

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL

March 2003

Dear Parents

As the days get longer and spring arrives, you may be able to give a bit of timely support to your son if he is in the later years at school. Have you checked to see if he is doing the best he can in any remaining coursework? Does he need you to help him construct and stick to a revision timetable in the run-up to examinations? There are many revision opportunities in school; have you asked him if he is attending extra classes? Some boys remain slow in arranging their Year 10 Work Experience placement – does your son need a parental kick-start?

Science Specialist Status:- As you know, we had hoped to bring forward our application for Specialist Science Status and submit our bid in March. However, for a bid to be successful, it is essential to have the Chief Education Officer's support and, when approached, he felt unable to allow us to jump the queue within the Excellence in Cities Strategic Plan.

This means we are back on the original schedule to apply in October, with a view to becoming specialist in September 2004. The extra time will allow us to strengthen the bid even further and the funding available will be more secure, so we are not downhearted.

A really successful PTA Auction on 11 April will enable the PTA to provide more funds than it would have been able to pledge in March, so I hope the date is securely in your diaries.

Examination Invigilators:- We hope to extend last year's experiment of paying parents and friends of the school to invigilate the summer examinations. It is a tranquil and peaceful experience and if you are able to help us, whilst earning a little pocket money, please make contact with my Deputy, Peter Nicholds, through the school office.

Mr Sonley



PARENT GOVERNOR

Having received just one nomination, our congratulations go to Mrs Lorna Brown on her appointment as a Parent Governor.

PTA GRAND AUCTION UPDATE - FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2003

Plans for the PTA Grand Auction in support of the school's bid for Science College Status continue at a pace. A number of quality items are still arriving by the day. We have managed to secure the services of an auctioneer from the prestigious Biddle and Webb, who have given us a valuable insight into the running of an auction and provided great support to the PTA.

In view of the large number of items coming forward, in addition to the auction itself there will be a number of items that will be sold on a "Buy It Now" basis on the evening. So bargains will be there for all who attend.

The planned timetable will be:-

- 5.30 pm - Doors open for preview and to purchase "Buy It Now" bargains.
- 7.00 pm - Auction starts
- 9.30 pm - Auction ends.

Further details will be given with the next Newsletter due out on 4 April. Please support this event in any way you can.

Mr Martin Luck
PTA Treasurer

FEBRUARY MERIT AWARDS

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

20 badge: *Jay Berry (7C), Matthew Evans (7B), Joshua Kambo (7C), Christy Lakeman (7C).*

40 badge: *Muaz Buaben (7B), Michael Hart (7A), Antoni Hawkey (7C), David Hunt (7A), Jamie Summers (7C), Tom Wilson (7C), Alex Woodhouse (7C).*

60 badge: *Humza Chaudhry (7A), Michael Steadman (7C).*

80 badge: *Sean Martin (9A), Andrew Stacey (8B).*

100 badge: *Sean Martin (9A), Michael Skerrett (9A).*

140 badge: *Lewis Godwin (8B).*

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

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

Well done, everyone! Merit badges were awarded by Mr Sonley and Andrew Evans (Head Boy).

PARENTAL SURVEY

In a few days time, probably the week beginning 17 March, all students from Years 7 to 13 will be issued with a copy of a parental survey, the third year running that we have organised such an event. The survey gives all parents the opportunity to let us know their perceptions of how we are doing, and it also gives staff at the school the opportunity to reflect on our practices and hopefully to keep improving them. The most meaningful results will be obtained by receiving a huge response and I urge all parents to spend a few minutes completing the survey before returning it to school. Thank you very much.

RED NOSE DAY

Friday, 14 March, will be a non-uniform day, and all students are invited to come in non-uniform for the princely sum of £1.00. Since the theme this year is for a "Big Hairdo", students may also like to pay a second pound for the privilege of coming with that more individual hairstyle! Please bring the money on Friday morning and hand it in to your Form Tutor.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS – AN INVITATION

Year 9 will have a special assembly on the afternoon of Tuesday, 25 March, in order to be introduced to the Year 9 options booklet and to begin to consider their courses for next year. Parents are very welcome to come as well to hear the information and to clarify any queries that they may have. The event will be in the school hall from about 2.30 pm until the end of school. Our Year 9 parents/options evening will take place as usual on Tuesday, 8 April.

