

November 2003

Dear Parents

I wonder how many of these Newsletters reach home. Despite publicising the monthly green paper as widely as possible, we still find discarded copies littering the school and Northfield Road. Perhaps those of you who do read it and find lots of useful information in it might help us; if you each check that another parent known to you is also looking out for it each month, we may even double the readership. The Governors may then meet even more parents at their Annual Meeting on Thursday.

The application form for Specialist Science Status has been submitted, and we eagerly await the outcome. My thanks go to Jonathan Butcher who, as our new Head of Science, prepared an inspiring presentation for the PTA Annual General Meeting. We are delighted that about fifty parents have expressed interest in the adult training courses we plan to offer when we are a Science College, and I shall try to keep everyone informed in due course.

With last night's Sixth Form Open Evening, we have reached a particularly important time for Year 11 students as they lay the ground-work to make choices about what they will do next year. Worthwhile results in next month's mock examinations will require revision and planning, with really good, mature use of the study leave. We hope the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday, 11 November, will enable us to work with parents to build the best possible platform for success.

A Cycling Safety sheet is attached to this Newsletter for parents of boys in Years 7, 8 and 9. Many of our boys continue to worry us by their carelessness on the roads. We hope parents will discuss road safety with their sons and help avoid the tragedy that seems all too likely.

SuperSchool Quiz Sponsored by MG Rover: **Philip Conrad (Y8), Sam Poursain (Y9), Chris Targett (Y10) and Milan Topalovic (Y11)** deserve our congratulations on reaching the regional semi-finals. If the team can beat the team from Handsworth Grammar School next week, they will come up against the winner of the other semi-final, between King Edward's Aston and Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

**Mr Sonley**



### **OCTOBER MERITS**

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

20 merits : **Markus Andrews (7A), Ben Firth (7B), Saishiva Ghai (7A), Craig Kent (7A), Joe Wilmott (7A).**

40 merits: **Jonathan Kelly (8D).**

60 merits: **Adam Smythe (8B).**

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

100 merits: **Humza Chaudhry (8A).**

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

A few weeks ago, I would have written extra congratulations to Lewis for earning the top merit award. However, despite his marvellous efforts, he still has another step to take as we now offer a 200-merit award for the boys to aim for. In recognition of the fact that a number of pupils achieved 180 merits over recent years, and would no doubt have earned their 200 award, the following boys were presented with a "KNBS 200 Club" printed mug, pen set and carrying pouch. Some of the boys have waited quite a time for this!

**Jonathan Wilson (Y12).**

**Chris Gould, Matthew Alton, Milan Topalovic, Daniel Kelly, Jonathan Ford (Y11).**

**James Steadman (Y10).**

I look forward to presenting other 200-merit awards before too long.

### **REMEMBRANCE**

We held our Remembrance Assemblies this week and were delighted to welcome representatives from the British Legion on Thursday and Friday to talk with the pupils and to remind us all of why we wear a poppy. The boys also had assemblies based around the story of a sixteen-year-old boy who had been killed in World War One. This was presented using a very moving video from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The theme of these assemblies, Remembering Others, will no doubt be repeated many times as we head towards the Christmas period.

**Mr Brett**

## PUPIL ATTENDANCE

Attendance during the last half term was amongst the best we have had, with nearly 93% attendance overall, even though there were plenty of coughs and colds going around. The best-attending classes in each year group were:-

7D, 8C, 9A, 10B and 11B

with 7D exceeding 97% attendance – well done! Let us hope that this half term is as good, if not better.

*Mr Nicholds*

## TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS



The ICT Support Unit at KNBS continually strives to improve the ICT facilities available to staff and students. Our focus is moving towards increasing access to ICT outside normal school hours and using ICT to improve communications. Our school website has played a major part in delivering these services and has become a fantastic resource for the school community. Only this week the website has received the EduNET Choice Award for “providing and maintaining valuable educational content”.

Building on the success of the website, the ICT Support Unit has already expanded its infrastructure to enable access to staff and student e-mail accounts from any computer anywhere. We are now launching our latest development – **KNect**, which will allow staff and students to connect to the school’s computer network from home, a public library or an internet café. Once connected, users will be able to access their own files and folders, the school’s private intranet and various shared resources. Phase Two of the project will also allow students to deliver homework electronically to their teachers – who will be able to mark it electronically!

