

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL

October 2003

Dear Parents

It is always a pleasure to introduce a Newsletter that mentions so many good features of life at KNBS. I hope that readers will be looking out for ways in which the partnership between home and school can bring further success and interest as the school year develops.

I am pleased to report that we have now raised the £50,000 needed to support our application for specialist status in Science, and that we expect to submit the bid just before the AGM of the PTA. At the AGM, Jonathan Butcher, who joined us this term as Head of Science, will present his vision of what being a Science College will mean for the school. I hope many parents will come and share this evening with us in the Sixth Form Block, from 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 22 October, because a change of status will impact on all aspects of the school.

During October, the governors will issue their Annual Report to Parents in anticipation of the annual meeting on 13 November. Both the Governing Body and the PTA Committee welcome these opportunities to consider the views and wishes of parents.

Most boys have begun the school year looking smart in their school uniforms, but it seems that I must remind parents that body-piercings are not acceptable to the school, though we tolerate a single ear stud. I have made this clear to pupils, but a small number seem to have persuaded their parents that we do not mind. When boys break the uniform regulations, whether through body piercing, wearing trainers or simply looking scruffy, they undermine the standards that we are working to maintain.

This year, we have made a real effort to encourage the proper use of student planners/homework diaries. Boys should be keeping a record of homework set, and teachers and parents can use the diaries to exchange information. I know that



teachers are writing more than ever in the diaries and trust that parents will write separately if we seem not to have noticed the messages they send to us.

Mr Sonley

PARTNERSHIP GOVERNOR VACANCY

A vacancy exists on the Governing Body for a Partnership Governor in place of Mr Bernard Clarke who has come to the end of his term of office. Mr Clarke has worked tirelessly for the school for a decade, having chaired the Finance and Pupil Discipline Committees. We thank him for his very special contribution to the school's recent development.

Nominees must be members of the community served by the school who are committed to the good government and success of the school.

If you know of anyone who would have the school's interests at heart and who could bring some experience, good guidance or expertise to the school's Governing Body, please contact me at the school.

Mr Groom
Clerk to the Governors

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION – 200 CLUB UPDATE

A warm welcome to all new parents in Years 7 and 12 and many thanks to all those who have continued to support the Association.

Prize-winners over the summer months have been as follows:-

June	A Jones	no 100	£90
	R McKenna	no 21	£56
	A Pyke	no 146	£34
July	G Tipping	no 27	£36
	M Luck	no 57	£22
	D Murphy	no 141	£13

August	Y Steele	no 77	£36
	M McGivan	no 29	£22
	E Green	no 151	£13
September	K Hiscock	no 183	£36
	R Connell	no 7	£22
	C Walsh	no 180	£13

Over the last twelve months the PTA has made a contribution of £3,000 towards the school minibus and has raised £5,000 in support of the school's bid for Science Specialist Status. The support of parents via the 200 Club is essential if we are to continue to provide this level of assistance. Membership is only 25 pence per week, and I would encourage all parents who have not yet done so to join. Forms can be obtained from the school office.

Mr Martin Luck
PTA Treasurer

BANDING AND SETTING AT KNBS

It may be of value to parents and students to have a more detailed understanding of the principles we currently use at KNBS to place boys into appropriate groups. (This may, of course, change in future.)

When boys arrive in Year 7, we should have their Key Stage 2 results and other information from primary schools. On Induction Day, we also conduct a number of assessments, such as standardised reading and spelling tests. This information is used to place boys into the 7x or 7y bands. The boys in 7x are, for most subjects, taught in two classes of about 30 boys, while the boys in 7y are taught in three classes of about 20 boys in order to give them extra help. (The English and Technology departments independently group boys within each band.)

Mathematical ability is not always directly related to a pupil's overall ability, so we group boys by ability in five Mathematics sets, which are all taught at the same time and are not part of the banding system.

The groups described above usually remain together throughout the year to enable boys to settle in, though arrangements in Mathematics and English are fluid, allowing boys to move groups if they raise their level of achievement or find the pace of the work too much.

As boys move into Year 8, we retain this model of banding and setting but carefully consider whether

any boys need to move bands or sets in order to meet their learning needs. This usually means increasing the number of boys we feel are able to make progress in larger groups. Accordingly 7x becomes the 8U band with three sets averaging almost 30 boys, and 7y becomes the 8L band with two sets averaging fewer than 20 pupils. Again, the boys who need more support with their learning, receive a greater share of the staffing resources and are not required to study German.

Year 9 continues the same banding system as Year 8, though we may move a small number of boys either way between the bands if there is good reason.

