

News



May 2008
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Dear Parents

The examination period is now upon us for another year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish every student success in public examinations. The internal examination week is in the week beginning 9th June. We appreciate that this can be a stressful time for whole families and appreciate the support students receive from home, particularly in revision and examination preparation. It is especially important that all children arrive on time with the appropriate equipment during the week.

Our capital building programme will soon be starting and we will be briefing students on the importance of health and safety as we commence a 15 month period where contractors will be on site. From June to October 2008 we will be building the synthetic turf pitch on the lower school field. From August a new Performing Arts Centre will be constructed alongside our current Library. This is an eight month build to be completed by May 2009. When the Performing Arts department has transferred into the new building we will be developing a new Sixth Form Centre from within the existing dance and drama areas including two classroom spaces. This will be completed for September 2009. The new facilities will be used both for school and community use and will provide additional first class facilities for our students.

After the summer mid-term break school blazers may be left at home as the weather warms up for the summer, however they may not be replaced by alternative jackets. We appreciate parental co-operation with regards to uniform issues and have reminded older students our rules that prohibit facial piercing, apart from a single gold stud in the lobe of each ear.

We are seeking a group of parents to help the school review policy and practice in a range of areas. The new group will be called the Parents' Forum and will meet with the Head or Deputy Headteacher to discuss the way we teach curriculum topics such as sex and relationships, careers education, citizenship. There will also be an opportunity to discuss our inclusion work for children with challenging behaviour and poor attendance. Meetings will be informal and scheduled at the end of the working day. Parents are invited to contact the school if they would like to participate.

A Parent-Governor vacancy has arisen and any parent who is interested in this position should contact the Clerk to the Governors at the school to find out further information.

Yours sincerely

Richard Hart
Headteacher

TERM DATES 2008

Fri 23rd May

End of Term 5

Mon 26th – Fri 30th May (inclusive)

Term Break - students do not attend

Mon 2nd June

Start of Term 6 (Week A)

Mon 9th - Fri 13th June

Internal Exams Years 7 - 10

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th June

Work Experience Year 12

(Advanced level students only)

Mon 14th - Fri 18th July

Work Experience Year 10

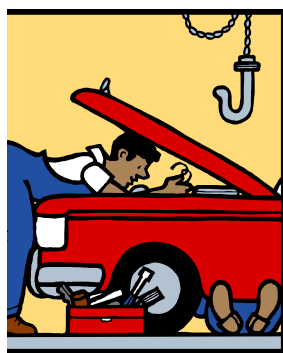
Mon 14th - Fri 18th July

Activities Week - Years 7, 8, 9 & 12

Tues 22nd July

End of Term 6

WORK-RELATED LEARNING



Work



Experience

We are in the process of allocating placements for all students in Year 10 and Year 12 for their week's Work Experience. This activity enables all students to learn about work, through work and for work, and will give them a taste of a work setting. Students will be expected to take with them their Work Experience Diaries and keep them updated with their experiences. Their employers will need to write a report at the end of the week and will form evidence for Vocational programmes in school. Students have an opportunity to aim for the Work Experience Excellence Award on completion of various extra tasks. Year 12 students (Advanced level courses only) will be on placement from 23 -27 June and Year 10 will be out from 14 -18 July.

Job Descriptions and information will be

circulated to students closer to the time.

Build A House Project



Late last term 32 students in Years 9 and 10 worked in teams to design and build a "house" at Chatham Dockyard. Students laid bricks, made cement and built roof structures and learned various

new building techniques. "Brilliant", "Great fun!" and "So cool!" were just some of the positive comments received. We will be looking to run this programme again in June and teachers will be looking out for potential builders!

OUT OF HOURS LEARNING

The new After School Hours activities list is now available on the school website. With nearly 50 activities on offer, there's something for everyone!

Mr P Wintle - Project Manager

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Thomas Aveling School was recently awarded the National Healthy Schools standard, one of only two secondary schools in the locality. To highlight our success in promoting physical and emotional well-being across the whole school community the school was invited to a special lunch celebration. A group of six students nominated by staff for their



outstanding work in PSHE attended a 'Healthy lunch' at Cooling Castle Barn to receive our certificate from the Director of Children Services in Medway, Rose Collison.

The 'healthy' aspect of the lunch didn't put any students off as some returned to the table six times to refill their plates!

