



February 2002

Dear Readers

I have just finished reading and signing the reports for Sixth Form students and it has been a delight to see that so many have been impressing their teachers with their effort and commitment. Year 11 students, too, are beginning to wind themselves up for the revision and examination season ahead and there has been a generally businesslike feel to this short half term throughout the school. Perhaps the new toilets have had a more far-reaching effect on morale than we dared hope.

Work will shortly begin on the other set of boys' toilets and our campaign to keep the school clean and tidy will be given another boost.

During last month, we welcomed Mrs Donna Kavanagh as Science Laboratory Technician and we wish her a long and happy time with us.

We are posting out offers of Year 7 places on 1 February, and again there were 300 applications for the 120 places. Consultation papers about next year's admissions scheme have been published; it seems likely to be very different from the present scheme, with administration by the LEA.

We remain very concerned about cars at the end of school. The police have been informed that cars are still parking on the pavement outside the school to collect boys and some parents need to be reminded that cars must not drive into the school grounds at this busy time.

We congratulate **Andrew Evans** of Year 12 on winning the Lions International Club Youth Award (Midlands Region) for community service. Three years ago, Andrew helped to restart the 238th Birmingham Scout Group based at Northfield Methodist Church. The group had ceased to meet two years before and Andrew is now a Scout Leader for a group open to boys and

girls aged 10 to 15. The group's activities already include camping, water-sports and other outdoor pursuits and his winning prize of a £500 bursary will be used to start a scout marching band. Andrew gives a lot of his free time as a volunteer in the school's music department, and he hopes eventually to establish musical links between the school and the scouts.

We wish Andrew well as he competes in the national finals over a weekend at the end of February.

Mr Sonley

JANUARY MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to:

20 badge: **Richard Gately (7A), Andrew Gould (7D), Jake Hemming (7D).**

40 badge: **Lewis Godwin (7B), Tristan Wood (9D).**

60 badge: **Jason Brandy (8A), Luke Bridgman (8C), Michael Hall (8C).**

Mr Brett

YEAR 9 SATS HELP

As we approach May, boys' minds are beginning to turn to these national tests. Help is being provided by the BBC through its 'Bitesize' revision programmes. Dates and times are given below, so remember to set the video:-

English - Programmes 1, 2 and 3 - KS3:-

5-7 February, 2.00-4.00 am

Maths - Programmes 1, 2 and 3 - KS3:-

12-14 February, 2.00-4.00 am

Science - Programmes 1, 2 and 3 - KS3:-

19-21 February, 2.00-4.00 am

All programmes are on BBC2. A revision planner will follow.

Mr Taylor

ARMY CAREERS VISIT

Tuesday, 29 January, saw the arrival at KNBS of a Scimitar tracked, armoured vehicle and seven members of the Queen's Royal Hussars. All boys in Years 10 and 11, in particular, had the opportunity to talk to the soldiers about the army, and many were able to go into the vehicle. The day was very successful, and I am pleased to say that Sergeant Baker was very impressed with the boys' behaviour and attitude.

Dr Pilkington

POPPY APPEAL

The 'Poppy Appeal' raised £93.23 from donations for the poppies sold at school. The Royal British Legion has written thanking us for our contribution.

LAST SUMMER'S SPONSORED WALK UPDATE

Most of the money has been collected, although there are still some boys who need to pay up.

The money, which totals around £2,300, will be allocated to various children's charities. One charity to benefit already has been a school in Sri Lanka. We provided £340 to install a stand-pipe so that pupils could have permanent running water. This amount also paid for a water tank, pump and labour costs - now that is good value! Thanks to Mr Farrell for co-ordinating this operation.

Mr Preece has been selected to run in the London Marathon on 14 April 2002 on behalf of Whizz Kidz and must raise £1500 in order to participate. Whizz Kidz improves the lives of disabled children by providing customised wheelchairs and tricycles to give them independent mobility. We will be giving Mr Preece £300 of sponsorship towards his goal and plenty of moral support! Good luck!

Other children's charities to benefit will be Barnardo's, whom most people will know about, and Edward's Trust, who care for children and families during childhood illness and bereavement.