The banding system is removed for Years 10 and 11, in which students can make some limited choice of subjects. All students study English, Mathematics and Science, which are independently setted with reference to KS3 test results. They also continue with PE, RE and ICT, as well as Citizenship within PSE. All pupils take Technology, though there is some choice between Graphic Products and Resistant Materials. Students coming from the 9U band are expected to continue with French, whilst those from 9L can choose whether or not to do so. The students can now choose two optional subjects from a limited selection, and these are taught in mixed-ability groups depending on who chooses the subjects. (Some students are advised to take a course involving fewer GCSE subjects, with a more vocational emphasis.)

Students achieving the minimum of 5 GCSE grades A* to C, including grade B or better in selected subjects, are invited to continue study to AS level in Year 12. Students usually take 4 subjects of their choice as well as compulsory General Studies, Key Skills ICT and PE.

Those who do sufficiently well at AS level return to Year 13 to continue studies to A2 level in 3 (sometimes 2 + an extra AS) of the AS subjects taken in Year 12.

Mr Sonley and Mr Nicholds

SEPTEMBER MERITS

Only two boys came forward this month to claim their merit badges. Congratulations to **Jack Bramhall (8D)** for achieving his 40 badge and to **Andrew Stacey (9B)** for gaining his well-earned 100 badge. I hope that all Year 7, 8 and 9 boys were encouraged by their achievements to work

hard and to collect merits over the coming weeks so that their efforts can also be rewarded.

We will now be rewarding 200 merits in a slightly different way, and I look forward to presenting the first ever 200 award shortly.

CHARITY EVENTS

Two charity events have taken place already this term with the Macmillan Coffee Morning raising £300 and the money from the Jeans for Genes event still being counted. Thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents who have contributed in any way to make our charity collections so successful.

This might be a timely reminder to some of the boys in Years 8, 9 and 10 who took part in the Sponsored Walk in July but have yet to pass their sponsor money to Mr Chapman.

FREE COMPUTER USE AND COURSES – MG ROVER GROUP LTD



Free computer use and courses are being provided at Dudley College, Centre for Learning, Longbridge, in collaboration with the Education Partnership Centre at MG Rover Group Ltd.

Provision will include free computer courses for friends and families of employees of MG Rover Group and anyone who lives in the locality. The courses are aimed at absolute beginners and more advanced users. Please note that exam fees and a £5.00 registration fee are payable.

If you require any more information, please contact Mr Rob Burford at Dudley College on 0121-482 6101.

Mr Brett

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, as in the past, we will be collecting shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child". Please fill a shoebox with items that a needy child would be glad to receive this Christmas.



- 1 Cover a shoebox with Christmas wrapping paper.
- 2 Decide whether it is for a boy or girl and the approximate age.

- 3 Fill the box with gifts.
- 4 Enclose £2.00 or more so that the gift can be sent.
- 5 Secure the box with an elastic band. Do NOT seal the box.

NB: DO include a Christmas card and photo of yourself, cuddly toy, toothbrush/toothpaste, notepad, pencils, pens, crayons, felts, jigsaw, toy car/plane, hat, cap, scarf, gloves.

DO NOT include edible items, war-related items, clothing, glass items, sharp objects, liquids, toys which need batteries, medicines, books with words.

Please bring your boxes as soon as possible to me in R2. We would like to collect in excess of 150 boxes this year.

Mr Lomas

SEN DROP-IN SESSION – 3.15 TO 4.30 PM ON MONDAY, 6 OCTOBER

I will be available to meet with any parents who feel that their son is having a particular difficulty with his learning. This might include problems with reading, writing or spelling, or it might be another issue that you feel needs to be brought to our attention. You are very welcome to call in via the school office – no appointment necessary.

Mrs Powell

KING'S NORTON SKATE PARK

Skaters and BMX riders are invited to join the design team for a new skate park to be located in King's Norton Park.

To be part of this fantastic opportunity, you should attend an initial consultation meeting at Cadbury College Learning Centre on Saturday, 4 October (tomorrow!) between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm.

Mr Craythorn

GREAT NORTH RUN



A massive thank-you for the support and sponsorship received in aid of Cancer Research. Dr Griffith and I just managed to break our two-hour target, whilst Mrs Lawrence completed the run

with an injured knee in the fantastic time of 2 hours 18 minutes. Once all the donations have been collected, we will have raised £1000 plus!

Mr Knibbs

SPORTS NEWS

Rugby:

Year 9 Tournament:

KNBS played three games in Group 1:

v Cockshut Hill	-	lost 10-0.
v Baverstock	-	won 25-0
v Bournville	-	won 15-0

and were placed 2nd in the group.

In the play-off we came up against Handsworth Grammar who had been placed 1st in Group 2, and we won this match 10-0. KNBS were placed 2nd overall in the tournament.

