

December 2003

Dear Parents

The Christmas tree is decorated in the hall and the Music Department will entertain us in a festive spirit on Monday evening, 8 December (please come – enjoy the performances and win a huge PTA hamper in the raffle), and we wish all those linked with the school a very happy time of year.

The end of term also, however, brings the departure of Mick Brett who, as Deputy Headteacher, has been a pillar of strength to me and a dedicated friend to all boys and staff, offering generous and caring support and wise counsel to us all since he joined us over five years ago. He leaves with our thanks and best wishes as he embarks on his new phase of life.

This Newsletter brings a number of administrative requests so please study each of these before you get to the interesting parts that follow.

If you have changed address or especially your telephone number within recent months, please check that the school office has a record of the change; we always seem to have out-of-date numbers when it is most urgent to contact parents.

There is a letter about data protection that you may feel is important at the end of this Newsletter.

Whilst we welcome getting to know parents better, it always helps if appointments are made beforehand. Members of staff usually have commitments that they cannot leave, and it can create real difficulties and embarrassment if parents come without checking that someone will be free to see them.

As winter approaches, we have to anticipate possible school closure because of bad weather. Decisions on school closure, including KNBS, will be taken centrally by the Chief Education Officer by 6.45 am and announced on BBC Radio WM and on BRMB.

It may help at this stage if parents know our position on snow-balling. We have great concerns about possible injuries, especially to the eyes, but it is unrealistic for us to expect boys not to enjoy their winter fun. Our rules are that boys can only throw snow on the field and not near the buildings; when the snow is melting and “snowballs” are effectively balls of ice, they must not throw at all. Boys who



do not wish to be involved are allowed to stay inside the building. In the past, I have suspended boys, whether on the school site or out of school, if they have caused danger with snow. Please talk to your sons about their responsible behaviour at this time of year.

Superschool Quiz:- For the second year running, the team from Handsworth Grammar School knocked us out of the competition, but the lads are to be congratulated on reaching the regional semi-final: **Philip Conrad (Y8), Sam Poursain (Y9), Chris Targett (Y10) and Milan Topalovic (Y11)**

Mr Sonley

NOVEMBER MERITS

Congratulations go to the following pupils who received their merit awards at our November Award Assembly.

20 merits: **Daniel Clarke (7B), Ben Crumpton (7A), Miles Downey (9D), David Gardner (7A), Ben Goodman (7D), Josh Grant (7D), Jack Heslop (7D), Liam Hosey (7D), Sean Kavanagh (7B), Graham Loat (7C), Jack Newit (7D), Stephen Parr (7B), Jack Philpott (7B), Matthew Reeves (7A), John Smith (7A), James Tierney (7B).**

40 merits: **Karan Mayariya (8D).**

60 merits: **Richard Sharpe (8B).**

80 merits: **Eamonn Martin (8B), Jamie Summers (8C).**

100 merits: **Michael Steadman (8C).**

160 merits: **Alex Woodhouse (8C).**

200 merits: **Lewis Godwin (9B).**

Well done to you all! Merits were presented by Mr Vine and Sam Tong, Head Boy.

Mr Brett

POPPY APPEAL

We collected £62.31 for the Royal British Legion from the sale of poppies. The District raised the sum of £10,627.87. Thank you to all who contributed.

Mr Chapman

Science Notes

News and
thoughts from
your Science Department



Fighting Back

On Monday, 24 November, we were visited by the Gazebo Theatre Group, who gave two performances of their production, "Fighting Back". The play explored issues surrounding our immune system and how antibiotics help to protect us. It also explored the frightening prospect of an antibiotic resistant "superbug"! All boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 saw the performance and were a credit to the school. We hope to provide other less traditional Science experiences in the future.

We have recently issued BBC Bitesize revision books to all boys in Year 11, with Year 10 to follow. In addition, all Year 8 and 9 boys will be issued with KS3 revision books. This is part of our ongoing drive to maximise standards within the department and means that all boys in the main school will have a Science textbook.

Textbooks

Did you know?

There was a total eclipse of the sun two weeks ago. This happens when the moon moves between Earth and the Sun, fitting over the Sun exactly. What a coincidence! - the Sun is actually 400 times wider than the moon, but the moon is 400 times closer to Earth. Don't worry though, you didn't miss anything. It all happened over Antarctica! Find out more about eclipses at www.bbc.co.uk/science.

