

KING'S NORTON BOYS' SCHOOL



January 2004

Dear Parents

2004 began with one of the most pleasant events of the year, the presentation of A-Level certificates to last year's Upper Sixth students. It was particularly pleasant this year as we were reminded of the outstanding success they enjoyed, with a record number of A Grades and average points scores that most Birmingham Sixth Form Centres only dream about. Matthew Bradley, who left us for Manchester University in 1999, presented the certificates and gave a refreshing and inspiring insight into the opportunities ahead for our leavers.

Congratulations to Ann Jones who has been awarded a BA(Honours) in Humanities with Philosophy through the Open University. Ann works in the school canteen and has spent many spare hours in the school library during the six years of diligent study that has brought her this success. I hope the boys will take encouragement from Ann's wonderful example.

At the same time as the government is thinking of penalising parents who take their children on holiday during school time, I seem to be having more requests than ever to do so. When parents make clear their concern to make sure their sons catch up with the work, I do not worry quite so much about the educational impact when I authorise the request, but some parents do not seem to care about the damage it can do to their son's progress, and this disappoints me.

This is a busy term for school work, with a lot of important dates when parents and school can work together for success. Year 11 boys, in particular, need to take control of their work as never before, with final attention to coursework and systematic revision ahead. We welcome any contact with parents that will help us to support your sons more effectively.

Mr Sonley

VACANCY

We have an immediate need for a Classroom Support Assistant, probably only until Easter, to help a boy to settle into the school. Any parents or friends of the school who are interested in work of this nature are invited to contact me for more details.

DECEMBER MERITS

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

20 merits: *James Farrell (7B), Charlie Grant (7C), Conor Kelly (7C), Alex Lubin (7C), Matthew Mahandru (7A), Scott Miles (7A), Ashley Mullaney (7C), Matthew O'Brien (7C), Joe Peach (7D), Jerome Robinson (7B), Mandeep Singh (7A), Alex Wilson (7A).*

40 merits: *Markus Andrews (7A), Ben Firth (7B), James Scott (9B).*

80 merits: *Tom Wilson (8C).*

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

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

200 CLUB UPDATE

I wish a happy new year to all parents and especially to those who have supported the association during 2003, from those who have helped support the committee to those who have continued to contribute to the 200 Club as the PTA's main fundraising activity.

Prize winners for the December Superdraw were as follows:-

S Wright	no 40	£89
C Elliott	no 51	£56
B Lewis	no 177	£34

At the recent Year 7 parents' evening many parents expressed their strong support of the association and the 200 Club as a major provision of funding in providing facilities such as the school minibuses. Can I please urge all who pledged support to both Paul Hooper (Chairman) and myself to return your 200 Club application forms to the school office as soon as possible?

Mr Martin Luck
PTA Treasurer

VISIT TO PETERS BOOKSELLING SERVICES

Five Library Assistants were invited to go with Mrs Newton to Peters Bookselling Services in Birmingham City Centre on 10 December. We were each given a budget of £40.00 to spend on books for the school library. The boys who were invited to go on the trip were *Hasan Mahboub*, *Daniel Evans*, *Max Woolf*, *Adam Pennie* and *Humza Chaudhry*. We all chose books that we thought would be popular with other students, and we even bought a few books on CD and tape. We all went in the new school minibus driven by Mrs Allen from the Science Department. The lads enjoyed the trip and were given a surprise on the way back to school as we stopped off at McDonalds. The books bought are now available to borrow from the school library.

by Hasan Mahboub, 8D

BOOKS ON CD AND TAPE



Following the successful trip to Peters Bookselling Services, we now have a few books on tape and CD available to borrow from the school library FREE OF CHARGE. If you can add to

this collection by donating suitable children's titles, we would be most grateful.

OVERDUE BOOKS

I am afraid that we still have a large number of books overdue from the library. Please remind your sons to check their rooms and return any outstanding items that they find. We do not charge fines, so don't worry about having a large bill to pay, but we do ask that you pay for replacing any items lost. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me through the school office.

BOOKFAIR

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Bookfair held in school between 1 and 5 December. We sold £335.00 worth of books, which gave us just over £117.00 to spend on books for the school library.



Mrs Newton
School Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

Cross-country Competitions:

Year 7:

1 st	=	<i>Jonathan Stephens</i>
2 nd	=	<i>Alex Lubin</i>
3 rd	=	<i>Josh Grant</i>

It was apparent this year that at least thirty boys were struggling to complete the mile and a half course. This is very worrying, as in ten years of teaching I have never noticed such a problem with so many boys. For pupils to maintain a good level of fitness, they should be exercising at least three times per week for twenty minutes a time.

In Year 7 pupils have five lessons of Physical Education per fortnight. This amount of exercise should be supplemented with practices at school, interform sports, school team performances and recreational and sporting opportunities outside school hours.

In today's society it is important to maintain a healthy balance between school and exercise. In 2004 let us all make an effort to take up the fantastic opportunities offered at KNBS.

Year 8:

A high-quality race from this year group. *Tyrone Renford* dominated the race and clocked a very impressive time of 9 minutes 20 seconds.

1 st	=	<i>Tyrone Renford</i>
2 nd	=	<i>Steven Jacques</i>
3 rd	=	<i>Adam Smythe</i>

As a general rule, all of the boys tried very hard and showed real character in their performance. *Max Woolf* and *Arran Lawley* deserve special mention for their efforts.



Team results:-

1 st	=	8B
2 nd	=	8A
3 rd	=	8C
4 th	=	8D

Basketball:

Year 9 v Colmers Farm:

KNBS won 34-21. The boys went into the Christmas break with a record of three wins and two defeats. This performance was one of the best of the year, as the boys played consistently well throughout the game and maintained a six-point lead throughout.



Excellent performances by *Laidley, Beech, Taylor, Byford and Restall.*

'Participation to reach Potential'

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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.

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 TERMS FOR PUPILS.

Friday, 2 April

- TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF.

Monday, 19 April

- FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM.

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.