Well done to all the boys concerned! – **Murphy, Taylor, Laidley, Burnett, Restall, Green, Sheehan, Thorne, Byford, Forbes, O'Reilly, Hemming and Sebastian**

Year 11 Tournament:

v Heartlands	-	lost
v Kings HS	-	won
v Park Hall	-	won
v Fairfax	-	won

The boys were, therefore, winners of their pool and went through to the semi-final. As a school which is not predominantly Rugby-orientated, this was a fantastic achievement and one that was commented upon by many spectators. The boys played with great heart and determination. The eager tackling and commitment of the team were a real delight to watch.

Injuries to **Weaver and Hancock** weakened the team in the semi-final, which we lost narrowly to a rampant Windsor team (eventual winners).

Player of the tournament was **Jon Ford**, who can only go on to bigger and better things if he maintains these standards.

Fantastic lads – this was the spirit of KNBS at its brightest!

Weaver, Hancock, Pearson, Hooper, Harris-Gregory, Ford, Bishop, McGrillen, Browning, Lane, Couch and Wilkinson.

Football:

Year 7 v Colmers Farm: The first game of the league for the new boys saw us entertain Colmers Farm School. In a close first half, which produced chances for both teams, Colmers took the lead with a breakaway goal in the closing minutes of the half.

The second half was dominated by Colmers, who made the score 2-0 early on. Only some inspirational goalkeeping from **Jack Bentley** kept the score down. However, our boys finally produced some chances of their own in the final ten minutes with some excellent play from 'man of the match' **Jonathan Stephens** in midfield. Even though we hit the post and their keeper made some good saves, the ball just would not go in. When we eventually found the net, the goal was disallowed for offside. The game finally finished 2-0 to Colmers Farm. A big thank-you to all the parents who turned out to support the boys.

Year 8 v Bournville: The first game for the successful Year 7 team of last year put us up against a very strong Bournville side. The game had very few chances for either side and finished 0-0, with both midfields and defences cancelling each other out.

Year 8 v Colmers Farm: The second league game of the season was another tough test for our boys with a trip to Colmers Farm. In a very close first half Colmers took an early lead with a well-taken penalty. Shortly afterwards **Gary Richards** equalised with a fine strike. **Muaz Buaben** then put us ahead with a goal directly from a corner. The game should have been made safe in the first half, but our lads failed to finish any of the many chances that were created. However, Colmers made it 2-2 just before half-time with a sharp breakaway goal.

The home team dominated the second half, and they quickly made it 4-2, which ended up being the final score. Our boys struggled to create any chances and also lost some key players with injuries. A big thank-you to Mrs Allen who drove the boys to Colmers and managed to get the minibus out of a tight gap!!

Year 8 v St Michael's - National Coca Cola Cup Round 1: Just two days after playing Colmers Farm the lads again travelled away to St Michael's in Oldbury. When we arrived, we were shocked by the size of the pitch (certainly one of the narrowest Mr Holme had ever seen). There were a number of team changes owing to injuries, and a nervous first half saw us lose **Elliot Hancox** with an ankle injury. However, his replacement, **Ben McHugh**, came on and produced a 'man of the match' display. The second half was all one-way traffic, but again we missed many easy chances. With the game heading for extra time, **Stuart Cottrell** scored with a fine

header to give us a deserved 1-0 victory and a second-round trip to Smithswood on 7 October.

Year 8 v Harborne Hill - District Cup Round 1: The two-week break gave the boys time to recover from injuries in order to entertain Harborne Hill as defending District Champions. The game was totally dominated by KNBS, and we finished the first half 4-0 up with two goals apiece from **Gary Richards and Muaz Buaben**.

The boys produced some excellent passing and movement throughout the half, and this continued into the second half. After making a number of changes, we soon went 5-0 up with a goal from **Elliot Hancox**. However, Harborne Hill shocked us and scored a consolation goal in a spirited ten-minute spell. Thankfully, normal service was resumed when captain **Ben Judd**, scored directly from a corner (something we are making a habit of doing).

The game finally finished 6-1 to KNBS, although with some better finishing from our lads and without some good saves from the visitors' keeper, the score could have been greater. 'Man of the match' was **Michael McDonald**, who produced a tireless effort in midfield, although his shooting needs some improvement! Once again, the boys and Mr Holme are grateful for the support we have received from parents.

Future Fixtures:

Mon, 6 October -	Year 7 v Baverstock (home)
Tues, 7 October -	Year 8 v Smithswood (away)
Thurs, 9 October -	Year 8 v Shenley (away)
Mon, 13 October -	Year 7 v Frankley (home)
Thurs, 16 October-	Year 8 v Lordswood (home)

Year 9 and 10 Tournament: Our first game was against Selly Oak School. Everyone looked a bit nervous to start with, but after **Karl Taylor** had opened the scoring, all the team's nerves vanished. Karl went on to score another 3 goals, **Daniel Cottrill** scored one and **William Davis** also scored one. Once the sixth goal had gone in, Mr Preece told everyone to go on all-out attack. The final score was 6-0 to KNBS.