Mr Brett

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE – 7-17 JULY 2003

I am pleased to report that most Year 10 boys now have a confirmed Work Experience placement and have informed me of the employer's name and address. I have arranged for our Health and Safety

inspectors to check all of those employers, to ensure that the work placement is safe and appropriate for your sons.

It is essential that parents and boys are aware that, if any boys do not now have a placement, there is very little time remaining in which to organise one. The deadline for Health and Safety checks to be arranged is 24 MARCH. After this date it is unlikely that checks could be done and, without a Health and Safety check, pupils cannot go to that employer. Clearly, if boys have not informed me of the details of their Work Experience placement by 24 March, it is unlikely that they will be able to take part in the Work Experience programme.

Dr Pilkington

THE GREAT RE POETRY COMPETITION



Congratulations to the winners and participants of the Great RE Poetry Competition. The winners received their prizes in assembly on Shrove Tuesday.

The winning entries, written by *Robert Cartin (8D) and Ian Bevan (11C)*, are attached separately to this Newsletter and have also been posted on the school website. Thank you to all who took part.

Mr Lomas

SEN DROP-IN SESSION – MONDAY, 10 MARCH, 3.15 TO 4.30 PM

Following the successful drop-in session held last month, we will be holding another one for any parents who feel their son is having particular difficulties with his learning. No appointment is necessary – simply call in via the school office during the above times.

Mrs Powell

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year's World Book Day took place on Thursday, 6 March. We are celebrating throughout March with a display in the school library on books and authors that have a connection with Birmingham – not just Tolkien, I promise!



All the students will have received a World Book Day book token, which they can exchange for one of six special World Book Day titles, or they can use it to get £1.00 off a book of their choice. Bookshops taking part locally are W H Smith in Northfield and Kings Heath.

Mrs Newton

KNBS SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council is always striving to create a better life for the pupils at KNBS. We are keen to hear ideas from all students. You can pass ideas and suggestions to your form representative or to Mrs Newton.

There have been a lot of positive changes made at KNBS lately, and we have been involved with a few and reported on many of them. These include: colour-coded footballs available for use at break and lunchtime, homework and diary improvements, better booking procedures for computers in the library, portable goalposts and much more.

See the minutes of the last meeting on the school website.

Peter Driver (10B) and Ben Symak (9D)

TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS

Despite the lack of Tesco stores within our locality, the Computers for Schools Voucher Scheme is always well received by the school community. I hope that 2003 is no exception and that boys, parents and friends of the school will support us in our efforts.

Vouchers are available in Tesco stores and through online shopping at www.tesco.com until 6 April. For every £10.00 spent, you will be given one voucher, which can be deposited in the collection box in Room C3 or handed to me.

We currently have 2,219 vouchers 'in the bank', which, I hope, will swell to 8,000 with your support. Thank you in advance.

Mr Craythorn

SNOWBOARD AND SKI AT SALT LAKE CITY, USA

The February half-term ski and snowboarding trip to Salt Lake City in Utah, USA, was a very enjoyable experience for all thirty-seven boys.



Although the outbound journey was a little tedious via a New York shuffle, storm-bound St Louis and then Salt Lake City, the attraction of 'the greatest snow on earth' certainly lived up to expectations with a gigantic dump of champagne powder snow blown in from the Nevada Desert on day two at Powder Mountain. Snowboarding amongst the pine trees was a truly awesome experience for all of the twenty-two snowboarders and their three instructors. The fifteen skiers and their two instructors also enjoyed the thrills

of the deep snow on the many varied mountain pistes. In all we spent three days at Powder Mountain, which certainly lived up to its name, and then moved to Snowbird Mountain for the last two days.

Snowboarder of the week – *Justin Williams*.

Skier of the week – *Adam Hall*.