Competition

A coin dated 300 BC was handed in to a museum for verification. All scientific tests showed the coin to be genuine, and it went on display. It was only when a boy visiting the museum asked his mum a question that everybody then realised that it was in fact a fake. What was the question?

Written answers to Mr Butcher; winner notified before the end of term. In the event of a tie, complete the following:-

"The most amazing thing I learnt in Science was"

Prize: Book Voucher.

Mr Butcher

Music Department Review

A group of Year 10 boys recently attended a Samba Workshop at Birmingham Conservatoire. The boys involved were:-



Ryan Cush, Martin Moran, Andrew Marsden, David John and Lee Rodgers.

Their level of musical competence and general demeanour during the day were exemplary. The Music Department staff were very proud of these boys, and acknowledgement of their efforts has been added to their individual Progress Files.



Following on from the success of this event, two further "fieldtrips" have been arranged; firstly, to a performance by the National Youth Orchestra at Symphony Hall of three massive instrumental works: Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony, Strauss's "Don Juan" and Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloë". The National Youth Orchestra is offering tickets for this concert at just £2.00 – a truly stunning opportunity to hear this inspirational orchestra.

The second event is the Faraday Music Technology Lecture entitled "Sound FX" also at Symphony Hall. Two more diverse musical activities at the same venue could not be envisaged.

End-of-Term Review

As the end of term draws to a close, the Music Department is hosting an "End-of-term Review" evening on Monday, 8 December, at 7.30 pm.

The evening will have a slightly "Christmassy" flavour, and we hope you will be able to join us. See you then.



Mrs Yates

VISIT TO THE GURDWARA



We had two excellent visits to the Gurdwara last week. Our boys behaved in an excellent manner. They were well prepared and extremely polite. Our follow-up lessons will include writing a letter of thanks for the hospitality shown to us.

One of the key features of Sikh beliefs is service – Sewa. Our boys learned a lot about helping others, showing care and understanding, especially for those less fortunate than ourselves. This is a key aspect of RE at KNBS.

Well done, lads!

VISIT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

The pupils enjoyed the experience of going to the YPP and hearing real people talk about their feelings. One of the reports written by the pupils involved is reproduced below.

My Day at the Young People's Parliament

On the morning of the visit I was not sure how to feel or what to expect. Would it be a big presentation or just an ICT production? I had no idea.

When I arrived at the Young People's Parliament, I began to feel excited. I entered the Think Tank area and found that about half a dozen other schools had been invited. I signed in and looked at the paper on the wall. It listed groups of people from the different schools taking part. I found that I was in Group 5.

The presentation began with a vote, which everyone joined in with. The questions asked were all about religion and what we thought about it. It was interesting to see how everyone had voted. After the vote, Professor John Hall gave a small presentation about what would be happening throughout the day. He also explained what part he played in today's Religious Education.

After break we split into our different groups, and about half a dozen different people came round to explain about their religion and what part they played in it. I found it interesting to learn how different religions seemed to have the same meaning as others. We then had a thirty-minute lunch break.

After lunch we had another presentation, when different people had the opportunity to state their views on the people who had come round to talk to our groups. We had another vote to see whether our views about religion had changed, and most of the answers were different this time.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that Mr Lomas will invite me to another occasion like this.

Robert Jenkins, 9A

YEAR 10/11 REVISION GUIDES

BBC Bitesize Revision Guides are available from Mr Lomas in Room R2 at a cost of £2.00 each (£4.99 in the shops!). An early Christmas present? Please do take advantage of this offer. It is never too early to start revising.



Mr Lomas

SPORTS NEWS

'Participation to reach Potential'

Basketball:

Year 8 v Colmers Farm (home): The boys started this year as they ended last year with a comfortable win over a spirited Colmers Farm side. In a fairly close first half we led by 5 points. However, the second half saw us score 14 unanswered points to lead comfortably, the final score ending 42-23 to KNBS. Well done to **Steven Jacques, Muaz Buaben, Adam Smythe, Gary Richards, Tom Wilson, Errol Rowe, Chris Smith, Michael Ralph and Michael McDonald!**

Year 9: After a disappointing defeat the week before, the boys literally BOUNCED back with a powerful performance demonstrating a drive and determination that overwhelmed Shenley Court. **Green and Laidley** piled up the points as **Taylor, Byford, Restall and Murphy** fed the boys the ball in the danger zones. Murphy took over the scoring mantle as the game progressed, and KNBS ran away with a 60-4 victory: a record score for Year 9 at KNBS. Well done, boys!

