

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL



November 2002

Dear Parents

I ought to begin this newsletter with a renewed invitation to the annual Governors' Meeting with Parents from 7.30 pm on Thursday, 14 November. Or, if not with that, I ought to check that parents have all received copies of the Governors' Annual Report to Parents, celebrating a very successful year, especially in terms of examination results.

Or I could begin by alerting you to the PTA Christmas Raffle, because your sons will soon bring home the tickets, and we hope that readers will save up to make a generous contribution towards the new minibus.

But instead of being able to elaborate on these good things, I regret that I must use my column to inform you that a student was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis just before the half-term break and the matter was reported to the police, who have dealt formally with it. Permanent exclusion (expulsion) was considered but not used in this case; however, there are circumstances in which I will not hesitate to expel, if I am given or can find concrete evidence of involvement with drugs in a school context. Despite all our efforts to keep drugs off the school premises and to help boys to understand the dangers associated with the drug culture, it seems that some boys are ignoring the advice around them and it is little consolation that our problem is one of the least in Birmingham schools.

I hope parents will talk with their sons and work with us to keep the KNBS site a safe place for young men to grow up in. I should welcome any information that will help us.

Parents of Year 9 boys should find a letter attached to this newsletter about BCG vaccinations which have been delayed because of a shortage of vaccine.

Science College Status:- We are making useful progress in preparing a bid for specialist college status and are beginning to realise the potential benefits across the school. The major problem is that, somehow, we must raise £50,000 from outside the school. If we can do this, about £500,000 of extra money will come into the school over the next four years. If any readers have any ideas for raising funds, or contacts with trusts or benefactors that might support the school, I hope they will let me know.

Early morning:- It is time for the regular reminder that boys should not come on to the school grounds before 8.00 am and are not allowed inside the main building until the 8.25 warning bell. Although there are staff around from quite early, there is no formal supervision before school starts and we cannot guarantee boys' safety if they arrive too early.

Mr Sonley

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MERIT AWARDS

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

20 badge: *Richard Brotherton (7C), Luke Cullotty (7A), Richard Miller (8D), Fraser Parker, (7C), Michael Steadman (7C), Karl Taylor (8A), Alex Woodhouse (7C).*

40 badge: *Adam Terry (9C).*

60 badge: *Mathew Barrington-Smith (8B), Robert Cartin (8D).*

120 badge: *Sang Lee (9C).*

140 badge: *Sang Lee (9C), James Steadman (9D).*

Congratulations to all of these students.

Mr Brett

LAST SUMMER'S SPONSORED WALK

A big thank-you to all the boys and staff who took part in our annual fundraising event. We hope to raise well over £2000, and a large amount of this money will go to The Royal National Institute for the Blind. A speaker from this charity came into school to explain how the money would be used – mainly for children.

Well done to all the boys who have brought in the money they promised. A special thank-you to those who brought in very large amounts, in particular, **David Jiggins (8B) - £65, James Scott (8B) - £37, Richard Gately (8A) - £30, Andrew Stacey (8B) - £32, Matthew Brown (8C) - £39, Nathan Crooks (9B) - £35 and James Steadman (9D) - £38.** A superb effort was made by **Adam Clegg (10B)**, who raised **£91!** He will receive a special prize for his contribution.

However, there are still a number of boys who owe money! Please make every effort to get this in as soon as possible, as we hope to present the charities with the final amounts soon. If there are any problems with this matter, please contact me at school.

Mr Chapman

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to everyone who responded to our appeal for "Operation Christmas Child". The collection has been very successful, resulting in more than seventy boxes being sent to the Samaritan's Purse.



We will never know the good that we have done; we won't see the smiles on the children's faces as they open just one present. In the true spirit of Christmas we have given gifts so that we can share the joy that we know with those who have little happiness.

A truly KNBS response to an appeal! Thank you.

Mr Lomas and Mr King

THE FAST OF RAMADAM

For the month-long fast during the hours of daylight we have provided a room for our Muslim pupils to go to for prayer or quiet reflection instead of going to the canteen.

We wish all our Muslim families a rewarding Ramadan.

YEAR 7 VISITS TO THE SIKH GURDWARA

Year 7 pupils are about to go to the Sikh Gurdwara. See the school's website for reports and pictures from last year's visit.

Mr Lomas

WHOLE SCHOOL LITERACY OBJECTIVE

Over the next half term, the whole school literacy objective at KNBS will be spelling. We would be grateful if you would encourage your sons to check their spelling in every subject and focus on improving their spelling skills. Guidance can be found in homework diaries as well as space for your sons to record key words for each subject. In Lower School Student Organisers, these can be found on pages 42-46; in Upper School Student Planners these can be found on pages 12-14 and in the study skills section.

