



April 2002

Dear Readers

The Newsletter may be rather thin this month, but it heralds a busy and important term. With SATs, GCSEs, AS and A Levels, almost half of our students will be taking public examinations and we wish them a smooth passage as they prepare for and undertake the tests ahead. There is also, however, a lot to look forward to because the summer term is the season for activities that are impossible during the dark, damp winter months.

We have just learnt that last summer's GCSE results have brought us one of the national School Achievement Awards and we hope this will be a timely encouragement to this year's candidates to do even better.

If any friends of the school are able to help us with supervision of the examinations for a princely £5 per hour, we will be happy to hear from them. A telephone call to the school office will bring further details.

Last term ended with another Review Day and we were again delighted that so many parents were able to share in our efforts to support each boy in an individual way. Copies of the review sheets showing grades, targets and a registration certificate for last term should be on their way to parents within the next few days; please let us know if your son does not bring his home!

We are also seeking your current view of the school through a repeat of the parental survey carried out almost twelve months ago. We found the feedback most useful and hope for an even bigger and prompt return so that we can get a valid picture of how successfully we meet your son's needs. Please take this opportunity to let us know where we succeed and where we must work to improve.

Regular readers will be aware of my conviction that schools should provide equally well for all pupils, whether their interests lie in Technology, the Arts, Sport or Languages. The government's

policy of encouraging schools to specialise in one of these four fields has now been extended into other areas and the governors have agreed that KNBS must pursue specialist college status, and have decided to go for one of the new specialisms: Science. We are delighted that The LEA has agreed to include our bid in its strategic plan under Excellence in Cities, and the real work now begins, as we construct a detailed bid, with a view to achieving specialist status in 2004. Of course all specialist schools continue to deliver the full national curriculum and it remains our deep conviction, that all subject areas, and all boys, must derive direct benefit if and when our bid is successful.

Next Tuesday's Year 9 Parents and Options Evening is the first of a series of important dates in what promises to be an interesting term.

Ian Sonley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 16 April

- Year 9 Parents Evening/Options Evening: 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Thursday, 18 April

- Year 9 BCG Skin Tests.

Thursday, 25 April

- Year 9 BCG Immunisations.

Friday, 3 May

- May Newsletter issued.

Monday, 6 May

- MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY.

Tuesday, 7 May

- KS3 SATs/CATs start.

Monday, 13 May

- Exams for Years 7, 8 and 9 begin.

Monday, 20 May

- Exams for Year 10 begin.

Friday, 31 May

- END OF HALF-TERM.