



February 2004

Dear Parents

From 1 September, the school will be designated as a specialist Science College, and the news has come as a boost to all corners of the school, not just to the Mathematics and Science departments that had to produce a lengthy application form setting ambitious targets for future achievement. Mr Butcher, Head of Science, says a little more below, and we shall keep all those who encouraged and supported our bid fully informed as exciting changes unfold.

It is good to have the opportunity to welcome and introduce the school's new Deputy Head, Charles Dickinson. Many boys and parents have already got to know Mr Dickinson, and we wish him a long and happy time at KNBS.

Mr Sonley



Science Notes

science College Status

Last week's award of Science College status provides a terrific opportunity for KNBS. The benefits are far reaching. We are building links with schools, colleges and businesses to ensure the best opportunities for our boys. In addition, from September there will be new opportunities for pupils and parents alike to benefit from courses and activities run in school. There will be significant development of the ICT infrastructure, and boys will have access to new and exciting educational resources.

We have received support from many local agencies, as well as from individual parents and old boys of the school. We are most grateful for this vital support during the application process.

Year 11 Revision: We are running revision classes on a Thursday evening, covering all areas of the syllabus studied since the beginning of Year 10. In addition, we are arranging for all boys in Year 11 to have a free copy of a very comprehensive revision software package – we will provide your son with more details soon. Mr Taylor, Head of Year 11, is putting together a complete list of all the revision lessons taking place at lunchtime and after school.

Mr Butcher

VACANCY FOR PARTNERSHIP GOVERNOR

The Governing Body still has a vacancy for a Partnership Governor. The designation of a Partnership Governor is 'a member of the community served by the school who is committed to the good government and success of the school'. If you know of anyone who might 'fit this bill', please let us know.

*Mr Groom
Clerk to the Governors*

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

200 Club Update: Prize winners for the January draw were as follows:-

W Sudworth	no 101	£37
M Whyte	no 36	£23
J Hynds	no 6	£14

Now that Christmas is well behind us, our thoughts turn to ways in which the PTA can support the students at KNBS. One of the main aims of the PTA 200 Club is to help with the purchase and running costs of the two school minibuses. Without this support, parents would be continually asked to pay for the convenience and privilege every time the minibuses are used to provide transport for the many activities that take place. Can I again urge those who indicated their support for the 200 Club to return application forms to the school office?

Easter Raffle: This year the PTA have decided to move the annual raffle from Christmas to Easter, and chocolate eggs will certainly be on the prize list. This is advance notice that raffle books will be issued to all students in early March, with the grand draw taking place on Wednesday, 31 March.

Further details will be given over the next few weeks, and I hope you will support the PTA in this fundraising venture.

Mr Martin Luck
PTA Treasurer

JANUARY MERITS

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

20 merits: **Chris Allaway (7B), Andrae Barnett (7B), Steven Hooper (7D), Hassan Ibrahim (7D), Toby Lawrence (7D), Thomas Mitrovic (7D), Ashley Sabin (7C), Alex Spencer (7A).**

40 merits: **Benjamin Crumpton (7A), David Gardner (7A), Ben Goodman (7D), Liam Hosey (7D), Tim Jones (8B), Joe Willmott (7A).**

60 merits: **Michael Hart (8A), Max Woolf (8A).**

120 merits: **Andrew Stacey (9B).**

Well done to you all! Merits were presented by Mr Sonley and Mr Dickinson.

GAMES CLUB

On Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes the Games Club has had a boost from **Colin Russell-Ames (7A)**. In his last school he organised and ran a Chess Tournament. He has kindly done the same for Year 7 at KNBS. It is nice to have experts on hand.

Everyone is welcome to attend – Room R2 on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes.

Mr Lomas

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball:

Year 7:

v Wheelers Lane: We finally played our first game of the season when we travelled to Wheelers Lane. What a start the boys made, dominating the match from start to finish! However, the first-half score did not show this, as we only led 8-6 owing to the many easy baskets missed by the boys. The second half was a different story as we ran riot when **David Budden** realised he could score. In fact, we reduced

Wheelers Lane to only three shots in the second half and ran out 30-8 winners, with **Gavin Flower** nominated 'Man of the Match' for the tireless display he produced.



v Bournville: Our second game saw us make the long journey round the corner to Bournville. Again we dominated the game from start to finish with Gavin Flower running the game, scoring 26 points and disrupting the play of the Bournville playmaker. It was a tense time, with Bournville reducing the arrears to 8 points in the final five minutes, but in the end our class told, and we finished the game 38-24.

v Kings Heath: Our first home game saw us entertain Kings Heath in a fixture carried over from before Christmas. They were also unbeaten, so a tense game was in prospect - if only I'd known how tense! Again we started brightly and led by 4 points at half time in a low scoring game littered with mistakes and missed chances. We were made to pay for this as Kings Heath took the lead 19-18 with two minutes to go. Even then we still missed four easy chances. However, with ten seconds to go, **Chris Godwin** capped his 'Man of the Match' performance by stealing the ball from one of the opposing players and scoring an easy basket, leaving us 20-19 winners.