Mrs Jowers-Wilding

MURDER IN THE LIBRARY

Monday, 21 October, saw the start of our "Murder in the Library Week" at KNBS. As well as displays to look at and a large selection of spooky books available for loan, students had to work out who was the "victim of the day" using the clues left by the "body". There was also a quiz sheet to complete, using the resources available in the library. All completed questionnaires were entered into a prize draw, and the winners were announced in assembly this Wednesday:-

Winner: **Ashley Parkes, 7A** - £10 book voucher and sweets.

Runners-up: **Humza Chaudhry, 7A)** - sweets
Jack Bramhall, 7D)

Bonus Question Winner: **Chris Heath, 7C** – sweets.

All students who took part also received a certificate and a merit. Well done to everyone!

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair is back this month. It will be running in the hall at lunchtimes from Monday, 25, to Thursday, 28 November. There will be a large selection of books, stationery and posters available. Please encourage your son to come along and buy some early Christmas presents. Every item bought earns money for our school library.

More details will be sent out during the week before the fair.

MAGAZINES

Do you have any old magazines at home you would consider donating to the school library? Many boys are reluctant readers, and having a good selection of magazines available is a real boost to their reading skills. All magazines are welcome but especially computing and sport titles.

OVERDUE BOOKS

There are more than three hundred books overdue from the school library. We have very limited resources and need to recover as many of these as possible. I have already sent reminders to all year groups asking for the books' return but have had very little success. Can you please help us by reminding your son to return books outstanding as soon as possible? I will give another month's grace and will then begin to send letters home asking for the cost of replacements.



If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at school.

Mrs Newton

NORTHFIELD BRIDGE CLUB (NBC)



Since moving our playing venue to the Sixth Form Common Room at KNBS, near the start of 2002, the members of NBC have enjoyed our best facilities since the club's inception just over ten years ago, and it is now thriving. We have gained eight new members this year and, with the extra capacity available, we can welcome up to twelve additional members. We are a friendly club, and we welcome inexperienced duplicate Bridge players as well as the more experienced into a non-intimidatory and supportive atmosphere.

We meet at 7.10 pm every Thursday, and a host is available on most occasions if you do not have a regular partner. We would welcome any parents, governors, staff or students who would like to join us or simply come along to observe. Please let us know via the school office if you are interested.

Mr Nicholds

SPORTS NEWS

Participation to reach potential

Congratulations to **Luke Cullotty (7A)** who took part in a three-day training camp during the half-term break which was being run by Jane Sixsmith on behalf of Birmingham Representative Hockey. Well done, Luke, and all the best from the PE Department.

Interform Basketball:

The last half term saw Mr Chapman working very hard on the Interform Basketball for all years. This year has seen a record turnout, with more than 200 boys taking part, nearly a third of the boys in Years 7-11, which is not a bad achievement. Well done, lads.

The results were as follows:-

Year 7:	A = winners C = 3 rd	B = 2 nd D = 4 th
Year 8:	D = winners C = 3 rd	A = 2 nd B = 4 th
Year 9:	D = winners C = 3 rd	A = 2 nd B = 4 th
Year 10:	C = winners A = 3 rd	D = 2 nd B = 4 th
Year 11:	A = winners D = 3 rd	B = 2 nd C = 4 th

The overall scores, therefore, are:-



A = 160 points
B = 90 points
C = 110 points
D = 140 points.

Year 11 Competition – A very well supported event that saw over 35 boys taking part. The games were played in a really competitive spirit and friendly atmosphere. The climax of the evening was when a 'golden basket' decided the match between 11A and 11B. 11A ran out winners, again! Well played to **Nathaniel Regisford, Nathan Coates, Adam Wilkinson, Matthew Key, Joseph Molefe, Adrian Bogle and Daniel Morris.**

Years 7 and 8: We need more players. Where are you?

Practices are as follows:-

Monday lunchtime - Y8
Tuesday lunchtime - Y7
Extra Basketball for Years 7 and 8 from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm every Tuesday at Bournville School.

Remember: Interform Sport and practices are for everyone. Come along and join in the fun.

Football:

Year 7: The Year 7 football team has gone from strength to strength in the past month. In the three cup games they have played, they have scored eleven goals without conceding any. The first game was the local derby match against King's Norton High.

In a very scrappy first half the boys led 1-0 thanks to a bizarre own goal from the High School's centre half. The second half was all one-way traffic in favour of KNBS with 'man of the match' **Elliot Hancox** scoring twice and one apiece from 'debut boy' **Gary Richards and Steven Jacques** rounding off a comfortable 5-0 win.

The second game was an away match at Sheldon Heath. This was a more difficult game as the boys came under more pressure, but goals from Elliot Hancox and Gary Richards gave KNBS a deserved 2-0 victory. 'Man of the match' **Steven Payne** helped maintain a clean sheet with some excellent defending throughout.

