

News

July 2008
issue no. 95



Dear Parents

As we approach the summer holiday I would like to thank students, staff and governors for their hard work throughout the school year. Progress reports will be issued 'on-line' via the school website on 21st July and we would encourage all parents to discuss both successes over the past year and targets for future improvement. This has been a very purposeful year and our predictions are positive for public examination results at all levels. It is disappointing for Key Stage 3 pupils that the national results have been delayed this year.

Building work has commenced on our new Astro-turf facility and despite a slight wet-weather delay should be ready for early October. Our new Arts Centre is scheduled to start in the summer break and will be in construction until May 2009. During that time the Binnacle Road gate will be closed. Whilst our contractors have taken every care with regard to health and safety I would ask that parents reinforce the importance of keeping away from the construction sites during the summer break. Additional CCTV cameras have been installed in order to monitor the site.

Further summer work will resolve our long standing drainage problems, help refurbish science labs, build a new canopy area and extend our security access control system to all external doors.

The term has concluded with some excellent and well attended music and dance and events. We have received the Artsmark Gold award for a third time and is just recognition for the quality of provision in all of the Arts subjects. Our annual Sports Awards evening provided a welcome opportunity to celebrate excellence and effort and was very well supported on a very hot evening. The last full week of term has been enriched by a range of activities and visits that extend the curriculum, as well as work experience for all Year 10 students and guidance for Year 12s on their university applications.

In the Autumn Term we are establishing a Parents' Forum to discuss the issues that arise most often from our parent and pupil surveys. The first of these is scheduled for 6th October at 5pm. Any parent who would like to be involved please contact me at the school via letter or e-mail.

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to some long standing colleagues. Mr Townsend will retire following many years of distinguished service in physical education and Mr and Mrs Goodwin are also both leaving the science department. I would like to record my appreciation of their service and wish each one a successful future. The school is fully staffed for September and I will publish the names of new colleagues in the autumn.

I am taking this opportunity to re-emphasise standards so that there can be no misunderstanding for September. Visible body-piercing is forbidden and students will not be allowed in lessons until the offending items are removed. One set of plain stud earrings in the lobe is the only acceptable jewellery. Blazers remain compulsory for all years and should be worn at all times in school. The new boys blue polo shirt may continue to be worn up until the October term break.

I wish everyone a happy & safe summer holiday

Richard Hart
Headteacher

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Term ends on **Tuesday 22nd July**, and as we have done previously, morning school will be extended until 1:15 pm. Lunches will be available as normal at this time and students may go home or remain in school for lunch if they wish.

Upper School students will depart at 1:10 pm.
Lower School students will depart at 1:15 pm.

RETURN TO SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2008

Students should arrive at the following times:

Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th September:

Sixth Form enrolment only

Friday 5th September:

Year 7 8:30 am (meet in west courtyard)
Year 13 8:40 am
Year 12 9:30 am (meet in the school hall)

Monday 8th September:

Whole school returns at 8:40 am

TERM DATES 2008/9

Mid term break	27 th - 31 st October
Start of term 2	Monday 3 rd November
End of term 2	Friday 19 th December
Start of term 3	Monday 5 th January 2009
End of term 3	Friday 13 th February
Mid term break	16 th - 20 th February
Start of term 4	Monday 23 rd February
End of term 4	Friday 3 rd April
Easter break	6 th - 17 th April
Start of term 5	Monday 20 th April
Bank holiday	Monday 4 th May
End of term 5	Friday 22 nd May
Mid term break	25 th - 29 th May
Start of term 6	Monday 1 st June
End of term 6	Friday 17 th July

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Please note that Years 7 - 10 end of year reports will be available online from **21st July - 8th August 2008**.

Please use the username and passwords that you received in December. If you are unsure of your username and password, please contact the school.

Mrs K Gunn - Deputy Headteacher

MEDICAL AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

We would be most grateful if parents could organise these appointments as far as possible to take place outside school hours. Whilst we appreciate that this is not always possible, we would ask that where students need to leave the school site during the day for an appointment, that parents/carers write a note in their child's planner.

Mrs K Gunn - Deputy Headteacher

MOBILE PHONES/MP3 PLAYERS

Students are reminded that they must not bring IPODs/MP3 players to school and mobile phones should be switched off and kept in bags or lockers.