**KNect** will be available all day, every day from Monday, 10 November. More information on how to access this service is available by following the **KNect** link on the school website at [www.kingsnortonboys.bham.sch.uk](http://www.kingsnortonboys.bham.sch.uk)

*Mr Craythorn*  
*ICT Manager*

## MUSIC AT KNBS

There are now one hundred and twenty boys having instrumental lessons in school, including twenty-six Year 7 pupils. The guitar is definitely the most popular instrument, with Mr Wes Bonham



and Mr Joel Bell teaching forty-five boys each week – and there’s still a waiting list of fourteen!

About a dozen boys regularly perform in various Birmingham Schools ensembles, including the Jazz Orchestra, the Guitar Ensemble, the Training Wind Orchestra, the Percussion Ensemble, the String Orchestra and the Brass Band. We are all very proud of these boys for their ability and commitment to perform to such a consistently high standard. Well done!



Twelve Year 10 boys have opted to take GCSE Music; they are all capable musicians on the piano, the drum kit, the guitar or the clarinet.

The Music Room is open each lunchtime for boys to do extra work on class-based projects or for them to rehearse their own ensembles and groups. The rehearsal facilities are always booked up two weeks in advance.

Now that the academic year is well established, the extra-curricular activities will begin shortly and will include a woodwind ensemble, a lute trio, a brass ensemble and a samba band.

Watch this space for forthcoming details of the “Christmas Showcase”. We look forward to your support for the Music Department.

*Mrs Yates*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A BIG thank-you to those who have already sent in their boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There is still time to make one up; the final date for boxes is Friday, 14 November 2003.



We can enjoy celebrating this year knowing that, in some small way, we have made the world a better place.

Thank you.

## RE REVISION GUIDES

Revision guides have been purchased for the GCSE RE Short or Full Course. If your son would like one of these, they are available from Room R2 at the greatly reduced cost of £2.00.

The BBC Bitesize Revision Guides are a very useful way of supplementing the work we do in lessons and encouraging pupils to do that bit extra.

Best wishes for the hard work.

*Mr Lomas*

## BOOKFAIR

Scholastic Bookfair time is nearly here again! With Christmas fast approaching, this is an ideal opportunity to get some presents. The bookfair will be running from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December at break and lunchtime in the school hall. Please encourage your son to come along and spend lots of money. The school earns commission for each book sold.

## OVERDUE BOOKS

I am trying to update the school library catalogue and have found that there are still a large number of books overdue. We do not charge fines for overdue books, but we do ask parents to pay a replacement fee for any books that are not returned. We are trying to provide a useful resource for all students, and having so many books missing makes this difficult to do. Can you help us by asking your son to return any overdue books he has as soon as possible?

## MAGAZINES

Everyone knows that boys are generally regarded as reluctant readers, and so to encourage the students at KNBS to read more I would like to subscribe to a variety of magazines. Can you help by donating a year's subscription to a magazine or sending us any back issues of magazines you have at home? Any titles relating to film, TV, computing, games consoles, music and sport would be greatly appreciated.

For more details please contact me at the school.

*Mrs Newton*  
*School Librarian*

## SPORTS NEWS

Hockey:

Years 9 and 10:

v Selly Oak: In our first game all of the boys looked in fine spirits. After a few minutes, KNBS went one up, with a great goal by **Karl Taylor**. Soon after he added a second. **Dan Cottrill** scored two more, and **William Davis** scored one goal. The final score was 5-0.

v Turves Green: In our second game the boys had to work hard. **Steven Byford** and William Davis did a brilliant job at the back, and the forwards tried their hardest to get the ball in the net. In the end, though, the score was 0-0.

v Colmers Farm: Without a doubt this was our hardest game. Colmers looked impressive and went ahead with a well-worked goal. After this, though, KNBS dominated the game. Everyone was shooting and missing by a whisker. However, Karl Taylor collected the ball from a short corner and smashed it home. Colmers then went on the attack, but the KNBS defence stood firm. The final score was 1-1.

