

# News

October 2008  
issue no. 96

Dear Parents

As we approach the October break I am pleased to be able to report on the progress of the school. Public examination performance was again very pleasing:

- At **Key Stage 3** our Year 9 students excelled in all three core subjects with 85% (English), 81% (mathematics) and 71% (science) achieving a level 5. The number of pupils gaining higher grades continues to rise with thirty three mathematics students gaining a level 7 and three gaining a level 8 grade.
- Over fifty top set pupils in year 8 also took the tests with a 100% level 5 success rate in English and mathematics.
- At **Key Stage 4** our Year 11 students outperformed our most challenging targets by achieving our best ever GCSE results for a seventh successive year with 67% of students gaining five top grades and 97% gaining five passes. Results in mathematics, science, textiles, media studies, religious studies and modern languages were particularly impressive.
- **AS and A2** results were encouraging with some excellent individual and department performances with many students progressing onto further and higher education. The pass rate at Advanced level rose to 94% with a 10% rise in the average points accrued by each student.

I was delighted to be able to open our new **Astroturf Sports Pitch** on Tuesday in the presence of our invited guests, governors, staff and pupils along with the project managers, architects, engineers and building contractors. This has been a long, and at times, challenging project but the outcome is a great example of the sort of world-class facilities that all children deserve at school.

Our **Open Evening** for prospective parents took place on Wednesday this week with Year 6 pupils and parents touring the school. I would like to thank our many volunteers who have worked very hard as guides and classroom helpers and present both themselves and our school in such a positive way. We are delighted that Thomas Aveling students are such outstanding ambassadors and so keen to promote our school.

As parents are now aware I will be leaving the school at Christmas to take up a new educational post in Medway. It has been a great privilege to have served as head teacher at such a wonderful school. Our priority over the years has been to develop strong and secure systems that will provide continuity for staff and children and I am very confident that the school will continue to provide an outstanding education for young people in our community. Governors have appointed Mrs Gunn as head teacher in an acting capacity and along with an experienced leadership team will guide the school in the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Hart**  
**Headteacher**

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	End of Term 1
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Start of Term 2 (Week A)
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	End of Term 2
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009</b>	Start of Term 3 (Week B)

## YEAR TEAM LEADER DROP IN SESSIONS

As from September there will be a Year Team Leader available on a daily basis between 8.20 – 8.40 should you wish to raise any concerns about bullying issues that you may be concerned about.

Any worries you may have will be duly noted and passed on to the relevant Year Team Leader so that the matter made be dealt with as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

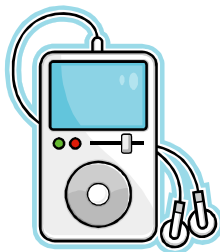
**Ms R V Gray - Senior Year Team Leader**

## GOVERNOR VACANCIES

We currently have three vacancies: two for Parent Governors and one for a Partnership Governor. Any parent of a current student would be most welcome to join the Governing Body. If you are interested, please contact **Mrs L Marwood**, Clerk to the Governors, at the school for more information.

## ELECTRONIC ITEMS

I have been impressed with how smart students have looked in the new term and how well all have settled in. 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 Neave - Key Stage 3 Manager**

## LISTEN TO OUR VOICES!

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the school council members were privileged to attend school council training, run by two Youth Workers – Jon Arundel and Angela Cox - employed by Medway Council to come into school and train us all how to do a good job. The overall feeling was that once again this training was a huge success. Some of the lower years asked for there to be another chance next year. We all had a really good time taking part in the team building games (however the 6<sup>th</sup> formers may have enjoyed it more!). I would fully recommend that the school books this again for next year. Let's hope that the school council makes a huge impact this year just like we did at the training.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every that was at the training and hoped you found it just as helpful. I would also like to thanks the staff and the school for allowing this training to take place.

Once again thanks to everyone involved. Senior students are attending a Conference on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October so our voices can be even louder - listened to right across Medway! **Sean Dale - Chair of Student Council**

## STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008-9

### Year 7

Ginelle Acheampon  
Jacob Hobbs  
Tyler Tierney  
Rebecca Heagren

### Year 8

Lenny Daly  
Hannah Newman

### Year 9

Ryan Noon  
Kayleigh Andrews

### Year 10

Katie Rowe  
Bradley Peachey

### Year 11

Kyle Rogers  
Willow Burford  
Lauren Garcia  
Charlotte Mason

### 6<sup>th</sup> form

Jaylee Basten  
Jack Somm  
Alastair Hutton – Head Boy  
Sangna Ladwa – Head Girl  
Megan Vincent – Eco Officer  
Sean Dale – Chair of Student Council

## STUDENT VOICE AGENDA

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

An E-voice?  
Making Our Voices Louder still!  
How to involve all students in the school community

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Charity begins at School?  
An evaluation of the work we do for charity

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

A Uniform Approach?  
How do we wear our uniforms and how our uniform works for the school.

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

An Eco Update.  
Can we be greener still?

