

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL



March 2002

Dear Readers

As the season when we can travel to and from school in daylight arrives, we enter a crucial stage of the academic year for most of our students. After 9, 11, 12 or 13 years of education for our public examination candidates, only a few months remain for the systematic preparation that will bring their knowledge and understanding to a peak. I hope your sons will take full advantage of the help and advice offered by staff both inside and beyond the published lesson timetable.

On the last day of February, we were visited by three teachers from the Paris area who had come over to research the English education system. It was a delight to take them round the school and show them your sons at work, because we found a business-like atmosphere wherever we went and their cameras were busy recording things we have come to take for granted, like the art and ceramics display that brightens up the west end lobby.

For the last week, we have been insisting that boys enter and leave school by the appropriate pedestrian gate, and their co-operation with this road safety measure has been really pleasing. The pavements immediately outside the school have been fairly empty and the main gates have been free for vehicles. To help with the perennial problem of parents parking improperly on the narrow part of Northfield Road, the police have told us that they will begin next week to issue on the spot penalties to cars parked with wheels on the pavements.

It is well known that body image and eating habits are a major issue for many girls, but there has been little systematic research in relation to boys. So when Birmingham University approached us to become involved in some research, we were only too pleased. At the end of this newsletter is a letter from the research student, Parveen Bangerh, who explains a little more about what she hopes to investigate.

PTA 200 Club

The February Draw was made during this week's Merit Assembly and the winners were as follows.

1st prize £29.20, No. 10, J M Kemp
2nd prize £18.15, No. 38, A Jones, and
3rd prize, £10.95, No. 73, M Swingler.

New 200 Club members are always welcome, and for £1 per month, it is a valuable way for friends of the school to support activities outside the curriculum, especially as we need a new minibus. Application forms are available from the school office.

Mr Sonley

FEBRUARY MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to:

20 badge: *Joshua Bateson, 7B, Jack Burnett, 7A, Steven Byford, 7A, Robert Cartin, 7D, James Holdsworth, 9B, Sam James, 7C, William James, 7A, Craig Jordan, 7C, Luc Meredith, 7D, Elliott Smith, 7A, Christopher Smith, 7B, Andrew Stacey, 7B, Scott Thorley, 7C, Alex Wood, 7A*

40 badge: *Steven Byford, 7A, Alex Lynn, 7C, David Pearson, 9B*

60 badge: *Ben Gibb, 9A, Michael Hall, 8C, David Pearson, 9B*

100 badge: *Sang Lee, 8C, Chris O'Reilly, 9B*

120 badge: *Daniel Birch, 8B*

180 badge: *Matthew Alton, 9A*

Well done, everyone! Merits were presented by Mr Ian Sonley.

REVIEW DAY – TUESDAY, 26 MARCH

Pupils will be issued with a letter soon explaining the arrangements for our next Review Day. You are warmly invited to join your son at his termly review to discuss his personal targets and to set new ones for the summer term. Please check the time of your son's appointment and return the reply slip to his form tutor. Your son is expected to come with his school planner but not in school uniform.

Mr Brett

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

We have experienced considerable problems recently trying to contact parents of pupils requiring medical treatment. This is concerning, should parents need to be contacted in a real emergency, and also involves staff in a great deal of time-consuming additional work. Please ensure that your latest contact numbers are held by the school and that these numbers will realistically enable us to contact you or someone who can act on your behalf.

Please also note that we do not have sufficient staff to accompany pupils to receive medical treatment, except in real emergencies, and we will expect you to make arrangements for your son to be taken to hospital unless a decision has been made to call an ambulance. If staff do accompany pupils to hospital, parents will be expected to meet them there as soon as possible as, in most cases, hospital staff will not commence treatment until parental consent is given.

Mr Groom

ICT PREFECTS

The ICT Department is looking for volunteers from Years 7 and 8 to become ICT Prefects. ICT Prefects have a valuable role to play in the day-to-day running of the department and, as such, should be prepared to spend fifteen minutes before and after school every day attending to prefect duties. These duties involve setting up our main computer suites in preparation for lessons, reporting minor faults to the ICT Manager and assisting with the department's special events. You will also be involved in consultations regarding the development of ICT at KNBS and will play an active part in the production of the school website.

If boys are interested in becoming an ICT prefect, an information sheet is available from me by request.

Mr Craythorn

SPONSORED WALK – DONATION TO BARNARDO'S

The sum of £500 was presented to Barnardo's from last summer's Sponsored Walk money. Mrs Marjorie Tibbitts received the cheque during assembly and told us about the work done by the Barnardo's Charity.