Year 9 v King Edward VI Five Ways School: KNBS lost 24-23. A very disappointing result for the lads. If we had played anywhere near the standard we are capable of, we would have come

away with the spoils, but we missed too many easy chances. With one minute to go, we were winning by one point, but we gave the ball away, the opposition ran down, scored, cleared, the whistle blew and off we trundled in the van. For the second time this year we have lost by one point.

Year 10: The team has played two games and lost two: a disappointing start to the season. We need to improve on this standard.

Football:

Year 7 5-a-side Tournament: Nine Year 7 boys travelled to Shenley Court to play in the knockout stages of the Wagon Wheels 5-a-side Tournament. They faced stiff competition from the hosts, Shenley Court, as well as Bishop Challoner Sports College and Frankley Community College. In the first game we played Shenley, and the two goalkeepers were the difference, with Jack Bentley performing well. We eventually ran out 2-0 winners. In the second game we came from 1-0 behind to defeat Bishop Challoner Sports College 3-1. This set up a final against Frankley, who had also won both of their first two matches. Our boys knew they had to win to proceed in the competition, as Frankley had a superior goal difference. The boys took the game to Frankley, and only some fine goalkeeping kept the score down to 2-0 for KNBS, who now proceed to meet Turves Green Boys' Technology College, Baverstock Sports College and Four Dwellings High School.



Well done to **Jack Bentley, Jon Stephens, Carl Tolley, Joe Peach, David Budden, Jerome Robinson, Jack Philpott, Conor Kelly and Sam Farnell!**

The final was played at Four Dwellings School against Baverstock, Turves Green and Four Dwellings. We could not have had a better start, as we defeated Baverstock 5-0 in the opening game. The second game saw a spirited display from Four Dwellings who had lost their opening match. They took a 2-0 lead before being bombarded by us for five minutes. However, their luck held out, as we only managed to score one goal. This meant we had to beat Turves Green by 3 clear goals to win the final. The final score was 3-0 but, unfortunately, to Turves Green, leaving KNBS in 3rd position.

Mr Holme would like to thank Mr Kelly and Mrs Philpott for helping with transport and Mrs Budden for supplying the coffee at the school.

Year 8 West Midlands Trophy v St Peters (home): In another game that finished in near darkness, the Year 8 boys progressed to the quarter-finals of the

competition with an excellent 2-0 win over a good St Peters side. The game was decided by two excellent strikes from outside the area from **Joe Howes** in the first half. The second half saw more attacking play from the visitors, but some great defending from **Steven Payne** and 'Man of the Match' **Ben Judd** kept them out. The next round will be played sometime in the new year, but the boys will entertain Higham Lane in the Fourth Round of the Coca Cola National Cup this Friday, as Monday's game was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

Interform Sports

Basketball:

Year 7: Fifty boys played in the competition.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Reeves	Kavanagh
Merryman	Gummery
Spencer	Allaway
Crumpton	Bentley
Budden	Godwin
Farnell	Lewis
Willmott	Scicluna
Collins	Fiddler
Andrews	Pringle
Ghai	Brotherton
Newell	Flower
Sheehan	Robinson, Joshua
	Hankinson
	Robinson, Jerome
	Firth
<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
Best	Driscoll
Tolley	Grant
Loat	Burrows
Pugh	Heslop
Lubin	Bradley
Wakeman	Mitrovic
Connell	Targett
Skidmore	Millward
Townsend	Peach
Lowe	Gakhal
Allen	Webb
	McCarthy

Results were as follows:-

<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>
A v B = 0-0	A v B = 2-12
C v D = 2-0	C v D = 4-2
A v C = 4-4	A v C = 2-2
B v D = 0-0	B v D = 4-0
A v D = 2-0	A v D = 2-6
B v C = 0-0	B v C = 0-2

1st = C
2nd = B
3rd = A
4th = D

Well done to all lads who took part!

Year 8: A very competitive evening resulted in 8B becoming the eventual winners after a fiercely contested game against 8D. Well done to **Jacques, Smith, Rowe, Jones, Richards, Buaben, Coleman, Smythe, Allen and O'Reilly.**



1st = B
2nd = C
3rd = D
4th = A

Table-tennis:

Year 7: This was a tight competition that demonstrated the real depth of talent at KNBS. Twenty-one boys took part and, after an hour of quality play, the following boys managed to win through to the semi-final:-

Burrows, Grant, Lubin and Flower.