Mr T Neave - Assistant Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

There is such a thing as a free lunch!

Due to an increase in attendance this year our 60 best attenders, students with attendance of 99.5% were invited to a sumptuous lunch at Tang's in Rochester on **Wednesday 2nd July**. We look forward to taking an even larger group next year!



May we also take this opportunity to remind you, that it is parents' responsibility to report their child's absence to the school by telephone on the first day of absence. Failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and may result in a referral to Education Welfare Service.

BICYCLE RACKS

During the Summer break a new secure bicycle compound will be installed. Students should ensure that they remove their bicycle chains from the existing racks at the end of term and take them home. From the start of the September term all bicycles should be secured in the new compound which will remain locked during the school day.

NEW 6TH FORM OFFICERS

Head Boy
Deputy Head Boy
Head Girl
Deputy Head Girl
Sports Captains

Deputy Sports Captains

Mentoring

School Council
Eco-school

Mrs S Whelan

Director of Sixth Form Studies

Alastair Hutton
James Johnstone
Sangna Ladwa
Bethany Shewan
Thomas Lambert
Lauren Aldridge
Charlotte Griffiths
Nichola Woolmer
Kieren Martin
Luke Hooper
Sean Dale
Megan Vincent

WORK-RELATED LEARNING

Beauty Course

This week we went to Mid Kent College for a taster of a beauty course. We all learnt about the different bones in your hands and what they do. We also learnt how to do a hand massage which we then demonstrated on each other. The taster day was really good and everyone enjoyed it. **Kayleigh Wells 9I**



Build A House Project

We all had great fun building small "houses", using bricks, cement and wood at Chatham Dockyard. We learned how to work in teams and to a deadline. Given the chance, I'd go again! It's something I really enjoyed. **Deve Shokar 9I**

LOCKER KEYS

Would **all** students who have the use of a locker please empty the locker and return the key to Student Services by **Tuesday 22nd July**. Students who have paid for 5 years' hire **must also return their keys**; they will be given a replacement locker in September. It is essential that the students empty out their lockers before the end of term as some of the older lockers are being replaced during the summer holiday and we do not have sufficient storage space to store students' belongings. Anything left in the lockers after the last day of term will be disposed of. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

Fun, Interesting, Exciting, Amazing, Fantastic, Friendly, Entertaining and Tiring were all words used by our 6th formers who completed a week's Work Experience at various placements around Medway. Excellent experiences such as these can mean that students can complete university and job applications more effectively. We are sure that the new Year 11s have enjoyed their work experiences from 14th -18th July just as much!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Several Year 10 students are currently working on their Bronze Award, which they should be able to complete early in Year 11 when they take part in their assessed expedition. The school's first ever silver group started this year, made up mainly of Year 11 students who recently finished their Bronze Award. They took part in a successful practice expedition at the end of June in the Cuxton/ Meopham area. The students are **Rhianna Shewan, Sam Harris, Jack Somm, Craig Evans** and **Elliott Doyle**.

Many thanks to the staff who helped to supervise them over the expedition weekend:

Miss J Voice, Mr P McCann and Mrs T Stockden.

Mr M Townsend -

Duke of Edinburgh Award co-ordinator

YEAR 7 HISTORY VISIT - TOWER OF LONDON

On June 30th some Year 7 students went to the Tower of London. It was really fun and interesting. I learnt lots of things about the Tudors like:

How they kept their VIP prisoners; what the Beefeaters do; where people were executed and some of the reasons why and lots of others things.

The bit I enjoyed most was when we went into the dungeons where the public aren't allowed to visit but we got a special look. Did you know dungeons don't have to be underground? It comes from a French word and it means 'Tower'.

I also enjoyed seeing all the jewels and diamonds was interesting because it is amazing how they make crowns and necklaces and then make the jewels fit in.

The teachers who went were lovely and the people who worked at the Tower of London were helpful and very funny in their costumes. They must have been hot!

Hollie Gibson 7M



YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE LONDON DUNGEON & MADAME TUSSAUDS

Full reports will follow in the next newsletter.

MEDIA CLUB: PODCASTING

The *Media Club* has had a very successful year and once again managed to launch a new project. The project - Thomas Aveling News - is a special broadcast aimed at students.