The third game was played in the first week back after half term and was a double header league and cup game owing to the cancellation of previous games. The visitors to KNBS were Bartley Green. The whole match was one-way traffic in favour of KNBS with both our goalkeepers virtual spectators. Goals from Gary Richards, Steven Jacques, Elliot Hancox and 'man of the match' **Joe Howes** completed a 4-0 victory.

Thanks from Mr Holme to all parents who come and support the boys and help out at the end of the game.

Year 8 v St Thomas Aquinas - won 5-1: "What a difference a year makes." In our first game as Year 7's we lost 4-3 to St Thomas Aquinas, but a year on we are looking such a better side with a real crispness to our passing and a cutting edge in attack that would slice through many a defence. **Ricketts and O'Reilly** caused havoc in attack and were supported well in midfield by **Smith, Hitchinson, Green and Morris**. The defence was marshalled admirably by **Byford**, and **Beech** did his impression of a young David Seaman. **Gilligan**, making his debut for the school, 'netted' in the last five minutes to give the score-line the air of dominance our play deserved. A great performance from an improving team.

Year 8 v Arden - lost 1-2: The boys were very unlucky to lose this game, as again they performed well above their standards in Year 7. A **Richard Ricketts** rocket put us in the lead, but KNBS fell 2-1 behind and missed a number of chances at the end to level the game



Year 10 v Bartley Green: A great victory for KNBS in appalling weather conditions. **Pugh** opened the scoring with a thunderbolt after six minutes, and the game became very tight afterwards with Bartley Green enjoying their fair share of possession, though never looking like scoring. The defence again was the backbone of our team, snuffing out any danger. In the

second half a brace of strikes from **Couch** put the game beyond Bartley Green, and it was all over bar putting the nets away at the end.

Two wins in two games – Year 10 were on a roll! Well done to all concerned: **Wilkins, Dodd, Hancox, Bishop, McGrillen, Pugh, Couch, Rumble, Peach, Ford, Douglas, Peckham, Breslin, Wilson-Mendez, Harris-Gregory, Madden and Vincent**.

Year 10 v Great Barr - 0-0 (lost on penalties): The boys again performed very well, keeping a very strong Great Barr side to 0-0 after extra time. The defence was again excellent with **Dodd, Hancox, Bishop and McGrillen** fighting back the Great Barr attacks. **Wilkins**, in only his second game in goal, was outstanding and never looked like conceding in normal play. Still to concede a goal - need to create more chances!

Rugby: **Oliver Edwards** has been invited to the England Rugby Academy – great news for Oliver! He has worked very hard at his sport in the five years at the school and deserves his success. Good luck from KNBS!

Year 8 Active Sports Rugby: The boys travelled to the tournament organised by the Active Sports Rugby Coaches on Wednesday, 9 October, purely to experience competitive Rugby. Our performances were well above expectations as we managed to come third overall.

The first game was against the favourites, Bishop Challoner. The boys defended fantastically well all game, and it was in the last seconds that Bishop Challoner actually scored. KNBS 0 – Bishop Challoner 5.



Against Bournville the boys showed a real improvement tactically and ran out winners 20-0, with **Murphy, Laidley and Wilson** taking control of an open running game.

We then expected to go through to the semi-finals, but the organisers changed their minds as time was a factor, and we went into the third and fourth place play-off against Park Hall. In this game the boys proved themselves to be a very strong side, with **Gately, Taylor and Restall** making very penetrative runs into the Park Hall last third. The final score was KNBS 15 – Park Hall 5.

Well done to all concerned. It is now important that these boys attend practices on a Wednesday to improve and make the most of their potential: **Andrew Murphy, Matthew Yeomans, Jack Burnett, Richard Gately, Nathan Morris, Calum Sheehan, Berhon Laidley, Edward McConkey, Tarek Salhi, Karl Taylor, Norman Sebastian, Tom Restall and Joe Wilson**.

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday, 10 November

- Old Nortonians' Association Remembrance Service – 10.45 am.

Tuesday, 12 November

- Y11 Parents' Evening.

Wednesday, 13 November

- Y10 Photographs.

Thursday, 14 November

- Annual Governor's Meeting with Parents:
7.30 pm in the Main School Hall (*please note change of venue*).

Friday, 22, to Sunday, 24 November

- Y10 Geography Field Trip.

Monday, 25, to Thursday, 28 November

- Book Fair.

Thursday, 28 November

- Y10 Parents' Evening.

Monday, 2 December

- Y11 Mock Exams/Study Leave begin.
- Y12/Y13 Tests/Study Leave begin.

Friday, 6 December

- December Newsletter issued.

Tuesday, 10 December

- Y7 Parents' Evening.

Tuesday, 17 December

- Christmas Concert.

Thursday, 19 December

- Review Day.

Friday, 20 December

- LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM.