

News

Dear Parents

As we approach the Spring Break our Year 11 students have already started their practical GCSE and vocational examinations and Year 9s and some Year 8s are preparing for the Key Stage 3 tests. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment to after school coursework and revision sessions and have planned an holiday revision programme to boost their chances of achieving well in public examinations. We would encourage all parents to ensure that children spend time on regular revision at home in order to prepare properly.

I am pleased to announce that we will be starting the first of three major capital building projects during the summer term. The first is to build a full sized synthetic turf sports pitch on the lower field. This will provide an excellent facility for both physical education and school and community sport. We anticipate it will be completed early in the autumn. The second project is to build a Performing Arts Centre alongside the Community Library to be used for Dance and Drama both during lesson time and also as a community facility. This is a significant building project that is planned to start in the summer and be completed in the second quarter of 2009. Once built we intend to refurbish the current dance/drama studio into a post 16 study centre to improve our study and IT facilities for our sixth form. This is the first major building project since the Community Library in 2002 and provides a real opportunity for sports and the arts to flourish.

Applications to join our sixth form are running at record levels this year. Over 90% of our 2007 Year 11 cohort remained in full time education or training and places both at school and college fill up on a first come first served basis. Any parents of year 11 students or year 12 studying on a one year course who are still considering a late application should contact Mrs Whelan at the school.

Progress Records for Years 7 -10 will be available on-line from 31st March -16th April. This development aims to provide parents with regular and up to date information on progress and attainment. Any parent who is unable to access the information on line is encouraged to contact the school in order that a paper copy can be sent out.

From the start of the summer term boys may choose to wear a school polo shirt in place of collar and tie. This is an optional choice and is not compulsory. Please note however that blazers remain a compulsory part of the uniform and should be worn throughout the school day.

Yours sincerely



Richard Hart
Headteacher

Fri 4th April

End of Term 4

Mon 7th – Fri 18th April (inclusive)

Easter Holidays

Mon 21st April

Staff Training Day - students should not attend

Tues 22nd April

Start of Term 5 (Week B)

Mon May 5th

Bank holiday - students should not attend

Thurs May 8th

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Eve (4.00 - 7.00pm)

Mon 26th – Fri 30th May (inclusive)

Term Break

Mon 2nd June

Start of Summer Term 6 (Week A)

Please note that Years 7 - 10 progress reports will be available online from **31st March - 16th April 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

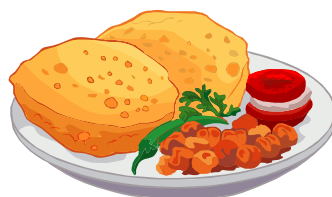
CARS ON SCHOOL SITE

For health and safety reasons parents are reminded that they should not bring their cars on to the school site at the beginning or end of the school day to collect or drop off their child and are further requested to ensure that the school entrances remain un-obstructed at all times. There are designated visitor spaces at the front of the school for parents who have appointments during the school day and parking in other areas of the site are reserved for vehicles with authorised parking permits only. Sixth Form students are also reminded that the school car park is for Staff only and they should not bring vehicles on to the site. Cycles and motorbikes should not be ridden on the school site at any time and should be dismantled and re-mounted at the entrance gates.

Access to the community library on Monday to Friday is from 3.00pm until 6:00pm and on Saturday from 10.00am to 4:00pm and anyone using this facility must use the back playground for parking unless otherwise stated.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT

It has been noted that not all students who are entitled to a free school meal are making use of their entitlement. Entitlement for a free meal is recorded on the student's smart card and can be used in exactly the same way as a student who is paying for their meal. Please encourage your child to make use of their entitlement.



Mr S Rayner - Finance & Business Manager

MOBILE PHONES & MP3 PLAYERS

Please could I remind parents that we do not take responsibility for mobile phones if they are brought into school by students. Mobile phones should be switched off and remain in school bags or be put into personal lockers at all times. MP3 players and IPODs should not be brought into school. Many thanks for continued support.

Mr T Neave - Assistant Headteacher

THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Are you aware that Thomas Aveling students have access to one of the best school libraries in Kent – and that these facilities are available to the whole community?