The following students: **Robert Brown, Charlotte King, Rachel King, Annabel Clark, Laura Delaney, Sean Kollath-Newport, Charlotte Dyason, Hannah Woodford, Amy Gray** and **Samantha Byrne** worked diligently on their scripts – writing, practising and recording. With the assistance of Mr Plank we were able to use the recording studio on two consecutive Wednesdays and complete the podcast, however we are in the process of editing our project.

Look out for our new release as it promises to be exciting, humorous and informative.

Mrs S Mahomed - Media Club

HENRY VIII TV REALITY SHOW

Selected Year 8 and 9 students have been involved in creating a reality TV show based on Henry VIII, working with practitioners from NXG. Students made a TV version of Big Brother meets The Apprentice in which Henry VIII had to decide who, from Catherine of Aragon and Mary or Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth would stay in the castle. Students experienced what it would be like to make a TV programme with cameras taking shots from different angles and how different scenes could be edited together to make a finished programme. The project culminated in the final TV programme being premiered to parents last Tuesday .

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP MATHS CHALLENGE



The school was delighted to have been chosen to pilot a project involving Creative Partnerships, sponsored by The Arts Council of Great Britain. The Maths department welcomed two professional artists, Sara

and Jane. They worked with Year 7 students from 7b/MA3 and 7b/MA4, in presenting a Maths Scheme of Work. Topics covered were: Probability, Data Handling and Shape which were taught in an innovative creative way. The students have also



been the first in school to use the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is a new on-line initiative, which will be used across the school next year.

The evaluations from students clearly showed how much they enjoyed learning in this way. Students' work was on display in the school hall on last Thursday and parents came and saw their child's work.

The school will be looking forward to working with "Future Creative" aka Creative Partnerships with other departments in the next academic year.

Mr S Gibson and Ms A Blunt - Maths dept.

Mr A Plank - Creative Partnership Project Manager

EXTENDED SERVICES

In order to support our local community, a range of "Summer Holidayz" activities have been planned. Between **28 July and 8 August**, a range of sports and arts activities, including an Inflatable Assault Course led by the Army, are available thanks to a grant which will offer things to do and places to go for children and young people. Anybody aged 11-18 is invited to come along for all or part of the activities. Childcare and Playschemes in the area are also available for younger children. Please see Mr Wintle for more information and look out for the adverts!



Mr P Wintle - Project Manager

REQUEST FROM TEXTILES

The Textiles department are always very grateful to receive donations of buttons, ribbons, knitting needles and yarn, embroidery and other threads, vintage patterned and plain fabrics that are no longer needed. We will put them to good use. **Ms J Saunders**

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Venue: **Woodies Youth Centre**

In partnership with KCA

Parents Information Evening

on

Alcohol and the effects on your young people

Monday 21st July 6:30pm - 8:30pm

What effect does alcohol have on young people?

Come along and meet other parents. Share your concerns and take away a better understanding of this high profile issue.

For more information please call
Lorraine Burford on
01634 400592 or 07952 83 12 50



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

After a superb evening of entertainment and tough competition at Battle of the Bands, the judges found it very difficult to make their decisions. All the bands performed extremely well, giving a very professional show.

The audience and bands eagerly awaited the judges' decision and the winning bands were **Frequency Wave** and **Anthology**.



Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to those who helped to put it all together and make it such a fantastic evening.

Miss J Voice - Music Dept.



TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

This has been a good year for the Training School, with a variety of initiatives introduced and existing ones developed. Of particular note are the following: The Family Literacy and Numeracy programme goes from strength to strength, with a new course called "Keeping up with the children" introduced.

Following another successful year with Kent and Medway Training and Greenwich University, our commitment to initial teacher training has increased with links developed with the University of Brighton and Christchurch College, Canterbury.

A number of colleagues are following either Foundation or Masters degrees with Greenwich University. To date, all have been very successful and we wish them well as they progress into the next year.

I would like to thank the Training School Team – Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Esland and Mr Boughtflower for all their hard work this year.

Mr S Quenby
Assistant Headteacher
Training School Manager



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

Arethusa Road Rochester Kent ME1 2UW

Headteacher: Mr R J Hart BEd, MA tel: 01634 844809 fax: 01634 818385 www.thomasaveling.co.uk

Working and Learning Together for Success