Birmingham Hockey Finals:

The KNBS lads were playing well and managed to reach the Birmingham Hockey Finals. The boys were really up for it.



v Holte: We started off well. Steven Byford and William Davis were really strong at the back. Karl Taylor was looking good in the midfield. **Adrian O'Reilly**, who was playing his first game for the team, was looking lively up front. **James Beech** (our Assistant Manager) was giving us good instructions from the sideline. We passed the ball around nicely for the first five minutes. Then we kept giving the ball away too easily. Holte were pushing forward and had three shots which were brilliantly saved by **Sean Madden**. Holte then punished us with an excellent goal. KNBS lost 1-0.

v Colmers Farm: Again we started off well. We passed the ball around Colmers very well. Adrian O'Reilly went on a few good runs and had some shots which were denied by their keeper. Steven and Will didn't look like making a mistake at the back. Again, however, we kept giving the ball away really easily. In the sixth minute of the game Colmers scored a great goal from just inside the D. They later scored a lucky goal in the last second of the game. KNBS lost 2-0.

v Baverstock: KNBS started off very badly. We couldn't string two passes together. Baverstock passed the ball around us well. Then Mr Preece lifted us with a talk from the sideline. We passed the ball around better and got a few shots in. Then Baverstock caught us sleeping at the back and scored a goal with the last touch of the game.

We came last in our group, but we had tried our best. The team would like to thank Mr Preece for coaching us and Mr Adams for dropping us at the ground. We would also like to thank all the parents who helped with transport.

*by Steven Byford and James Beech (Year 9)*

## Football:

### Year 7:

District Cup Round 2 v Frankley High School (home): After a month of waiting, the Year 7's finally managed to play their second game of the season as we entertained an unbeaten Frankley side. The boys took out their frustration about waiting to play by taking an early 2-0 lead with goals scored by **Sam Farnell and Joe Peach**. Frankley responded by scoring two quick breakaway goals. **Carl Tolley** then put us back in front, and we maintained this lead thanks to a brilliant penalty save from **Jack Bentley**. Just before half-time **Jon Stephens** made it 4-2 with a well-taken goal from the edge of the area. The second half was all one-way traffic, and we missed many chances before late goals from Carl Tolley and **David Budden** finally secured a deserved victory.

West Midlands Trophy Round 1 v Bishop Walsh (away): The first round of the Cup gave us a hard away tie against Bishop Walsh School in Sutton Coldfield. In very blustery conditions the boys started fairly well and looked to be coping well with the wind. However, just before half-time a free kick caused panic in the defence and Bishop Walsh took the lead.



The second half saw Bishop Walsh take the game to us, but a neat breakaway goal from Carl Tolley made it 1-1. However, as we searched for a winner, they broke away to regain the lead. In the final five minutes we threw everything at them and were unlucky when a great shot from David Budden came back off the bar. The match ended 2-1 to Bishop Walsh.

District League v Bartley Green School (home): Just two days after the narrow loss to Bishop Walsh School we entertained Bartley Green School in a league match. The team was reduced to twelve players owing to absences and the Year 7 Rugby Tournament being played on the same day. However, this did not deter the boys from producing their best display yet. Jon Stephens scored with a fantastic strike from just outside the box which the opposing keeper never saw. From then on it was a question of which of the two forwards would score more - Carl Tolley or David Budden. In the end both secured hat-tricks (although only David can tell you how he did not manage to score at least six or even more!!!). The final goal was an unfortunate own goal from the Barley Green centre-half to make a final score of 8-2 to KNBS. 'Man of the match' went to **Graham Loat**, who came into the squad at

the last minute and produced a fine performance to shore up the back four.

The next Year 7 game will not be until springtime because the dark nights are closing in. However, the Basketball season starts on 13 November, and it would be nice to see some more of the new boys at practices on Monday lunchtimes.

### Year 8:

National Coca-Cola Cup Round 2 v Smithswood (away): The boys travelled to what seemed a difficult tie with Smithswood. However, we totally dominated the game from start to finish. In very difficult weather conditions the boys took control in the early minutes with a goal from **Gary Richards**. With 'man of the match' **Stuart Cottrell** running the midfield, it was not long before the score was 3-0 with another strike from Gary Richards and one from **Adam Smythe**.

The second half was more of the same with shot after shot, and we eventually finished the game 8-0 with Gary completing his hat-trick, another goal from Adam Smythe and one each from **Elliot Hancox, Muaz Buaben and Steven Jacques**.