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Food for thought!  
A review of how we spend our lunchtimes.

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June

The Agenda for next year?

What do YOU want to talk about?

It is really important you have YOUR say!  
These topics should form part of a termly discussion and your form rep should feed back all YOUR Ideas!

**Sean Dale - Chair of Student Council**

## YEAR 7 LITERACY QUIZ - 'BISCUITS AND BRAINS'



To celebrate National Book Week Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October the whole of Year 7 took part in a book based competition, testing their literacy knowledge

and research skills. The quiz covered various subjects including Science, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Music and History. Year 7 groups, divided into teams, and competed against each other to win the Yr 7 Literacy Cup. The competition was eventually won by 7A1 with 169 points and the winning team with a high score of 37 was 'The Super Handsome



Grandmas'.

**Mrs Jeanes - Librarian  
and Miss Edwards - English teacher**

#### **LOST PROPERTY**

All lost property will be displayed in the hall on **Friday 24 October** from 3 pm. All students and parents are invited to come in and search for their missing belongings. Due to a lack of storage space any items that remain unclaimed after this date will be disposed of.

**Mrs Stratford - Student Services**

#### **VISIT TO THE MAGISTRATES' COURT**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October our ASDAN group went to the Chatham Magistrates' Court as part of the Community Awareness module.

We left school at 9.15. When we got inside the court we had to go through metal detectors and have our bags checked. Then we went upstairs and got divided into 2 groups. We waited for 5 minutes until we were allowed in. On our way into the courtroom it seemed like everyone was staring at us. When we got into the courtroom, we had to wait for about 15 minutes until the clerk asked for accused person to come in. It felt weird watching people we didn't know getting tried. We went outside the room when the magistrates adjourned but we weren't allowed to go back in case the trial went on for too long. We left the court at 11.15 and arrived back to school at 11.35.

**Tony Westlake Year 10**

#### **SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS FESTIVAL**

The 'Shakespeare in Schools Festival' took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury. A group of students from Year 8, 9 and 10 were selected to perform an abridged version of 'A Midsummer Summer Night's Dream'. Three other schools from around Kent performed different plays on the same night. Our group have been rehearsing since last summer and all the hard work paid off! There was a full house and the Thomas Aveling pupils performed brilliantly, conquering their stage fright (and worries about the complicated language) to shine like the stars they are! Well Done to all involved!

**Mrs H Gilson – English/Drama Department**

#### **KS3 TRIP TO MADAME TUSSAUDS & THE LONDON DUNGEON**

On July 1st, about 40 Year 8 set off on a trip to Madame Tussauds and The London Dungeon. Both places were really good.

Madame Tussauds was very exciting and there were many different wax-works from different places. Some were characters from films and there was a live Big Brother Diary Room and a taxi ride.

London Dungeon was the best and we had much more fun there. The rides were very good and it was very scary but also a laugh. The Drop ride's theme was about hanging. The day in total was very good but with heavy traffic we finally got home at 5.30.

**Amy Strevens 9A2**

The visit was a great experience. At Madame Tussauds

it was like being surrounded by real people but they were brilliant wax-works. I took loads of pictures such as; The Royal Family, Kylie Minogue, The Rock, Nicholas Cage and more. We went into the Big Brother Diary Room and had to do a task.

At the London Dungeon we had our photo taken and we saw real rats. Then we learned about The Plague, Jack the Ripper and the Great Fire of London. Jack the Ripper jumped out of the pub and we ran out screaming. Then we went on a boat ride which zoomed off at full speed. Lastly we went on the Drop and we faced hanging ropes and then it just dropped you. We visited the gift shop and left for home.

**Kayleigh Wells**

#### **YEAR 7 FOOTBALL v GREENACRE (Won 4-3)**

This week's game was a lot more challenging than last weeks. The boys struggled to maintain possession in the first half and Greenacre controlled the play. The boys managed one goal near the end of the first half but Greenacre had already put away three. After some minor adjustments at half time the boys returned to the pitch with their heads high. They started to play a much more attractive game of football, especially the back line, whose ability to hold a forward pushing line foiled many of Greenacre's prospective goals. This combined with the boys return to their attacking game up the wings led to three more goals been secured the third been snuck in to net in the dying minutes of the game. A nail biting finished and a well earned victory.

**Mr Northcott**

#### **YEAR 8 FOOTBALL v GREENACRE (Lost 4-0)**

The year 8 football team travelled to Greenacre minus 2 players. The first half was a battling affair as the boys defended like warriors to keep Greenacre out, yet still play enough good football to create chances themselves. The boys started after the half time break with the score still at 0-0. The second half was a different affair as the team simply ran out of gas and were eventually overpowered by Greenacre who managed to notch up 4-0 second half goals.