Our accommodation for the week was at the downtown Holiday Inn – a very comfortable four-star hotel close to the centre of town. Each evening an activity was arranged which included tenpin bowling, film night, ice skating, shopping at the Park City factory outlets, spaghetti night and on our last night we were fortunate to get tickets for a top NBA basketball game in the Salt Lake Stadium, where the local team, Utah Jazz, entertained the LA Lakers. This was a very memorable 'all American experience', and the Lakers cruised to a 93:87 victory with the help of the legend Coby Bryant.

Not much of the quick return journey via Chicago to London was seen by the boys - they were all fast asleep!

I would like to thank all of the boys for making it such a pleasant and successful half-term week. My final ski trip to America for February 2004 will be announced shortly.

Mr Mobley

SPORTS NEWS

Athletics Finals at the NIA for Year 8 - 25 February 2003: After winning the regional heats held at King's Norton High School, the Year 8 team went through to the finals at the NIA to represent Selly Oak. The team has qualified for these finals for the last three years, which is a real achievement, as the cream of Birmingham Athletics is always present at the event.

There were some excellent performances from the boys on the day, with *Jack Stoker and Karl Taylor* both coming third in the vertical jump and seated throw respectively. Each event had thirty-two competitors, which just emphasises the quality of the boys' performance.

Team scores (out of twelve school):-

Seated throw	3 rd
Standing jump	3 rd
Triple jump	8 th
Speed bounce	10 th
Javelin	2 nd
Pursuit relay	6 th
Obstacle relay	5 th
Sprint relay	5 th



Richard Ricketts again showed his great speed with some excellent finishes in the obstacle relay and sprint relay.

The television cameras were present on the day. Luckily, the cameraman was a good friend of Mr Preece, so the boys (fingers crossed) should appear on television on 13 March, unless we get edited out!

The team included: **Richard Ricketts, Jaime Thorne, Jack Hitchinson, Jack Stoker, Daniel Green, Elliott Smith, Karl Taylor, Adam Forbes, Berhon Laidley, Steven Byford, Tyrone Renford and Travis Hall.**

Our overall finishing position this year was 5th – a great achievement, as the competition is entered by over fifty schools!

Basketball:

Congratulations to the boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 who have all reached the quarter-finals of the Birmingham Schools Basketball Competitions.



We are the only school in Birmingham to have achieved this honour!

The Year 7 team has already moved on in the competition, winning their semi-final against Washwood Heath 42-30. In a close first half both teams were evenly matched with the score 14-16 to Washwood. However, KNBS took control in the second half and scored 14 unanswered points, with man of the match **Michael McDonald** giving an outstanding display. The Birmingham Schools final is against either Kings Heath Boys' School or Perry Beaches School on Monday, 7 April, at Aston Events Centre.

Well done to: **Steven Jacques, Joe Fox, Michael McDonald, Muaz Buaben, Adam Smythe, Gary Richards, James Cook and Jay Berry.**

Golf:

The Year 12 Physical Education group travelled to Bromsgrove Golf Range to aid their understanding of sport psychology and learning. **Russell and Gegan** showed their obvious talents but were surprisingly beaten into second and third place by none other than Mr Preece!



Football:

The Year 8 football team is back! They announced their arrival with a fine display of passing and moving against Bishop Challoner Sports College last evening. After going down to an early goal, the boys clawed their way back into the game and then went on to prove their dominance with a 3-1 win. Well done, lads - **Beech, Nicholls, Byford, Sheehan, Bradshaw, Hitchinson, Forbes, Smith, Green, Ricketts, O'Reilly, Adi, Morris and Murphy.**

Year 10 v Ninestiles: The boys, with a depleted side, battled hard throughout the game but lost 2-0. With it being even at half-time and playing with the wind in the second half, we hoped for better, but it was just not to be. The only consolation was that the game was just a friendly. This means that a victory against Colmers Farm will still give us the league title.