League v Shenley Court (away): The least said about this game the better. For the majority of the game we dominated possession and created at least twenty chances in the match, limiting Shenley to six. Somehow, though, Shenley converted two out of their three first-half chances to make it 2-0 at half time, and only a fantastic save from **Michael Ralph** kept the score reasonable. The second half was totally different: straight from the kick-off we pulled a goal back after great work from 'man of the match' Elliot Hancox set up Adam Smythe, who finished well. Then a great strike from Stuart Cottrell put us level. The match was then all one way with the Shenley keeper producing some excellent saves. However, he was left stranded as Smythe broke the offside trap and rounded the keeper to make it 3-2 to KNBS. Once again we continued to make chances but could not extend the lead. Shenley then had two chances and, before we knew it, they were ahead 4-3. Even though we still created chances in the dying minutes, we could not score again, and the game finished 4-3 to Shenley.

### West Midlands Trophy Round 2 v Arden (home)

The draw for the West Midlands Trophy paired us with the defending champions, Arden. The boys were eager to put the defeat by Shenley behind them and started well with Adam Smythe once again netting in the first five minutes. We totally dominated the rest of the first half, but a lapse in concentration just before the interval led to Arden equalising.

In the second half the KNBS boys knocked the spirit out of the Arden team with some of the best passing football they have played in their one and half years at the school. Gary Richards made the most of a mix-up between their centre half and keeper and rolled the ball into an empty net. He then grabbed his second goal from some great work in midfield to set up an easy chance. Arden only had one shot, which came back off the post and was cleared to safety. The game finished 3-1 to KNBS. 'Man of the match' was given to Steven Jacques for some excellent play in midfield, which enabled us to dominate the game.

National Coca-Cola Cup Round 3 v Alderbrook (home): Even into the Basketball season, the Year 8 boys still have games to play. Their first after the half-term holiday was the next round of the Coca-Cola cup and saw us entertain Alderbrook. Yet again, the KNBS boys dominated the game from the start with their quick pass-and-move style of play. However, just when we thought it was going to be one of those games, up popped Adam Smythe to give us a 1-0 half-time lead.

In the first five minutes of the second half Alderbrook threw everything at us, and only two fantastic saves from Michael Ralph kept us in front. From then on we again took control with 'man of the match' **Michael McDonald** making sure nothing came past the midfield. He then set up Smythe for his second goal with a great cross that was headed home well. Substitute **Joe Howes** then made the game safe with a well-taken individual goal to make it 3-0 to KNBS.

District Cup Round 2 v Lordswood (home): Another cup win for the boys in what turned out to be a comfortable game in the end. Adam Smythe scored early on as he followed up a shot from the edge of the area. How we did not score any more in the first half is a mystery. Lordswood then equalised with a shot-come-cross, which went over Michael Ralph's head. The second half ended up being a one-lad show with 'man of the match' Joe Howes running the Lordswood defence ragged and scoring five times (the second time he has done this in two years).

The match finished 6-1 to KNBS, and we now face either Kings Heath or Archbishop Ilsley in the quarter-final in February. Once again a big thank-you from Mr Holme to all the parents who have supported both the Year 7 and 8 teams.

Year 9:

v Bartley Green: The boys faced a strong Bartley Green side and found themselves virtually out of the game at the very start. **Ricketts and Taylor** scored for KNBS but could not stop Bartley Green running out winners 5-2.

v Aston Manor: The boys performed at their best against Aston Manor. It was always going to be a tough game for the lads, as Aston were a very big and physical side. KNBS took the lead through Ricketts, which was against the run of play. In the second half the game was more even, and the score was level again after the centre midfield player delivered a pile-driver past the impressive **Bailey** in goal. The 'never-say-die' attitude of the boys won through again with **O'Reilly** and Ricketts proving as difficult to catch as a box of frogs. With minutes to go O'Reilly fed the ball to Ricketts, who slapped the ball into the corner past the hapless Aston keeper. A 2-1 victory based on commitment and effort – well done, lads, we are having a great season. Special mention should go to **Forbes and Murphy** who were pillars of strength in the KNBS defence.

Year 10 v Bournville: The boys are still unbeaten this season after a 4-0 win over Bournville. KNBS were by far the better team, and the game seemed to drift by with no real goalmouth action.



It was not until the last fifteen minutes that KNBS began to turn the screw with **Skerrett (2) and Daniels** scoring goals which, together with a Bournville own goal, gave the boys a well-deserved victory.