#### **YEAR 9 FOOTBALL v GREENACRE (Won 4-2)**

The boys were keen to get a win under the belt this week and went into the first half very goal hungry. The midfield and backline forced the ball forward and it was only a matter of time until **Dan Duncanson** secured our first goal. Due to some magnificent runs and through ball from **James Amey-Drew, Keiran Oliver** was able secure two goals and Jamie Davies got himself one as well. Some very aggressive keeping from **Ash Iffe** shut down the retaliation of Greenacre allowing them only two lucky goals. A good effort by the boys and a well deserved victory.

**Mr Northcott**

#### **Yr 10 FOOTBALL v GREENACRE (Lost 5-0)**

The year 10 football team travelled to Greenacre School for their next league fixture. In a closely fought first half the boys went in 1-0 down after an attempted header by one of the



Greenacre players found its way into the net off the back of his neck.

A great save by **Jack Slaughter** prevented any further Greenacre goals and the boys were unlucky not to score themselves after **Adam Gilbert** went close. **Luke Austen** came on at the start of the second half in a centre forward role and was desperately unlucky to see a left foot shot on the turn come back off the crossbar. However after this Greenacre got on top to score a further four goals in an undeserved 5-0 win.

#### Yr 9 KENT CUP FOOTBALL v MASCALS (Won 8-1)

The boys had to make the lengthy journey over to Mascals for their first match of the **KENT CUP**. With a new formation in place the boys went into the first half optimistic of their chances, as soon as the whistle went the boys were dominating play constantly pushing the ball forward and wide to great affect. It was long until **Kayne Haysman** secured the first of his three goals of the game. With a very solid performance by our defence, the ball was kept in the oppositions half for the majority of the game. The boys pounded the goal with successful attempts from **Theo Onumah**, **James Amey-Drew**, **Jack Johnston** and 2 from **Jamie Davis** (almost 3) giving us the grand total of 8, quite an impressive result. The one goal Mascals managed was an unfortunate defensive error, but nothing to write home about. Well done boys good lets do the same in the next round. **Mr Northcott**

#### Yr 10 KENT CUP FOOTBALL v WROTHAM (Lost 4-2)

The year 10 team played Wrotham in the second round of the Kent Cup after attaining a bye in the first round. The boys were taken by surprise by the pace of the Wrotham side and quickly found themselves 2-0 down. However, the boys adapted well and with the help of some brilliant man to man marking by **Emanuel Onumah** on their most dangerous player and outstanding saves by **Jack Slaughter** this remained the score until half time. The second half was a different story. The boys fell 3-0 down early but kept battling away. With the ball flying from end to end Aveling pulled two goals back through the lively **Ryan Tomkies**. However with the team pushing forward for the equaliser, Aveling were hit on the break and Wrotham scored just before the final whistle to win the game 4-2.

#### Yr 9 FOOTBALL v MCC (Won 5-0)

The year 9 football team made the short trip over to MCC quietly confident of victory based on previous experience. This suspicion was confirmed early in the first half as **Jack Johnston** secured his first of four goals, not bad for someone who usually plays in the back line. More goals followed in the second half, with a classy goal from **James Amey-Drew** and a very powerful strike from man of the match **Theo Onumah**. Unfortunately



the second half had a negative element with one of MCC's the frustration of losing getting to MCC and one of the big lumps decided they'd pick on our little guy, **Jamie Davies**. After a brief wrest on the sideline Jamie was back in the game and hungry for a goal.

#### Yr 8 FOOTBALL v SWADELANDS (KENT CUP) (Won 4-0)

The Year 8 football team began their Kent Cup campaign in style. Having attained a bye in the first round they made the away trip to Lenham to face Swadelands School. Aveling dominated the first 15 minutes having four good chances to score with **Billy Morgan** looking particularly lively down the left wing. However Aveling failed to take any of their chances and then had to withstand 10 minutes of Swadelands pressure before gaining domination again just before half time. The second half started at 0-0 but with Aveling playing with a little more composure in the second half they soon took the lead with a **Sam Moules** strike into the bottom corner. Aveling then made it 2-0 after a 20 yard bullet strike from **Toby Worrall** found the top corner. By now Aveling were clearly the better side and **Charlie Driscoll** ran riot as two more goals from **Sam Moules** and Charlie himself wrapped up an impressive 4-0 victory. **Mr Moss**



#### KNITTING YARNS, WOOL AND COTTON FABRIC

We are in great need of knitting yarns, wool and cotton fabric for work in Art and Design. If you have any that you no longer need please send into school with your son/daughter.

It would be appreciated if you would place the items in a bag clearly labelled: **for the attention of Ms Jones**

#### TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

Our training school has got off to a flying start this year. All teaching staff are engaged in Early Twilight Training, during which they are engaged in fortnightly training, on a Monday evening. This training aims to improve even further the quality of teaching and learning taking place within the school.

We have welcomed 7 new associate teachers who will be training with us until January 2009. We would like to wish them every success.

Finally, our training team this year consists of Mrs T Donnelly, Mr C Boughtflower, Ms K Esland, Mr E Martel and Mr S Quenby.

**Mr S Quenby**  
**Assistant Headteacher and**  
**Training School Manager**



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**Working and Learning Together for Success**