There are 12,000 books including some of the latest Fiction to suit all ages. Much of the Non-fiction is curriculum linked and borrowers have access to the whole range of resources held with-in Medway Public Libraries via the on-line catalogue. We also offer a colour photocopier, 4 Internet linked computers and qualified staff on hand to assist with any queries.



Open to the public from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm every day including school holidays, and from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on a Saturday, there are plenty of opportunities for the whole family to enjoy these excellent facilities.

Call in and find out about some of the activities available outside of school hours –

Chatterbooks – for children aged 5 to 11 - fortnightly from 3.45 to 5.00 pm.

The Teen Reading Group – for youngsters aged 12 and up – every Wednesday from 3.00 to 4.15 pm.

Bounce and Rhyme – for tiny tots – every Saturday morning.

Summer Reading Scheme - for children of all ages - runs throughout the summer holidays.

For more information – ring **Jenny Jeanes** on **01634 823128**.

PSHE - DANGERS OF FIRE

Today in PSHE we had someone from the fire brigade who gave a presentation on the dangers of arson and the fact that arsonists don't think about the consequences of their actions.

He showed us a clip of a real life incident which happened in Kent several years ago. It involved a group of teenagers who stole a car and then set fire to it to hide the evidence. When they poured petrol onto the car the vapours given off engulfed a girl in flames when one boy threw a lit match into the petrol and she died.



It showed us how some people can be sucked into a situation even though they don't want to get involved. One teenager walked away but he still lives with regrets for not persuading others to walk away with him. It then showed how leaders of a group can influence others to do things they really don't want to do and how much pressure people can be put under.

We then listened to accounts from the firemen themselves who attended the scene and other similar ones and the long term affects on incidents like these have on families, not just on the family of the girl who died but on the families of the teenagers who were put in prison for their part in the fire.

It is not worth throwing away your life for a bit of fun. Having been shown the parents' view makes you think what your parents would feel if it had been you. One wrong choice could cost you your life!

Charleigh Keane Year 10

EXTENDED SERVICES

We run a number of after-school clubs and activities groups at the School and in partnership with other local organisations. Here's what **Michael Lawson** from 7D says about the new Korfball Club: " Come and join korfball. It's a fantastic sport where boys and girls can play together. So come and join us - it's fun! It's every Thursday 3.15 - 4.30 pm in the Sports Hall. It's free and open to everyone in Years 7 and 8!"

During the Spring Break, we look forward to some of our students receiving Cycling Proficiency training in and around the school. If your child is in Year 7 or 8, and you would like them to gain this award at a later date, please contact Mr Wintle.

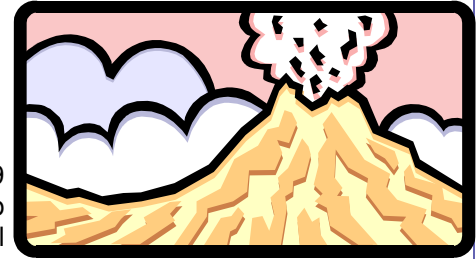
Work-Related Learning

Thomas Aveling School has been awarded the Green Light award in the Information, Advice and Guidance Healthcheck for career guidance. We are one of a handful of schools in Kent & Medway to achieve this accolade, and are pleased to have received this rating! Students are reminded that we have an experienced careers adviser on site everyday (Mr Wintle) as well as excellent support from Mrs Carter and Mrs Rice from the Connexions Service who offer a range of guidance and help to all 13-19 year olds. There is a wealth of career information available in the Resource Centre, as well as Pathfinder HE and Odyssey Plus computer programmes to aid students in making the right decisions at transition points in their lives.

Mr P Wintle - Project Manager

YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY VISIT

TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



The Year 9 Geography trip to the Natural History Museum

on 31st January was a very exciting day out. Once at the museum, we walked round in groups. We got to feel hard lava and to experience what a real earthquake might feel like if we lived in Kobe, Japan. We also watched a video of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. On the way up to the exhibition, we went up the escalator and through a metal globe and got to see where volcanoes are in the world on a large world map.

When we had finished that part, we had lunch, had a look around some more of the museum and then went into the shop. That had interesting things in it like 'create your own volcano'.

The trip was a successful day out and very enjoyable. We would like to thank Mrs Gooch for organising it.