Year 11: The Year 11 lads have made a good start to the season, losing just one of their first six fixtures. In the opening match KNBS dominated the game against Frankley to win 3-1. They then fielded a weakened team against Wheelers Lane. The team performed above expectation to record a creditable 1-1 draw. A league game against Baverstock produced the poorest performance, yet an excellent goal by **James Pugh** from an acute angle earned a 1-1 draw.

The only defeat came against a very strong Archbishop Ilsley side. After twice going behind, KNBS first equalised with a **Neil McGrillen** penalty and then pulled level for a second time when **Richard Bishop** scored from twenty-five yards out. However, all the good work counted for nothing when Ilsley scored the winner with only minutes remaining.

In the District Cup Year 11 again dominated the game to beat King's Norton High School 4-0, the pick of the goals being a chipped shot from **Alex Douglas; Luke Wilkins, Jon Ford and John Couch** scored the other goals.

The best performance came in the Blues Cup against Baverstock, when all players performed to their peak. Jon Ford scored a hat-trick, two of the goals being created from catching defenders in possession. The decisive goal came a minute into the second half when Neil McGrillen scored with a free kick taken from just ten yards into the opponents' half. This looked spectacular as the ball hit the bar and bounced over the line and into the top of the net. KNBS ran out 4-0 winners.

### Rugby

Year 7: The Year 7 boys competed in the annual Active Sports Rugby Tournament at West Midlands Travel ground on 23 October. The lads played fantastically well and were unlucky to lose in the semi-finals to the overall winners.

v Smithswood	-	won 15-0
v Lordswood	-	won 15-5
v Baverstock	-	won 15-10
v Kingsbury	-	won 15-5
Semi-final v Plantsbrook	-	lost 15-5.



Well played to all the boys: **Sheehan, Robinson, Hosey, Flower, Edwards, Andrews, Corfield, Fiddler, O'Brien, Tierney and Allen.**

Year 8: The boys participated in the Active Schools Rugby Tournament on Tuesday, 7 October. They were put into a very strong group with Baverstock, Kingsbury, Aston Manor and Lordswood. The winners of the group were favourites to win the tournament. In the deciding match between ourselves and Baverstock we narrowly lost by one try to nil; a disappointing way to go out, as we had already beaten the rest of the opposition.

KNBS again showed itself to be a school full of talented Rugby players who can run at speed and tackle like demons. **Renford and Payne** played to a very high standard, and a number of Rugby coaches were interested in taking our players to their clubs. Well done, lads!

Interform Basketball: Well done to the boys who participated in the Year 11 Interform Basketball tournament. We had a great evening of Basketball with a lot of high-scoring matches. We mixed the teams together to make the competition fair.

**Hooper, Bishop, Richards and Savage** were the eventual winners after running up a total of 34 points in only three games. Well done to all of those who took part!

### Sporting Successes:

Well done to **Jack Bentley** and **Jon Stephens** in Year 7 and **Steven Jacques** and **Joe Howes** in Year 8, who have all played recently for the South Birmingham Schools District Football Teams.

Congratulations to **Ben Judd** in Year 8 who has just joined the Birmingham City Football Club Academy.

Congratulations also go to **Jon Ford** in Year 11 who has been selected to represent North Midlands Schools as well as North Midlands Clubs. Jon is a fine Rugby player and has a real future in this sport.

### *'Participation to reach Potential'*

**Mr Preece**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



#### **Sunday, 9 November**

- Old Nortonians' Association Remembrance Service.

#### **Tuesday, 11 November**

- Y11 Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

#### **Thursday, 13 November**

- Annual Parents/Governors Meeting: 7.30 pm.

#### **Thursday, 27 November**

- Y10 Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

#### **Friday, 28 November**

- Y10 Geography Fieldwork starts (until 30<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Monday, 1 December**

- Y11 Mock Exams/Study Leave start.
- Bookfair (until 5<sup>th</sup>).
- SEN Drop-in Session: 3.15 - 4.30 pm.

#### **Friday, 5 December**

- December Newsletter issued.

#### **Monday, 8 December**

- Y7 Geography Fieldwork Visits this week.

#### **Tuesday, 9 December**

- Y7 Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

#### **Thursday, 18 December**

- Review Day.

#### **Friday, 19 December**

- LAST DAY OF TERM.