KNBS were full of confidence for our second game. However, Turves Green were much tougher opponents, and they opened the scoring after **Michael Skerett** made a good save. After that, though,

KNBS dominated the game and scored the equaliser through Karl Taylor. We were unlucky not to score a winning goal. The final score was 1-1.

Our third game was against Colmers Farm. The opposition were passing the ball well and were homing in on Michael's goal. Eventually, they did score with some good passing. After this, though, KNBS had some brilliant shots, but the ball just would not go in for them. However, thirty seconds from time **Steven Byford** won the ball in defence, carried it up to the D and slotted a great pass to Daniel Cottrill, who produced a great finish. The final score was 1-1.

James Beech and Steven Byford (Year 9)

Year 9: The PE Department has recently added a new instructor to its squad. Jimmy Haarhoff from the Birmingham City Coaching Team has agreed to visit the school and work with the boys in Year 9.

The team had their second game of the season this week when they entertained Bishop Challoner. The boys found the going tough early on, as the visitors were strong on the ball and quick to make the most of the gaps in the KNBS defence. After we had gone 2-0 down, **O'Reilly** managed to pull a goal back. The first half finished with KNBS on top of the play but unable to draw level.

The second half was very even. Bishop Challoner scored from a free kick with ten minutes to go, but this only spurred our lads on. **Ricketts** started the fight back with the usual 'Ricketts rockets' and, just as the game seemed to be slipping away, **Hitchinson** raced down the right to deliver a cross with precision for a flying O'Reilly to head in the equaliser. The boys deserved the draw for their sheer determination alone. A great game, a great draw, great days for the Year 9 boys!

Year 10 v Shenley Court: The boys showed a great determination to succeed against a talented Shenley side. After KNBS went 1-0 in the lead through a **Caulfield** cannon ball, Shenley put the lads under extreme pressure. This eventually led to an equaliser. A dazzling run by **Daniels**, however, meant that we went into the half-time break 2-1 in the lead.

The second half was all KNBS. **Coyne** showed his talents by scoring a hat-trick of high quality, and **Pencheon** produced a late goal to leave Shenley down and out. KNBS were 6-1 winners.

Year 10 v Four Dwellings: Nineteen boys represented the school on the evening as Mr Preece used the squad rotation system to give all the lads a chance of snatching a place in the starting eleven in future games.

KNBS played some excellent football in running out winners 6-0. **Daniels and Pencheon** scored three each and could have run up double figures against a weak Four Dwellings side.

Well done, lads! – **Partridge, McCoy, Hull, Pencheon, Walsh, Coates, Hulbert, Fleming, Coyne, Palmer, Nelson, Davis, Singh, Millard, Madden, Jones, Eeles, Caulfield and Daniels.**

Practices:

'Participation to reach Potential'

All practices are open to everyone in the year group. So come along and get involved.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Y7 Basketball	Y9 Basketball	Y7-9 Hockey
Y7-11 Football	Football Fixtures	Y7-9 Rugby
Y7 Badminton	Y8 Badminton	Y7-9 Table-tennis
		Y10 & 11 Basketball
		Y9 Badminton
		Football Fixtures
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	
Y8 Basketball	Y10 & 11 Badminton	
Interform Sport		
Y10 Badminton		
Football Fixtures		

Interform Sport: The Year 9 and 10 Basketball events have already taken place this year with over fifty boys taking part. The result has been the same in both years, with Reynolds (B) winning both competitions. Interform Sport is for everyone so make sure you are involved!

The Fitness Suite: The Fitness Suite should be up and running by the end of November. It will be a very important addition to the sports programme, and we are all looking forward to using it as part of lessons and in extra-curricular activities.

Junior Sports Leader Award: On Wednesday, 1 October, the PE Department received the accreditation to deliver the Junior Sports Leader Award. There are ten Year 11 pupils who are going to take part in the first year of this award. The Regional Sports Co-ordinator for the British Sports Trust was impressed by the attitude and maturity of those taking part in the award.

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday, 6 October

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

Wednesday, 22 October

- PTA AGM: 7.30 pm in Sixth Form Block.

Monday, 27, to Friday, 31 October

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.

Tuesday, 4 November

- Y12 Geography Fieldwork starts (until 7th).

Wednesday, 5 November

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

Thursday, 6 November

- Sixth Form Open Evening at KNBS: 6.30 - 9.00 pm.

Friday, 7 November

- November Newsletter issued.

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 30th).