a period of 6 weeks, and will then be disposed of.

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From **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**, there will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Students and staff will be able to buy books at discounted prices at break and at lunchtimes.

## WORLD BOOK DAY



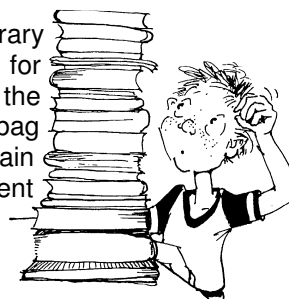
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** is World Book Day and many exciting events are planned.

## LIBRARY BOOK AMNESTY

If any student has a Library Book which is overdue for return, please just place the book in a clear plastic bag and leave at either the main School Reception or Student Services.

Thank you.

**Mrs J Jeanes**  
**Librarian**



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