

News

February 2009
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Dear Parents

As we approach the mid point of the academic year we are able to reflect on the progress of individual students and the school as a whole. The release of public examination data at the end of January enables the school to benchmark its performance by comparing the progress made by students in other schools. We are ranked in the top 9% of schools for the progress made between Key Stage 2 and 4, and A2 results in the Sixth form improved to a 94% pass rate, with more students achieving higher grades. I am grateful for the tremendous amount of hard work by all concerned to be ranked so highly. The Thomas Aveling School has also been acknowledged as a 'Most Improved School' in recognition of A*-C results improving year on year from 2005-2008. We remain grateful for the enormous amount of parental support to ensure that work is completed to the set deadlines and that schoolwork remains a priority in every home.

The parental response to our annual academic tutoring day was again very positive. We aim to intervene to support any students who are not experiencing success and I would again like to emphasise our 'open door policy' for parents to make appointments to see staff at any time during the year if there are concerns about progress.

Building works continue on the new Performing Arts Centre and we are hopeful that it will be completed in April, allowing students and staff to enjoy lessons in the new building following the Easter break or soon after. It still remains a potentially hazardous site for children to try and access at weekends and in the evenings. We would be grateful if parents reinforce this by ensuring that children do not try to get onto the site. Once the new Performing Arts Centre opens, work will then begin on refurbishing current dance/drama areas to create a Sixth Form and Diploma Study Centre providing students with further outstanding facilities.

You will be aware of our consultation regarding Hard Federation with Warren Wood Primary School and Trust Status and I am pleased to say that the Staff and Open Meetings held on 9th February 2009 indicated overwhelming support for the proposals and we will keep you informed regarding our progress.

I would like to welcome Ms Rosina back to Thomas Aveling after her maternity leave and take the opportunity to record my thanks to Ms La Malfa who taught her lessons during Ms Rosina's absence. We also look forward to the arrival, after the Easter break, of Mr Jackson, our new Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Gunn
Acting Headteacher

TERM DATES 2009



Friday 13th February

End of Term 3

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February (incl.)

Spring Term Break

Monday 23rd February

Start of Spring Term 4 (Week B)

Thursday 12th March

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Eve 4.00 - 7.00 pm

Thursday 26th March

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Eve & Options Fayre 7.00 - 8.30 pm

Friday 3rd April

End of Term 4 - closure 1.15 pm

Monday 6th - Friday 17th April (inclusive)

Easter Break

Monday 20th April

Start of Term 5 (Week B)

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday - school closed

Thursday 7th May

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Eve 4.00 - 7.00 pm

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May (inclusive)

Mid Term Break

Monday 1st June

Start of Term 6 (Week A)

Friday 10th July

Year 9 Graduation Afternoon 2.00 - 3.00 pm

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th July (inclusive)

Activities Week

Friday 17th July

End of Term 6 - closure 1.15 pm

APPEALS AGAINST EXAMINATION RESULTS

Please note that there is an updated procedure relating to appeals against examination results (including internally based and marked assessments/examinations). Details regarding this can be found in the curriculum policy on the website under 'Policies'.

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS

If you are concerned in any way with your child's progress in any particular subject area, we would encourage you in the first instance to contact your child's subject tutor to either talk through the issues on the telephone or, if more appropriate, to make an appointment to come into school and discuss any concerns you may have.

The Headteacher will also hold surgeries on the following dates:

HEADTEACHER SURGERY DATES
from 3.00 pm – by appointment only

WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2009

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2009

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2009*

**(Please note this was previously scheduled for 18th March)*

WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2009

Please contact Mrs Akrill for an appointment.

Mrs K Gunn - Acting Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Research shows that there is a clear link between high attainment and good attendance in school. Therefore it is vital that students attend school every day. The school has a number of support strategies in place to help ensure that all students can achieve their full potential, including:

- If we have not been given a reason for absence, the Attendance and Welfare Officer, Mrs McLean (contact her through the school switch board), will text or telephone a parent or carer;
- Celebrating good attendance - we celebrate students' 100% attendance at the end of each academic year and there are other incentives and rewards;
- Parents will be informed by letter when attendance dips below 93% in the first instance. Should there be further concern, parents will be invited into school to discuss the issues and, if necessary, the Education Welfare Officer will be informed. Parents and children may be invited to the Attendance Clinic where our Attendance and Welfare Officer, Mrs McLean, the LEA Education Welfare Office and other key support staff meet with parents and carers to discuss ways forward to improve attendance and punctuality. Parents or students may also request an appointment – it is a two way dialogue! Please contact Mrs McLean if you would like to discuss this further;
- If students are late more than twice a week then they will be required by their Form Tutor or Year Team Leader – through a variety of measures – to make up the time and work as appropriate.

Holidays

The holiday form is no longer available as the Governors have not authorised holiday absence for any student during term time since September 2007. Only in exceptional circumstances such as a family bereavement or participation in a representative sport will authorised leave will be granted. In these circumstances, parents should write directly to the Headteacher.