There is still a lot more money to be presented to other charities. We have pledged £300 to Whizz Kidz – a charity that enables disabled children to take part in everyday events. Mr Preece, Head of PE, is running in the London Marathon on behalf of Whizz Kidz. He has pledged to raise £1500, and the £300 from our school will be gratefully received by him. His training is going well – he is up to sixteen-mile runs. Just another ten miles and he's there! Good luck!

Mr Chapman

VISIT TO THE GURDWARA – TUESDAY, 19, AND WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY



Mr King and Mr Lomas, the pupils of Year 7 and some of our Learning Support Assistants had the opportunity to visit the Sikh place of worship (a Gurdwara) just after the half-term break. It was a very interesting morning; the pupils behaved exceptionally well, and they were a credit to themselves and the school.

They were offered Karah Parshad, a sweet-tasting paste, a sign that we were welcome in the Gurdwara. Some pupils tried it, but not all. Those who did said how nice it tasted! After experiencing the reading of the Guru Granth Sahib in the prayer hall, the pupils moved on to listen to two respected members of the community talk about their faith and the importance of the Gurdwara.

Some pupils were eager to extend their knowledge of what we had studied in the lessons and asked some very pertinent questions about the building, worship and the way in which Sikhs try to live their lives.



They went on to share food in the Langar, where we were given a glass of cola and some custard creams – these went down well!

We were very lucky, because the Gurdwara was extremely busy, as a man from India had just arrived, and he was very important to the community there. One pupil noted: "Isn't it great how polite everyone is to each other; they all bow, say hello and hold the doors open for each other; why do we not do this?" We hope that this experience does indeed give our pupils the chance to learn from people of other faiths.

Photographs of the visit will be posted on the school website www.kingsnortonboys.bham.sch.uk

Thanks to everyone who made the visits a success.

Mr King and Mr Lomas

SAINSBURY'S EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOLS

If you haven't registered yet, don't delay. The closing date is 15 March. You can register online at www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools or at your local Sainsbury's Customer Service Desk. Just tell them which school you want to support and quote our school's account no 00006361.

Please help us to collect as many points as possible. Thank you.

WALKERS FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Don't forget that we're still collecting tokens for this scheme. Please send them to me at school.

OVERDUE BOOKS

We still have a significant number of books overdue from the School Library. I have begun to telephone parents and students to remind them to return any outstanding books. Please help to minimise the 'phone bill by checking at home and returning any school books. No fines will be charged for returned books.

STATIONERY

We have a wide range of stationery for sale in the Library. Prices are very competitive.

Mrs Newton

SPORTS NEWS

Birmingham Athletics Finals at the National Indoor Arena



Year 7 Team:

Steven Byford, Richard Ricketts, Berhon Laidley, Jack Hitchinson, Karl Taylor, Jack Stoker, Daniel Green, Hassan Adi, Elliott Smith, Jaime Thorne, Theo Johnston.

The boys showed great determination and effort in all their performances in the final. Our highest placed athletes were **Berhon Laidley** in the Vertical Jump and **Jack Stoker** in the Standing Long Jump. The Obstacle Relay Team were victorious in their heat but finished fourth overall.

The boys finished eighth out of twelve in the finals, but the number of schools who entered the competition was over fifty, so the boys did exceptionally well to finish where they did.

Year 8 Team:

Jonathan Wilkes, Michael Skerrett, Tom Parkinson, Oliver Hartill, Mitchel Millard, Alex Fleming, Aaron Daniels, Richard Partridge, James Coyne, Sam Walsh, Phillip Whitehouse, Daniel Cottrill.

The boys in Year 8 performed fantastically well, finishing fifth. It was very tight at the top, and only a few points separated third place and us. The boys won a number of events, including:

Standing Triple Jump - *Tom Parkinson*
Javelin - *Mitchel Millard*
Sprint Relay - *Parkinson, Fleming, Daniels, Cottrill*

Pursuit Relay - *Skerrett, Parkinson, Fleming, Daniels, Whitehouse, Cottrill, Partirdge*

Obstacle Relay - *Skerrett, Wilkes, Coyne, Walsh*

Well done to all concerned!

Basketball

Year 9: The boys made it through to the play-offs after losing only one game all season. In a very tight game the lads produced some excellent Basketball in the second half to end up winners 49-33. All the lads performed for the team and demonstrated a real team spirit to enable them to be victorious. A special mention should go to **John Couch** who marked their best player so tightly in the second half that he was unable to score. **Andrew Hooper** was our top scorer with 25 points.

The boys now travel to Turves Green for the quarter-finals.



Year 10: The boys defeated George Dixon School in a very close game and are now through to the quarter-finals of the Birmingham Championships.

Well done, lads!

Year 10 Football

The team was narrowly defeated by a very strong Whitesmore side. The boys played well and only conceded a late goal to make the score 2-1.

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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).

Wednesday, 10 April

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

Thursday, 11 April

- FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM FOR PUPILS.

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.