Lubin and Burrows won through to the final, with Lubin eventually taking the spoils in a close game.

Well done to all of the boys who took part!

A = 10 points C = 40 points
B = 20 points D = 30 points

Year 8: This was a well-supported event that developed into a fierce battle of skill and determination between the cunning **Fox**, consistent **Jacques** and delicious topspin of **Whyte**. Jacques and Whyte finally made it through to the last two. A game that demonstrated pace and power well above their years went the way of Jacques: a gripping encounter of Year 8 sport at its best. Great stuff, boys!



Year 9: A very high standard of table-tennis was played on the evening by the following lads: **Laidley, Beech, Craddock, Sheehan, Murphy, O'Reilly, Thorne and Byford.**

For the third year running Byford proved too hot to handle and fired his way past the other competitors. Can he win this tournament for five years running? That would be the first time in KNBS history. Good luck, Steven!

Year 11: After three years of hard work and dedication, not to mention practice, practice and

practice, Woodfield clinched victory in a tight final with Bishop. A thoroughly deserved victory for a boy who has worked to improve his game since his first Interform victory in Year 9.

Winner - **Jack Woodfield**
Runner-up - **Richard Bishop**
Losing semi-finalists - **Ben Peach and Daniel Hancock**

PE Kit: Parents are asked to make sure that all your son's PE kit is clearly labelled, ie tops, shorts and socks. We are overflowing with lost property! Please remember also that, if your son is unable to participate owing to injury or illness, he should still bring his kit in order to officiate or help.

The Fitness Suite: This is now complete! Thanks to everyone for their hard work on the project, especially Mr D Wright. The suite is a new and exciting learning opportunity for the boys. It features an eight-station multi-gym, in addition to a Concept 2 rowing machine, a cycling machine and the body equaliser. Lessons are now taking place in the suite, and practices for most years have already started.

Stop Press! News from last evening's Indoor Athletics Finals at King's Norton High School.

Year 7:

Obstacle Relay – Smith/Stephens/ Farnell/Bentley – 2nd
4 x 1 Lap Relay – Lubin/Farnell/Stephens/Flower – 1st
6-Lap Run – Stephens/Fiddler – 1st
Sitting Throw – Flower/Farnell – 2nd
Soft Javelin – Smith – 3rd/Bentley – 2nd
Standing Long Jump – Lubin/Flower – 2nd
Vertical Jump – Lubin/Fiddler – 1st
Speed Bounce – Stephens/Farnell – 2nd

Year 8:

Obstacle Relay – Jacques/Kizildag/Wilson/Richards – 2nd
4 x 1 Lap Relay – Howes/McDonald/Richards/Ralph – 2nd
6-Lap Run – Wilson/Jacques – 3rd
Sitting Throw – Ralph/Jacques – 3rd
Soft Javelin – Ralph - 1st/Richards – 2nd
Standing Triple Jump – Wilson/Richards – 1st
Vertical Jump – Howes/Jacques – 2nd
Speed Bounce – McDonald/Howes - 2nd

Overall Scores: Year 7 – 1st
Year 8 – 2nd

Year 7 go through to the All Birmingham Finals at the NIA. Year 8 could still qualify as the best runner-up.

Congratulations to **Gary Richards**, who was spotted for the Birmingham Talent Squad.

The boys have done us all proud again – well done!

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday, 8 December

- Y7 Geography Fieldwork Visits this week.
- Music Department's End-of-term Review:
7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 9 December

- Y7 Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

Thursday, 18 December

- Review Day.

Friday, 19 December

- LAST DAY OF TERM.

Monday, 5 January

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

Tuesday, 6 January

- FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM FOR PUPILS.

Wednesday, 7 January

- SEN Drop-in Session: 3.15 – 4.30 pm.

Thursday, 8 January

- A-Level Certificate Presentation at King's Norton Boys' School for 2002/2003 Year 13 Students.

Friday, 9 January

- January Newsletter issued.

Monday, 19 January

- Y12/Y13 Parents' Evening at Kings Norton Girls' School: 4.00 - 6.30 pm.

Monday, 2 February

- BCG Heaf Tests for Y8 Students.
- SEN Drop-in Session: 3.15 – 4.30 pm.

Friday, 6 February

- February Newsletter issued.

Monday, 9 February

- BCG Immunisations for Y8 Students.

Monday, 16 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY BEGINS.

Friday, 20 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY ENDS.