Progress so far:-

Wheelers Lane	-	won 30-8
Bournville	-	won 38-24
Kings Heath	-	won 20-19
Queensbridge	-	won - walkover
Frankley	-	due to be played on Thursday, 05/02/04
Bishop Challoner	-	due to be played on Tuesday, 10/02/04

If we win the last two matches, we will win the group and qualify for the finals again, so well done to all those who have played so far:-

Gavin Flower, David Budden, Graham Loat, Joseph Hull, Jack Heslop, Chris Godwin, Jon Stephens, Daniel Best, Alex Spencer, Sam Knight, Marc Hankinson, Hugh Sheehan and Joseph Peach.

Year 9:

v St Thomas Aquinas – 71-14 Record Win: In their first game back from the mid-season break the boys destroyed an under-strength St Thomas Aquinas side. The lads focused on their passing and moving, which seemed really to pay dividends as we kept possession of the ball so much better than normally.

Laidley dominated the key, and **Taylor, Green and Sebastian** regularly scored throughout the match.

The boys have now won four of their six games and should qualify for the quarter-finals of the Birmingham League.

Well done to all the boys concerned:-

Daniel Green, Karl Taylor, James Beech, Andrew Murphy, Hassan Adi, Steven Byford, 'Magic' Johnson, Berhon Laidley, Tom Restall and Norman Sebastian.

v Wheelers Lane – 56-19:

The boys thoroughly deserved their victory against a lively side. **Taylor, Laidley and Green** were superb in front of the basket, and the silky passing skills of **Restall, Beech, Sheehan, Adi and Murphy** set up countless opportunities for the boys to score.



A special word should go to **Norman Sebastian** who has recently shown a real dedication to his Physical Education and is now reaping the rewards with his performances for the Basketball team.

Played 7: won 5, lost 2.

Year 10 v Bournville – lost 29-21:

A disappointing result for the boys. We can do better and will do so when the whole team decides to recognise the importance of training. We had more shots than Bournville but failed to trouble the scorers on a regular basis.

Interform Badminton:

Years 7 and 8: Jon Stephens and Steven Jacques storm to victory!

The Year 7 and 8 Interform Badminton competitions have attracted 78 players in the last week. This is a record for the Interform Sports for these year groups. Watching the quarter-finals of the Year 8's alongside the Year 7 Competition on Tuesday on six courts in the gym was a sight to behold! I was really pleased that so many boys took part, and this can only bode well for the future of our boys in Interschool Competitions.

Steven Jacques was victorious in the Year 8 Competition, and **Jon Stephens** squeezed past **Alex Lubin** to take the Year 7 title. The following boys also demonstrated a really high standard: **Smith, Loat, Flower, Sheehan, Mahandru, Bentley, Scicluna, Heslop, Burrows and Hull.**

Year 9: All the boys who took part deserve a special mention because of the exceptionally high standard shown. Well done to the following:-

Elliott Smith, Calum Sheehan, Richard Ricketts, Matthew Brown, Tarek Salhi, Ashley Plane, Lewis Godwin, Karl Taylor, Berhon Laidley, Jack Hutchinson, Andrew Hooper, Daniel Green, Robert Hodgkiss, Steven Byford, Aaron Clarke, Jake Hemming, Hassan Adi, Amir Aftab, James Beech, Andrew Murphy and Andrew Stacey.

The semi-finalists who won through their leagues were:-

Byford v Murphy
Taylor v Adi

This led to the final being between Byford and Taylor. Taylor managed to sneak past Byford to win the tournament.

Year 11: Twelve boys took part in the competition which produced an exceptionally high standard.



Well done to all the following boys:
Couch, Sungum, Savage, Sebastian, Peckham, Ford, Peach, Gould, Bishop, Weaver, Vincent and Hancock.

The two semi-finals were as follows:-

Hancock v Gould
Couch v Vincent

The final was an exhilarating affair between Couch and Gould that Couch took with an 8-6 victory.

Fitness Suite:

Are you coming to use the Fitness Suite at dinnertimes? If not, why not? See your PE teacher if you are unsure of the times.



Practice: I think it is important to mention in this Newsletter the importance of training, as attendance at clubs can drop off at this time of the year. If we, as a school, are going to win tournaments with our teams, then we must practise. If you want to improve individual skills and tactics, you must train. **Ross Baylis (Year 13)**, who represents the national league at Basketball, has been practising in the mornings at KNBS for years. The Year 9 team members mentioned above are only improving through their dedication to the sport. 'Practice makes permanent' under pressure. You will be able to perform well-rehearsed skills and therefore achieve your goals.



If there is an allocated time for your team or even if you just want to enjoy your sport, come down to the PE Department and try to improve and develop your skills. It is no secret that the two hardest working British sports stars are Jonny Wilkinson and David Beckham!

Mr Preece

'Participation to reach Potential'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 9 February

- BCG Immunisations for Y8 Students.

Friday, 13 February

- Lower School Ski Trip departs.

Saturday, 14 February

- Y12/Y13 Ski Trip departs.

Monday, 16 February, to Friday, 20 February

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.

Monday, 23 February

- Y12/Y13 Mock Exams and Study Leave start (until 27th).

Thursday, 26 February

- Y8 Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

Friday, 5 March

- March Newsletter issued.

Tuesday, 30 March

- Y9 Options/Parents' Evening: 4.00 – 6.30 pm.

Thursday, 1 April

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

Friday, 2 April

- TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF.

Monday, 19 April

- FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM FOR PUPILS.

Wednesday, 21 April

- TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF; SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS.

Monday, 3 May

- BANK HOLIDAY.

Monday, 31 May, to Friday, 4 June

- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.

Friday, 16 July

- LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM.