

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL

December 2002

Dear Parents

I must sadly begin this newsletter by reporting the death of Mrs Mary Mortimer, one of our office staff, after several months of illness. Mary joined the school before I arrived and we have been fortunate to have such a loyal and valuable colleague. She worked mostly in the inner office, but covered reception duties each lunchtime and always planned to return to work when she had recovered, maintaining a courageous, determined and optimistic outlook that brought admiration from all who knew her. She will be sadly missed by her colleagues and we extend our sympathy to her husband John, son Richard and daughter Nicola.

Specialist School Status: Those of us who are planning the bid for specialist school status are beginning to appreciate the potential benefits ahead and I ask all friends of the school to play their part in strengthening the bid, either by participating in some of the community activities planned, or by helping us raise the funds needed to release the government funding. If we can raise pledges of £50,000, this will bring in a further £500,000 over the next four years and be of direct value to all boys in the school, especially through Science and Mathematics. Please offer fund raising ideas or give your support to PTA efforts like the Promises Auction described below.

Promises Auction: The PTA hopes to raise funds in support of the specialist bid through an Auction towards the end of next term, possibly Friday, 11 April. Items for auction can take the form of material items of some value or promises to provide services. We hope parents and friends of the school will have contacts that would enable us to auction anything ranging from a day's training with David Beckham to a full service on a car. If you can offer anything for auction, please put a note into the school office describing the item or service, with your contact details. We shall then put together a catalogue of items or services that people can bid for, knowing that the proceeds will be of direct benefit to our boys.

Mr Sonley



NOVEMBER MERIT AWARDS

The following students were awarded their merit badges at our recent merit assemblies:-

20 badge: *Alex Barnett (7C), Ashley Bunn (7D), Humza Chaudhry (7A), Adam Checkley, (7D), Daniel Evans (7D), Antoni Hawkey (7C), Hasan Mahbouba (7D), Christopher Smith (7B), Adam Smythe (7B), Jamie Summers (7C), Sean Wellings (7A), Ewan Whyte (7A), Tom Wilson (7C), Max Woolf (7A), James Scott (8B).*

40 badge: *Michael Steadman (7C), Joshua Bateson (8B), Daniel Bradshaw (8B), Andrew Gould (8D), Sam James (8C), Craig Jordan (8C), Max Perrin (8C).*

60 badge: *Andrew Gould (8D), Scott Cook (9B)*

80 badge: *Scott Cook (9B), Ben Symak (9D).*

120 badge: *Lewis Godwin (8B), Luke Bridgman (9C).*

140 badge: *Luke Bridgman (9C).*

160 badge: *James Steadman (9D).*

Congratulations to all of these students. Thank you to *Andrew Evans*, Head Boy, for presenting the boys with their badges.

Mr Brett

CAROL CONCERT TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER (7.30 TO 9.00 PM)

Parents and friends are invited to our traditional Christmas Carol Concert. There will be seasonal readings, favourite carols and some festive refreshments.



Entrance free of charge –
no tickets required.

Mr Cowling

PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

Each boy has been given books of raffle tickets from the PTA to sell:

Years 7 and 8	-	5 books each
Year 9	-	4 books each
Year 10	-	3 books each

Please help your son to sell all of his books and even more. There are special prizes for those who sell the most tickets. Last year the record for one boy was 67 books! Let's see if we can beat that record. The money will go towards a new minibus which your son will benefit from. Please help.

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much to the boys who bought poppies, raising almost £70.00.

Mr Chapman

WEBSITE REVIEW

I am a regular visitor to the school website, and I think it is widely superior to other school websites because it has a wide range of information about the school and also has up-to-date information on its past. It appeals to all ages, 11-90, with its information on the latest homework details and history of the old King's Norton Grammar School for Boys up to the 90th Anniversary of the school's opening.



It has pages that tell you about what goes on in the different departments in the school, from Mathematics, to Modern Languages, to Technology. Another thing I have noticed is that the graphics and the layout are vastly better than on other school websites.

The website has an "exhibition gallery" that shows different events over the past two years: including the sponsored walk 2002, swimming sports events, football trip to Italy, and so on. In some parts of the exhibition gallery you can watch video clips of events, like the visit to a Sikh Gurdwara in 2002.

In the Technology section, the website has information on the different products that the pupils produce in the workshop, such as the ice-scraper that all pupils will make in Year 7, right up to furniture made by the Sixth Form.

The website can be accessed at www.kingsnortonboys.bham.sch.uk

Ben Symak

SPORTS NEWS



Interform Badminton:

Year 9: Twenty-five boys took part in the competition, and the final was between **Dean Palmer and James Coyne**. Coyne won through in a tight game. Well done to all who participated on the night!



Year 10: Thirty boys participated, with **Breslin, Pugh, Rumble, Mall, Couch, Hancock, Peach and Savage** reaching the quarter-final stage. Couch and Hancock played in the final, with Couch winning an excellent game. Well done to all the boys who played!

Year 11: Congratulations to all the boys who took part. The semi-finalists were **Wilkinson, Waldron, Edwards and Keane**. Waldron and Edwards competed in the final, with Waldron winning through in a highly skilled game.

Points awarded: A = 30 points
B = 10 points
C = 70 points
D = 10 points

Basketball:

Year 7: The first match of the league season saw KNBS entertain Frankley Community High School. The boys dominated the game from the start and eventually ran out 28-18 winners, with **Steven Jacques** being nominated man of the match.

Our next game was a closer affair with a 20-18 victory over Kings Heath. The game was only decided in the final minute. **Adam Smythe** was man of the match.