Year 11: Year 11 have made it four wins from four league games. They made hard work out of beating Bishop Challoner by 4-3, with goals scored by **Oliver Edwards, Michael Wylde (2) and Adam Ricketts.**



The team went on to show great self-control and poise in beating a Frankley side 5-2. Goals came from **Adam Ricketts (2), Daniel Whyborn, Oliver Edwards and Ricardo Manouchehri.**

Sixth Form v Worcester Sixth Form College (won 10-2): What a difference a month makes! It took us five games even to begin to look like scoring, now we cannot stop. After twenty minutes it was only 7-0! **Russell** produced one of the finest centre forward displays at KNBS since the legendary Alan Smith. **Maddocks and Caulfield** stood firm in defence. **Keane** patrolled down the right flank with the impressive **Ricketts** looking as dangerous as ever. **Flanagan** and the hardworking **Dorsett** provided the impetus behind most attacks, supplying **Gegan** with the spells to weave his magic. **Gray** was an excellent foil for **Russell**, pulling the Worcester defence to pieces (at times, more pieces than a giant jigsaw). In the second half Russell continued where he had left off, firing more thunderbolts. After KNBS had scored a further three, the referee decided that Worcester had no way back and drew a halt to the game.

Man of the match: **Jonathan Russell**

Goal scorers:

Jonathan Russell (7) – seven!
Simon Flanagan (1)
Adam Ricketts (2)



Hockey: The hockey season has started for Years 7 and 8. Last evening we travelled to Baverstock and registered the following results:-

- v Bournville: drew 0-0
- v Colmers Farm: drew 0-0
- v Lordswood: won 5-0 - **Wilson (2), Hancox (3)**
- v Selly Oak: won 1-0 - **Malins**

The boys played some excellent hockey and were a credit to the school. We have had over thirty boys attending practices on Wednesday evenings at different times, and the hard work seems to be paying off. **Tom Sanders and Tom Foley** from the Sixth Form have been helping to coach the boys, as have **Adrian Luck and Matthew Tipping** from Year 11. Well done to all concerned!

Rugby:

KNBS v Baverstock: A combined Year 7 and 8 side competed against Baverstock on 10 February on our new home pitch. The lads conceded the first try, but after that it was a fantastic display of running and tackling. **Murphy** took on the captaincy role for the first time and put in an exemplary performance. **Thorne**, running from deep, was unstoppable! **Ricketts** weaved his way through the flying arms of the Baverstock defence to score an outstanding try. The attacks were frequent and marshalled superbly by the passing skills of **Byford**, who set up **Murphy, Thorne, Ricketts, Wilson and Renford** to accelerate into the fragile defence of Baverstock. Murphy and Thorne scored again, and Byford ran on in at the end to complete a 30-15 victory.

Well done, lads – a victory to be proud of against a specialist sports college!

Andrew Murphy, Steven Byford, Josh Jenkins, Norman Sebastian, Joe Wilson, Tyrone Renford, Alex Spooner, Richard Ricketts, Travis Hall, Jaime Thorne, Elliott Smith, Jake Coleman, Daryl Gordon, Matthew Craddock and Muaz Buaben.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Ford** who has been selected to be part of the England Development Squad for Rugby. This is a great achievement. Well done, Jonathan!

Rugby practice is back! – Wednesday evenings from 3.05 to 4.00 pm.

Remember, there is so much going on. All boys are invited to all practices, so come along and get involved.

‘Participate to reach Potential’

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 11 March

- Y9 BCG Vaccinations.

Friday, 14 March

- Non-uniform day for Comic Relief.

Saturday, 15 March

- Old Nortonians’ Annual Dinner: from 6.30 pm at King’s Norton Golf Club.

Tuesday, 25 March

- Y9 Options Booklets issued/options assembly.

Friday, 28 March

- Y12/Y13 Reports issued.

Friday, 4 April

- April Newsletter issued.

Monday, 7, to Friday, 11 April

- Y9 Geography Field Visits.

Tuesday, 8 April

- Y9 Options/Parents’ Evening: 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm.

Tuesday, 15 April

- Review Day.
- LAST DAY OF TERM FOR PUPILS.

Wednesday, 16 April

- Staff training day: SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS.

Wednesday, 30 April

- FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM FOR PUPILS.

Friday, 2 May

- May Newsletter issued.

Monday, 5 May

- MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY.

Tuesday, 6 May

- Y9 SATs begin.

MINIBUS FOR SALE

Our old LDV minibus is for sale, and we are looking for £1,000.

If you are interested, please contact Roger Groom or Steve Mobley