Mrs T Taylor - Head of Faculty

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS and MATHS!

After a tough selection process, the school has been fortunate to be selected to pilot a project with Creative Partnerships. Creative Partnership is a government-led initiative, funded by the Arts Council, with a remit to promote learning through being creative. The Maths department is offering selected students the opportunity to learn Mathematics by working with practitioners from the arts world alongside their Maths teachers to solve complex mathematical problems.

Watch out for the outcomes of the project in the next newsletter!

For more details about the exciting work of Creative Partnerships, please look at their website. www.creative-partnerships.com

Mr A Plank -



Creative Partnership Project Leader

BATTLEFIELDS 2008

In February, Year 9 students went to Belgium and France to visit the sites of the 1st World War Battlefields. They took part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres and laid a wreath in memory of all the soldiers who have died in war situations. Visits included

Allied and German trench systems and cemeteries in Ypres and Fort Douaumont and the Underground Citadel in Verdun. The students were given the opportunity to appreciate first hand the destruction and loss of lives at this time. Students also enjoyed buying lots of Belgian chocolate, bowling and the pool tournament when they tried in vain to beat a member of staff!!



Mrs S McMahon - Faculty Assistant

KRAKOW POLAND 2008

In March we led our first visit to Krakow, Poland to visit the notorious Nazi Concentration Camp at Auschwitz. This was a very emotional visit that brought to life the horrors people faced in the Nazi death camps. We toured the Old town of Krakow and the Jewish Ghetto and saw the sites used in the filming of *Schindler's List*. The students also enjoyed shopping, bowling and eating in a traditional Jewish restaurant. They all thought that this was an experience that they will never forget.

Mrs S McMahon - Faculty Assistant

On the first day of our visit, we looked at the Old Jewish Quarter of Krakow, where *Schindler's List* was filmed. Then we had some shopping time. The next day we went to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, where hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed by the Nazis. It was a very strange feeling to be there; it was eerie. Then a tour guide took us around Krakow. One night we went to eat in a Jewish restaurant and another night we



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

better. I'd love to go again and I would definitely recommend the trip to anyone. It was a brilliant experience.

Charlotte Baden 10N

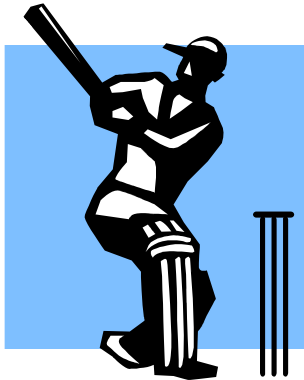
BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2008

The bands have been announced and the chosen six are rehearsing to polish their acts. Make sure you come and support our very talented musicians who are working hard to try and win the first prize. The event takes place in the school hall on **Thurs 12th June** from 7pm. Tickets will be on sale after half term, details of when and where these will be available will be given in assembly. Come along and see the results!!

Miss Voice and the 6th Form team

SPORTS NEWS

Summer clubs are now up and running and many students are attending for athletics, cricket and tennis. We are looking to send a strong team to District Sports in June and need as many keen pupils as possible to attend athletics club on a Tuesday and Wednesday so that we can find out who is best at each event.



Cricket fixtures will soon be underway and we will be competing in the local Medway Schools Cricket League which this year is split into 2 with the top two schools in each league qualifying for a semi final play off. Further news will follow.....

A Moss - Subject Leader for PE

went bowling and missed the last tram home. It was really good and the teachers that went made the trip even

LOST PROPERTY

Students and parents are invited to come to the hall on **Thursday 22 May**, between 3 pm and 3.30 pm to search for their lost belongings. Prior to this, students should come to Student Services before or after school and during break-times to claim their lost property. Please note that, due to a lack of storage space, any items which remain unclaimed after 23 May will be disposed of.



Mrs S Stratford - Student Services

LACE



Do You Like a Challenge?



Then sign up for the Medway Libraries'



'Team Read'

Summer Reading Challenge



All you have to do is visit your local public library and sign up to read six books over the summer holidays.

Complete the challenge and you will be invited to a formal presentation of certificates and medals at the Riverside Country Park in early September.

Remember, your local public library will have a specially selected collection of exciting, brand new books for you to choose from.

Stop Press!!



For information about all the activities run by Medway Libraries during the summer holidays, collect a leaflet from your local branch.



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Working and Learning Together for Success