Mr Chapman

SCHOOL WEBSITE

I must record my thanks to students, staff and Old Nortonians who continue to support the school website and have contributed towards its recent success. The awards from Learning Alive and Birmingham Education Department and the local press coverage

have stirred up great interest in the site and have generated nearly 4000 extra hits.

We aim to continue the development of the site over the coming months. If you would like to get involved or have ideas for content, please see me as soon as possible.



TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS SCHEME

KNBS will be participating in the highly successful 'Computers for Schools' scheme again this year. Our aim is to collect 10,000 vouchers to provide valuable ICT resources. Please ask your family and friends to help us reach our target by collecting vouchers from Tesco stores or by shopping at Tesco.com

For every £10 spent on food or petrol, you get one voucher to deposit in the collection box in C3. The scheme runs until 7 April, so start collecting now!

Mr Craythorn

WORLD BOOK DAY



To celebrate World Book Day in school we would like to run a Book Swap in the Library. If your son has any books he has read and re-read and would like something new, then please encourage him to bring them into school to go into our Book Box. Anyone bringing in a book can take one from the box.

SAINSBURY'S EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOLS

We are taking part in this scheme again this year. Please help us to collect as many points as possible by filling in the coupon attached to this Newsletter or alternatively registering online at www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools

Thank you for your support.

WALKERS FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Just a reminder to send in your "empty" crisp packets with tokens. Collection bins are in the Canteen and Library.

Mrs Newton

SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 Interform Badminton:

Forty boys participated in the competition over two days. The semi-finalists were:-

***Richard Ricketts, Daniel Greaves,
Joe Stevenson and Karl Taylor***

Joe Stevenson and Daniel Greaves played in the final, with Joe raising his game to produce a very high standard of play to win the competition.

Therefore, the scores in the Interform Competition so far are as follows:-

A	=	129 points
B	=	128 points
C	=	115 points
D	=	63 points

Year 8 Interform Rugby: This was a thoroughly entertaining afternoon which highlighted the versatility of the boys in Year 8. There were excellent passing and running skills on show. 8B won the competition, with 8A in second place.

Results after two events are as follows:-

A	=	40 points
B	=	70 points
C	=	60 points
D	=	30 points

Badminton and table-tennis competitions will take place in the week before half-term.

Year 9 Football: The Year 9 boys played Archbishop Ilsley in their long-awaited cup game. In a closely fought game **John Couch** managed to score the only goal to put KNBS through to the next round. Well done to all concerned! Don't forget that training is on Mondays after school.

Year 10 Football: The team played four seven-a-side friendly games against Moseley, winning three and drawing one. Well done, lads!

Michael Wylde has represented the County at football in recent weeks. We wish him well. Good Luck, Michael!

Practice Sessions: The PE Department has a wide range of practices, so come along and improve your skills or just come for the enjoyment.

Monday:

- Year 8 Basketball - dinner-time
- Football Club – after school
- Year 8 Hockey Club – after school starting after half-term
- Year 8 Football practice
- Year 9 Football practice



Tuesday:

- Year 7 Basketball practice – dinner-time
- Interform Sport

Wednesday:

- Year 10 Football practice – dinner-time
- Rugby practice for Years 7-9
- Interform Sport

Thursday:

- Year 10 Basketball practice – dinner-time
- Year 11 GCSE Revision Club – dinner-time
- Interform Sport
- Cricket Club for Years 7-9

Friday:

- Year 9 Basketball – dinner-time
- Basketball for whole school – after school

Participate to reach Potential!

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday, 4 February

- Year 12/Year 13 Parents' Evening at KNGS: 4.00 to 6.30 pm.

Friday, 8 February

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

Monday, 11 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY BEGINS.

Friday, 15 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY FINISHES.

Wednesday, 27 February

- Year 8 Parents' Evening: 4.00 to 6.30 pm.

Friday, 1 March

- March Newsletter issued.

Monday, 18, to Friday, 22 March

- Year 9 Geography Field Course.

Tuesday, 19 March

- Swimming Sports.

Tuesday, 26 March

- Review Day – LAST DAY OF TERM FOR PUPILS.

Wednesday, 27 March

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