Year 8: Played one, won one! A very close game against Baverstock School – who are one of the favourite teams for the final – saw us win by just one point. This was an exciting game.



Well done to the following boys: **Karl Taylor, Berhon Laidley, Jack Stoker, Hassan Adi, Steven Byford, Lewis Godwin, Andrew Murphy and Daniel Green**.

The squad needs to practise more if they are to progress this year. Practice sessions are held at lunchtime and after school on Mondays and after school on Tuesdays.

Year 9: The first game of the year proved to be very disappointing with a 21-17 defeat at Turves Green. In a game we should have won we missed too many shots from close range. Man of the match was **Oliver Hartill**.

KNBS v Lordswood: The boys showed a dramatic improvement from the game against Turves Green. The first half was dominated by the rebounding and lay-up skills of **Hartill** who scored basket after basket to give KNBS a dominating lead. Lordswood put up a sterner fight in the second half, but the organisation of KNBS in defence stopped them from getting close to our score. KNBS were worthy winners 46-29. Well done to all the boys: **Cush, Selvester-Webb, Jennings, Hartill, Millard, Hocking, Cottrill, Pencheon, Clifton, Mayariya and Caulfield**.

Inter-form Table-tennis:

Year 9: Twenty-two boys entered the singles competition. The quarter-finalists were **Coates, Nelson, Hartill, Hulbert, Kemp, Targett, Caulfield and Kang**. The finalists were Caulfield v Hartill, and in a very close game Hartill took the spoils 12-10.

In the doubles event **Davis and Walsh** from 9A remained undefeated, winning all their five games.

Thirty-four boys took part in all. Well done to all concerned!

Football – Year 7: Putting the eleven-a-side game to one side, ten of our boys took part in the Wagon Wheels National Five-a-Side Tournament. The first knockout section saw KNBS come up against Golden Hillock, St Thomas Aquinas and Harborne Hill. The boys won this group fairly comfortably, with 7-0 and 9-0 wins and a 1-1 draw respectively against the above teams.

In the final to represent the region we travelled to Shenley to play the winners of the other groups, Bartley Green and Colmers Farm. Unfortunately, the boys had an unusual off day and lost both games 3-0. Thanks from Mr Holme to all the parents who helped with transport arrangements for the journey to Shenley.



The next football match is on Thursday, 12 December, against Park Hall in the West Midlands Trophy: kick-off at 2.50 pm (weather permitting).

Rugby Practice: This takes place after school on Wednesdays for Years 7-9. After a number of promising performances in games, the turn-out for practice has been disappointing. If you have any interest in Rugby, come along and get involved.

Indoor Athletics – Selly Oak Finals – 5 December

The competition this year was considerably tougher than in previous years, with five schools entering in total. Our boys conducted themselves in a very sporting manner and again were a credit to the school. The Year 7 boys found the competition a little tough, with the sprint relay side being our only success of the evening. **Tyrone “Tiny” Renford** put in some huge

leaps and individually scored a lot of points for the team.

The Year 8 boys (winners from the previous year) showed real guts and determination and managed to turn some very tight results into our favour.



The highlight of the evening was watching **Byford and Laidley** take the six-lap race, winning by a fraction after coming from third to second and then second to first – a great moment! Watching **Berhon** nearly be sick afterwards was not so great!

Stoker and Taylor were their usual commanding selves with the jumps and throws, and with the speed of “**Flash**” **Ricketts** the boys ran out comfortable winners. The Year 8’s can now look forward to the honour of representing Selly Oak at the National Indoor Arena in February.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Position</u>
Obstacle Relay	Buaben Cook McDonald Smythe	3 rd	Taylor Hitchinson Johnston Ricketts	1 st
6-Lap Run	Whyte Renford	2 nd	Byford Laidley	1 st
Javelin	Buaben Hall	3 rd	Taylor Stoker	1 st
4x1 Lap Sprint Relay	Smythe Hall Jacques Fox	1 st	Ricketts Stoker Hitchinson Green	1 st
Sitting Throw	Jacques Fox	4 th	Taylor Green	1 st
Standing Long Jump	Renford Hall	3 rd		
Vertical Jump	Cook Renford	2 nd	Laidley Stoker	1 st
Speed Bounce	Whyte McDonald	3 rd	Green Ricketts	3 rd
Standing Triple Jump			Byford Laidley	2 nd
Overall Position		3rd		1st

Karl Taylor and Jack Stoker have reached Midland standard and have been invited to an Athletics training camp. Only three boys from Selly Oak have had this honour, and we have two at KNBS!

Mr Preece joined in the Athletics festivities on the way back to the bus by doing the 'slip and fall' event, which was cheered heartily by the boys!

Inter-form Sport: This term has seen the Basketball and Badminton competitions completed (apart from Year 7 Badminton). The turn-out for these competitions has been very good but could still improve. Remember that Inter-form Sport is for everyone. You do not have to be a talented performer to play. Let's see some new faces in 2003.

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 10 December

- Y7 Parents' Evening.

Tuesday, 17 December

- Christmas Carol Concert: 7.30 pm.

Thursday, 19 December

- Review Day.

Friday, 20 December

- LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM.

Monday, 6 January

- Training day for staff (school closed for pupils).

Tuesday, 7 January

- FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM FOR PUPILS.

Wednesday, 8 January

- 'A' Level Certificate Presentation at Kings Norton Girls' School for 2001/2002 Year 13 Students.

Friday, 10 January

- January Newsletter issued.

Monday, 27 January

- Y12/13 Parents' Evening at KNBS.

Friday, 7 February

- February Newsletter issued.

Monday, 17 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY BEGINS.

Friday, 21 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY ENDS.