Penalty Notices

In line with Local Education Authority practice we must advise parents/carers that a Penalty Notice may be imposed in certain cases where unauthorised holiday leave is taken or a child has regular unauthorised attendance.

Mrs G Nyangon - Assistant Headteacher

APPLICATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM

We have a wider choice of courses on offer this year, copies of the Sixth Form Prospectus can be collected from Reception. 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 Humphrey** or **Mrs Whelan** if they need advice before completing their option choices sheet or need any help with their online application through

www.yourchoiceinmedway.org.uk

Mrs S Whelan - Acting Deputy Headteacher



ELECTRONIC ITEMS

Could I ask that parents remind students that they should not bring electronic items such as MP3 players and Ipods onto the school site.

Mobile phones are allowed but the school accepts no liability for them. They must be kept in bags or lockers and should be switched off. Thank you for your support.

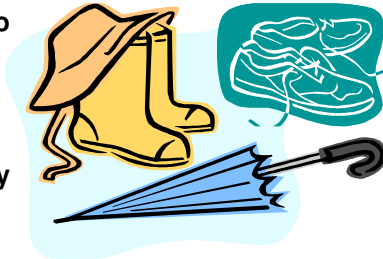
Mr T Neave - Acting Deputy Headteacher & KS3 Manager

LOST PROPERTY

Students and parents are invited to come to the main hall on **Friday 13th February** from 3 pm – 3.30 pm when all lost property will be put out for collection.

Students may also claim their lost property from Student Services before or after school and during break-times.

Please note that due to a lack of storage space, students' possessions remaining unclaimed after 3.30 pm on Friday 13th February will be disposed of.



Thank you.

Mrs S Stratford - Student Services

FOOTBALL RESULTS

YEAR 9 KENT CUP QUARTER FINAL

Thomas Aveling v. The Towers School

The boys gave up their Saturday morning in order to continue their impressive performance in this year's Kent Cup. For the first half the boys played uphill into a rather strong wind. A solid midfield and defence withheld the Towers attack until midway through the first half, when a frustrated **Theo Onumah** gave away a penalty. Towers followed this with another two goals before the beautiful sound of the half-time whistle.



Playing downhill and into the wind the boys were keen to get themselves back into the game with some early goals. A fantastic break from **Kayne Haysman** almost brought this wish to fruition in the first 10 seconds of the second half. The boys battled on and applied plenty of pressure to the Towers goal, unfortunately the back of the net alluded them. A red card to Kayne Haysman after a very questionable challenge left us with ten men and little time to make up the goal deficit. Another two goals from Towers didn't do wonders for the boys' resolve and on the full time whistle the boys had conceded a 5-0 loss. Except for a few examples of poor composure the boys should be very happy with their performance in this year's Kent Cup. Making the final sixteen of a knockout competition of this standard is a fantastic achievement.

Well done boys let's go all the way next year!

Mr J Northcott - PE Dept



YEAR 13 TRIP TO DISNEYLAND PARIS 6TH FEBRUARY

Year 13 Travel and Tourism group arranged a trip to Disneyland Paris.

Both Year 12 and 13s battled through the snow to have a really good time and also enjoyed a personal tour of central Paris.

A full report will follow in the next edition of the newsletter.

**Megan Vincent and
Rebecca Allard
(Year 13)**

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Thomas Aveling



Presents



The Wizard Of Oz

25th - 26th February

Child's Ticket: £2.50

Adult's Ticket: £3.50

Family of Four: £10.00

(2 adults and 2 children)

Tickets are on sale:

At **Reception** &

On **Stage** at **Break**

From Monday **10th February**



INDULGENCE EVENING Wednesday 25th March (7 -10pm)

A group of Year 10 and 11 students are organising an **Indulgence Evening** to raise funds for a month's visit to Kenya to work with the local communities and on animal conservation projects.



The Indulgence Evening will take place in the school hall, with a therapist offering short trial treatments for an additional small fee. Doors will open at 7pm allowing you to book appointments at your leisure, refreshments will be available and there will also be a raffle.

Tickets are available in advance from the school reception between 3 - 4pm from 2nd March.

£3 per ticket or 2 tickets for £5.

Students can also purchase tickets from Miss Mawn at break or lunch time.

Why not treat your Mum for Mothers Day?

Ms I Mawn

TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

As a school, we are committed to high quality training of teachers entering the profession. We have recently said goodbye to seven colleagues training to be teachers through Kent and Medway Training, the University of Greenwich and Christchurch College, Canterbury. We have also welcomed eight colleagues from the above institutions and the Open University. We wish them all luck in their quest to become teachers. If you are interested in becoming a teacher and would like further information, please contact either Mr Quenby or Miss Esland at the school.

Mr S Quenby
Assistant Headteacher &
Training School Manager



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