

July 2004

Dear Parents

This is the last of the year's regular Newsletters, and the two remaining weeks are ambitiously packed with a wide range of activities. I am sure the time will fly, particularly for Sally Powell and Paul Chapman who are retiring. Both of them were on the staff when I arrived in 1992. Paul has, indeed, been part of KNBS - and the school part of him - since 1970, and Sally has built up the Special Educational Needs Department to the large and effective team it has become. Also leaving at the end of term are Lauren Amery and Richard Carrington who are making career-development moves after committed service in the English Department, and Gillian Yates, who rejoined the school to lead the Music Department through a very difficult period. Gillian's generosity of spirit as she juggled her other commitments to maintain continuity in music education has been an inspiration to me and my colleagues as well as to the many boys whose enthusiasm and talent she has nurtured and developed. We wish Martin Burke, who has trained with us in Science on the Graduate Teacher Programme, and all of these colleagues the very best of good fortune as they go to their new lives, and we thank them for the service they have made to your sons and the school.

It has felt rather strange writing the previous paragraph when I am retiring too, but it needs a separate paragraph to say thank you to all my other colleagues, past and present, and to the school's governors, past and present, who have made my job so much easier and happier than I expected when I decided to apply for headship. You as parents are fortunate to have a staff with such a wealth of goodwill and such a deep motivation to help and support the boys of this school, from the moment you come into Reception, and past the growing ranks of multi-talented support staff, to the classroom where teachers and teaching assistants work for a healthy balance between academic and personal development of your sons. I am sure that, under Roy Baylis, the school will thrive and flourish.



I hope I shall see many of you at the various Awards Ceremonies taking place in the last week of term; there is a list of dates and times at the end of the Newsletter and I should, perhaps, emphasise that the term will end at 1.00 pm on Friday, 16 July.

Mr Sonley

JUNE MERITS

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

20 merits: *John-James Brotherton (7B), Ryan Hooker (7A), Oliver Parker (7A), Liam Pinnock (7A).*

40 merits: *Andrae Barnett (7B), Christopher Johnstone-Law (7B).*

60 merits: *Daniel Clarke (7B), Joseph Willmott (7A).*

60 merits: *Reece Tierney (9A).*

100 merits: *Hassan Adi (9C).*

120 merits: *Hassan Adi (9C).*

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

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

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Letters have recently been posted to the parents of pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, enclosing a copy of the personal details we have on file for their sons. Please return the data collection sheets, with any necessary amendments, to the school office as soon as possible, as it is important that we hold accurate information on file. It is especially important that emergency contact numbers are correct.

CANTEEN RE-ARRANGEMENT

A change has been made to serving arrangements in the Canteen, and pupils are asked to note that, as from Friday, 2 July, all sandwiches will be sold in the Tuck Shop.

JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

This was taken by Year 8 Set 1 pupils, along with the best young mathematicians of similar age across the country. **Jordan Brotherton** achieved the best in the year. He also gained entry to the next round of the competition “The Mathematical Olympiad”.

Gold Certificate **Jordan Brotherton**
 Daniel Evans

Silver Certificate **Chris Henman**
 Thomas Caesar
 Daniel O’Reilly
 Nick Publicover
 Ben Judd

Bronze Certificate **Karl Page**
 Amar Viteskic
 Ben Torrens
 Muaz Buaben

Congratulations to them all!

Our special thanks go to Mrs Cunningham for all her help with the organisation of these events.

Mr Thomas

CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMISERATIONS

Well done to **Jack Stoker** who has won a prize in the Rotary Club Design Innovation Competition and receives a £25 cheque to be presented at a lunch on 5 July. His design was a gadget to help you locate your luggage at an airport.

Hard luck but well done to **Scott Thorley and Stephen Cooper** for their efforts at the Shell Eco-Marathon. They both completed laps at the Rockingham Speedway Circuit, but unfortunately the gearbox disintegrated, and we had to withdraw.

Thanks particularly to Roger Ludford, Alex Stone and Mr Stephen Cooper who all gave up their time to support the team.

Mr D Wright

VISIT OF YEAR 8 PUPILS TO THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

On Monday, 14 June, Year 8 embarked on an epic adventure back in time to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. It was both an enjoyable and educational experience which prepared us for our work on the Industrial Revolution.

