

Dear Readers,

6 September 2002

As the new term begins, it is a pleasure to welcome and introduce several new colleagues: Peter Cowling joins us as Head of Music, Jessie Chahal takes over A-Level Psychology and David Gunn will teach Physics within the Science Department. Meanwhile, Simon Holme becomes the fourth member of the growing Physical Education Department and Graham Joinson completes the Technology Department. Judith Rowland makes her welcome return from a year on exchange in the USA to lead the History and Politics Department where she is joined by a new colleague, Charlotte Layton. We hope they will all enjoy a happy and successful time at KNBS.

Your sons have begun the year looking very smart and we are grateful for parental support in this aspect of school life. I hope we can have similar support from parents in not parking cars near the school to pick up boys at 3.05 pm. The congestion this week has been frightening with so many cars parking on the pavement on both sides of Northfield Road. I implore these parents to wait for their sons on wider and less congested roads away from the school before they contribute to a serious accident. We have asked the police for assistance in keeping your sons safe from illegal parking as well as speeding motorists at the end of school.

A large number of students have joined the new Lower Sixth Form and this is no surprise after 73 of their year group achieved five or more GCSEs at Grades A* to C. This is the school's best ever percentage and maintains the continuing improvement. The successful theme was maintained at A-Level, where our students achieved a 93% pass rate, with the highest ever average points score per candidate. The 53 students who sat AS examinations achieved 45 A or B grades between them, and this bodes well for next year's A-Level results.

We begin the new school year, therefore, in good spirits and this upbeat mood can only be strengthened for the lads by the refurbished toilets (and also by the homework timetable, which your son should, eventually, be able to interpret for you so that you can check and sign his student organiser regularly.).

Some important dates:

Tuesday, 17 September - Awards Evening for last year's Year 7 and Year 8 pupils: 7.30 pm

Monday, 23 September - Staff Training Day: school closed to pupils

Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Pupils and Parents: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Tuesday, 24 September - Open Morning for Prospective Year 7 Pupils and Parents: 9.30 am to 11.00 am

Wednesday, 2 October - Individual Photographs for Year 7, Year 11 and new pupils

Friday, 4 October - October Newsletter issued

Jeans for Genes Day (non-uniform day)

Tuesday, 15 October - Y11 Informal Parents' Evening (appointments by arrangement with Head of Year only please)

Monday, 28 October - Start of Half-term Holiday

Friday, 1 November - End of Half-term Holiday

The regular Newsletter, with its news and views, will be published on or near to the first Friday of each month for the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely

Ian Sonley
Headmaster