Bradley Peachey and Sam Pattison - Year 9

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A new group of Year 10 students has recently started the Award, and is currently working on skills needed for their practice expedition at the end of April. The first Thomas Aveling silver group has just started, including those who have gained their bronze award, and some new entrants. They are also working on expedition skills in preparation for their longer expedition later in the year.



Mr M Townsend - D of E Co-ordinator

SPORTS NEWS

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

The Year 7 football team resumed their Medway League programme with a home game against Rainham Mark, who had earlier in the season reached the semi-final of the Kent Cup. The school team produced a very good performance, but were unable to convert their scoring chances into goals. The Rainham team also created a few chances, and scored from two of them to win the match 2-0. The Thomas Aveling team continued to work hard and play good football throughout the match, and can feel pleased with their overall performance.

The Year 7 football team played a recent match at home against St. John Fisher School. In a low scoring game, the school team took the lead in the first half through an own goal. St. John Fisher came back into the match and equalised with only a few minutes remaining. More chances were created by both teams in an exciting finish, but it was the Thomas Aveling team who finally won due to a very late goal by Toby Worrall.

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

Rainham Mark has quite a strong football team and we did not go into the game expecting to emerge victorious. Needless to say the boys played a solid game and managed to create a number of opportunities for themselves, unfortunately none were finished. At the other end of the pitch **Jack Johnston** had a brilliant game in goals making some spectacular saves to keep the score to a respectable 4-0 to Rainham Mark.

This week the boys had a home game against St John Fisher, based on previous experiences the boys were quietly confident on securing a win. Their performance in the first half made victory appear imminent. They dominated possession and attacked John Fishers goal consistently for the full 30 minutes. **Steven Munn** was the first to find the back of the net and there were many near misses for the remainder of the half. Unfortunately near the end of the first half John Fisher had a breakaway and managed an equaliser. At the end of the first half the score did not represent the boys' performance on the pitch. We went into the second half confident in our ability to get another goal. Unfortunately a late tackle by **Jacky Zhu** allowed John Fisher a penalty shot to give them the early lead in the second half. The boys maintained their high standard of play and whilst they had the majority of possession and had many shots on goal, they were unable to equalise until late in the second half. When **Theo** was fouled in the penalty area and **Kieran Oliver** slotted it passed John Fishers keeper to level the score at two all. As time wound down the boys desperately tried to achieve another goal, but unfortunately were denied on a number of occasions. The boys were disappointed that they didn't win, but were content with a draw as apposed to a loss.

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL



It has been a busy time for the Year 9 football team since the new term has started. A very strong Rainham Mark team beat us 10-1 in the first week after the holidays as our boys could not handle their power and speed. However

the boys have since bounced back brilliantly by winning three consecutive games 2-1 versus New Brompton, 3-2 v Hundred of Hoo and 6-3 versus St John Fisher.

All the boys have been outstanding and worked really hard. The game against Hoo was particularly impressive as Aveling won the game with only ten men.

Ryan Tomkies and **Harry**

Hunt have been amongst the goals recently both scoring hat-tricks against Hoo and St. John Fisher respectively and **Grant McIlheron** with a goal against New Brompton and two goals against St. John Fisher has also found his shooting boots. So far the boys have won five games and lost three in what has been an impressive season.

YEAR 11 FOOTBALL

The Year 11 team has played two games so far in the new term. Unfortunately they have lost both games 4-2 versus Greenacre and 3-0 versus Kent Cup finalists Hundred of Hoo. However the boys are still playing with plenty of spirit shown particularly in the game against Hoo. With plenty more games to come the boys are still hopeful of finishing very high in the league.

Mr A Moss - Subject leader for PE
& Mr J Northcutt - PE Dept.



TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

Training school continues to go from strength to strength. At present we have a variety of projects underway including five colleagues studying for their masters degree with Greenwich university and six colleagues taking foundation degrees. Both groups are nearing the end of their first year and we wish them all luck with year 2. We are currently hosting three colleagues who are following initial teacher training courses in English, Business Studies and ICT. All three complete their training in June when they become fully qualified teachers.

Congratulations to **Miss Nasim**, **Mr Dawson** and **Mr Moss**, all of whom successfully completed their Leading from the Middle course last week.

Mr S Quenby
Assistant Headteacher and
Training School Manager



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Working and Learning Together for Success