The day began with a lesson in the three R’s at the Victorian School. We sat in rows and wrote on slates with chalk. The teacher, Miss Griffiths, was very strict, and several boys received the cane. Mrs Allen said that it was like that in her day.

The best part of the visit was the trip down the coal mine. It really helped to see the conditions that the men worked in, and we were surprised to see that boys as young as us worked down there, too. **Muaz Buaben** was terrified, especially when we turned out the torches. Walking through the small tunnels, he found that he was claustrophobic. Luckily, he was rescued by Miss Layton before the explosion.

As we toured the Victorian Village, we located Mr Kirsz in the bakery investing in quite a large piece of bread pudding (which he duly shared with the staff). Mr Lomas’ group took time to cool off in the Methodist Chapel. Mr Lomas was eager to get into the pulpit but was restrained by a quick-thinking **Michael Steadman**.

Throughout the day we came across various forms of transport that developed during the industrial age. To the guide’s astonishment **Joe Howes** knew how steam was used to bend the wood in boat-making and what navvies used ice-breakers for. He apparently watches *Canal Life* on Sunday evenings.

Thank you to all the members of staff on the trip for making it such an enjoyable experience.

A Tom Wilson and Muaz Buaben production for the History Department

JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING

Over forty boys from Years 7 to 10 were given a fantastic opportunity to perform with Mr James Barrow, an expert in Japanese Taiko Drumming. Mr Barrow has spent four and a half years living and working in Hiroshima and while there learned this traditional style of drumming.



He spent three hours of his time at KNBS with thirteen boys preparing them for a performance in Cotteridge Park on Saturday, 3 July, as part of the Cotteridge Community Festival of Music, Art and Dance (CoCoMAD). The boys learnt a piece called “Atsumari” (meaning “The Gathering”) lasting six minutes, which we have recorded for posterity! Mr Barrow was extremely impressed with the boys’ ability to learn a piece of this complexity in such a short space of time.

During two other one-hour classes the twelve boys in the Year 10 GCSE Music group and eighteen Year 9 boys about to begin their GCSE studies had brief taster sessions.

The boys all acquitted themselves very well, and I was really proud of their behaviour and their musical talent. For many boys at KNBS their only experience of drumming is through a drum kit, but Taiko Drumming requires great stamina and posture. Every beat on the drum demands whole body movement, from the exaggerated gravitational strike to the almost sumo-style stance. The physical and mental agility required is very apparent. The boys had to remember quite detailed drumming rhythms, varying repetitions of each pattern and performance instructions.

Perhaps the boys will never use this newly-found talent again, but it has certainly raised their awareness of music of different cultures and has enabled them to handle Japanese artefacts. It was a true learning experience for us all.

Mitchel Corfield, Hugh Sheehan, Alex Pugh, Alex Bradley, Mandeep Singh, Will Burrows, Jonathan Kelly, Ewan Whyte, Max Woolf, Ashley Bunn, Ryan Cush, James Clifton and Nathan Wade.

Mrs Yates

TRIP TO SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

On Friday, 18 June, a group of pupils in Year 10, accompanied by Mr Adams, went on a trip to Selwyn College, Cambridge. We set out at 8.00 am by coach with a number of pupils from Turves Green Boys' School and King Edward VI School. When we arrived, we were warmly greeted by the Admissions Tutor of Selwyn College and were given a short seminar on the advantages of going to university. We then helped ourselves to orange juice and biscuits. A few minutes later we were introduced to the students who would give us a tour of the main buildings (after they had got out of bed, that is!). We were then put into four groups, which we stayed in for the rest of the day. We were shown the rooms where the students do their studies and sleep. We also went round the library and dining room. Afterwards we came back and had lunch – and more orange juice and biscuits!

We set off again to venture out into the town, where we were shown the River Cam and the numerous punts – long boats that are pushed along by one person standing at the end using a long pole. We also saw King's College and Chapel in the centre of Cambridge and countless bicycles around the town. It was just like the images that you see on TV!

We went back to the Conference Room and had a quiz on the history of Cambridge and some general knowledge questions. My group, which included ***Asad Farooq and Ram Raithatha***, won 1st Prize! This was a box of chocolate mint crisps and a special pencil.

The students and Tutor wished us farewell and thanked us for going. All in all, the visit to Selwyn College was extremely helpful for anybody who might be considering going into Higher Education.

Ojezua Aisuebeogum, Asad Farooq, Jatinder Hayre, Ram Raithatha, Alex Taylor, Amin Aziz, Daniel Birch, James Harris, Usman Saquib, Joshua Purfield-Clark and Ben Symak.

Report by Ben Symak, Year 10

PEER MENTORING NEWS

Stuart Sheldon, 9D, and Reece Tierney, 9A, have been working with Year 6 pupils at Wychall Primary School during two lunchtimes a week. The Headteacher of Wychall has said that both boys are excellent Peer Mentors, and she is looking forward to having them back there next year. The boys have recently been on a residential trip with Year 5 pupils and staff, having a great time while getting to know children they will soon be mentoring. Stuart and Reece are a credit to KNBS and are forging valuable links with some of the boys who will be joining us in Year 7 next September.

Sam James, 9C, has recently been invited to work with reception children at Wychall Primary School. Sam says he is having a great time mentoring the younger children.

Matthew Plant, 9C, and Adam Terry, 10C, have also started mentoring at Cotteridge Junior School. They are using their new skills to peer mentor some of next September's new boys.

Jake Hemming, 9D, Lewis Doughty, 9A, and Matthew Reynolds, 9A, have done a super job mentoring children at Raddlebarn Junior School.

Max Perrin, 9C, is our Summer School mentor and is working hard producing timetables for this year's event. This is not an easy job to complete, but Max is determined to finish it in time for the start of the Summer School.

Well done to all of these boys for completing their Peer Mentoring course and gaining their certificates.

Mrs Keeling-Easley

SPORTS NEWS

Year 9 Interform Short-tennis

In a very competitive tournament, the following boys managed to win through to the quarter-finals:

Steven Byford, Hassan Adi, Calum Sheehan, Karl Taylor, Daniel Green, Thomas Blaymires, Ishaq Hawwash and Jack Hitchinson.

The standard of play was excellent throughout. Byford and Hawwash made the final, with Byford running out overall winner.

Well played lads!

A	=	40 points
B	=	20 points
C	=	30 points
D	=	10 points

Tennis:

Congratulations to the following boys who represented the school in the Birmingham Tennis League: **Joe Fox, Steven Jacques, Muaz Buaben, Abdi Kizildag and Hugh Sheehan.** Well done also to the other boys who came to the practice sessions, especially **Ryan Prosser and Steven Hooper.**

Wimbledon Trip 2004: On the best day of the week for weather and quality of play, seven boys went to Wimbledon: **Muaz Buaben, Joe Fox, Steven Jacques, Steven Byford, James Beech, Joe Stevenson and Robert Jenkins.**



We saw Andy Roddick serving at 140 mph, the No 2 women's seed, Myskyna, and various other top-quality players. Steven Jacques served at 77 mph in the Kids' Zone, narrowly beating Mr Taylor and Mr Preece, but not Mr Chapman, of course!

We were all impressed with the power of both the men and women players. A great day!

Cricket:

Promising Start by Year 7 Cricketers: The future appears bright for KNBS cricket with lots of interest and enthusiasm being shown by Year 7 boys. Well over thirty-five boys have regularly attended practices, and half of them have been able to represent the school.

The first game produced an exciting finish away to Fairfax School in Sutton Coldfield. Batting first, KNBS made 82 for 5. Top scorers were **Josh Grant**, who made 9, and **Alex Lubin**, 8. Fairfax

reached the total needed, losing 6 wickets with only 5 balls to spare. **Alex Bradley** took 4 wickets.

The difference between the sides was clearly the running between wickets and the ability to take quick singles. All the Fairfax boys play club cricket, yet only four of our boys are involved in this activity. In training we have tried to close this gap.



In the second fixture against Ninestiles the opposition was restricted to 48 for 4, **Jon Stephens, Alex Bradley, Michael Ivory and Alex Lubin** being the wicket-takers. KNBS knocked off their runs in only 10 overs, Jon Stephens scoring 14 runs and Alex Lubin, 10.

Against Lordswood KNBS gave the most impressive display to date. Batting first, we made 82 for 3, which included stands of 19, 35 and 23 for the first 3 wickets. Top scorers were Alex Lubin with 24 runs and **John Smith** with 18. Despite excellent fielding, the opposition made 48 before the first wicket fell in the fourteenth over. Needing only 22 off the last 6 overs with 9 wickets left, Lordswood then fell victim to some excellent bowling, which left them needing 4 runs for victory. Alex Bradley took 3 wickets and **Matthew Mahandru** 2 wickets. John Smith bowled a very tight last over, conceding only 3 runs.

Both teams produced excellent examples of good cricket in this game, which shows the advances the team has made this season. **Gavin Flowers'** fielding was outstanding. Other boys involved include **Jack Heslop, James Perry, Jerome Robinson, Marc Hankinson, Khurram Mahmood and Rajhan Gakhal.**

Sports Day Winners 2004

	<u>Y7</u>	<u>Y8</u>
100 m	D Budden	J Howes*
200 m	J Stephens*	A Checkley*
400 m	G Loat	G Richards
800 m	L Pinnock	J Coleman
1500 m	A Lubin*	T Renford
High Jump	S Hooper	A Checkley
Long Jump	J Heslop	T Renford*
Triple Jump	C Barritt	J Howes*
Shot	A Lubin*	J Coleman
Javelin	A Cornes	T Wilson
Discus	A Pugh	C Roberts*

	<u>Y9</u>	<u>Y10</u>
100 m	J Hitchinson*	D Cottrill
200 m	D Romp	L Knight
400 m	A Forbes	O Hartill
800 m	J Eyre	W Davis
1500 m	M Brown	
High Jump	N Sebastian	
Long Jump	D Romp*	J Pencheon
Triple Jump	B Laidley	D Cottrill
Shot	A Guest	S Kavanagh
Javelin	J Stoker*	J Clifton
Discus	K Taylor	P Truran

* New School Records

Continued Football Success: After success in four football finals this season, KNBS has also won two of the local King's Norton and South Birmingham Leagues. Year 10 and Year 11 were both clear winners of their leagues. This gave Year 10 a 'league and cup double'. Well done to both year groups!

Cup Appearances for Referees: Despite the school not making the final of the Birmingham City Cup, we were still well represented. Old boy of the school, Mr John Nash, refereed the game, and his Assistants were both Sixth Form students of the school, *Frank Walker and Tom Hickey*. Both finalists commented on the efficiency of this 'team'. Frank Walker also refereed the Year 8 final of the District Cup.

Mr Preece

'Participation to reach Potential'



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 5 July

- Y7 Residential Visit departs (until 9 July).
- Y10 Work Experience Week 1.
- Induction Day and Parents' Meeting for new Y12 Students.
- Y12 Activities Week 1.

Tuesday, 6 July

- Y13 Leavers' Ball.

Wednesday, 7 July

- Induction Day for new Y7.

Thursday, 8 July

- Y8 Activities/Y9 Industry Day 1.

Friday, 9 July

- Y8 Activities/Y9 Industry Day 2.

Monday, 12 July

- Y10 Work Experience Week 2.
- Y12 Activities Week 2.
- Y7 Awards: 2.05 pm (re-arranged date).
- Y8 Reports issued.

Wednesday, 14 July

- Y9 Awards and Reports issued.

Thursday, 15 July

- Y8 Awards Presentation.

Friday, 16 July

- Y10 Work Experience De-briefing, Awards and Reports issued.
- LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM.

Thursday, 19 August

- AS and A2 Level Results Day – collection from 10.00 am.

Thursday, 26 August

- GCSE Results Day – collection from 10.30 am.

Wednesday, 1 September

- TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF.
- New Y12 Enrolment.

Thursday, 2 September

- FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM FOR PUPILS. Starting times:-
8.30 am – Y7 (new intake).
9.30 am – Yrs 8-11.
Y12 Induction Day.

Friday, 3 September

- Y13 Induction Day.

Monday, 6 September

- Y12/Y13 lessons start.

Monday, 27 September

- TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF. SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS.
- Open Evening 7.00 to 9.00 pm.