

March 2004

Dear Parents

If our children were young again, I think my wife and I would be considering supplementing their diets with fish oils containing Omega-3 fatty acids. An increasing number of parents seem to be helping their children's general welfare by doing this and it even seems to be bringing academic improvements. Two sets of parents have told me how much happier their children seem to be after as little as three months of the supplement. If you do think about this, please take professional advice about it first, and afterwards, let us know if Omega-3 helps – there is almost enough time before the summer exams.

You will be delighted to learn that the home page of the website of one of the examination boards, AQA, is displaying the 2003 A-Level Art work of Greg Strong, one of last year's Sixth Form students. This special distinction is a result of Greg's talent and hard work, not to mention the support and guidance he enjoyed from his art teachers through school.

PTA Raffle:- Tickets will be issued next week. Please buy generously for our main annual fund-raising event, especially if you are not in the 200 Club.

Mr Sonley

FEBRUARY MERITS

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

20 merits: *Ben Ellis (7C), Aaron Elvins (7B), Christopher Godwin (7B), Joseph Gummery (7B), Michael Ivory (7C), Robert Larner (7C), Alex Pugh (7C), Tobias Robinson (8C), Salam Shakir (8D), Stefan Taylor (7D), Daniel Wainwright (7B).*

40 merits: *Christopher Allaway (7B), Daniel Clarke (7B), Sean Kavanagh (7B), Craig Kent (7A), Matthew Mahandru (7A), Jack Philpott (7B), Amar Viteskic (8D).*

60 merits: *Markus Andrews (7A), Jack Bramhall (8D), David Gardner (7A), Antoni Hawkey (8C).*

80 merits: *Christopher Smith (8B).*



100 merits: *Daniel Evans (8D), Thomas Wilson (8C).*

120 merits: *Daniel Evans (8D), Michael Steadman (8C).*

140 merits: *Daniel Evans (8D).*

Well done to you all! Merits were presented by Mr Sonley, and he also presented certificates to the Year 7 boys who submitted the winning anti-drugs slogans produced during the Crimestoppers' Presentation on 14 February.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME (EES)

CREST certificates at Gold Level were presented in Sixth Form assembly to mark the achievements of *Oliver Peach, Phil Brookes, Andrew Smith and Esther Shaylor (KNGS)*, who had worked for over six months on an engineering project in conjunction with MG Rover.

Currently, another four students are working with MG Rover on a new project, having completed their four-day residential course at the University of Birmingham. *Tom Simpson, Matthew Tipping, Greg Martin and Richard Fox* will present their work to a series of judges at a major event held at the NEC.

Mr D Wright

SURVEY OF TALENTS

In the course of our day-to-day teaching, it is not always possible for teachers to know of all the particular abilities and talents our pupils have. Many of these are displayed outside school time. For example, boys may have set up their own website or may speak another foreign language to a high standard. They are often very modest about their achievements and see it as boasting if they let others know about them. This should not be the case. So that we may provide appropriately for your son, I should be very grateful to you if you would let me know of any such instances that you think we should be aware of by completing and returning the slip at the end of this Newsletter. Thank you.

Mr Flynn



Science Notes

News and thoughts from your science department

Spring is Sprung!

Ah, the lighter mornings, the lighter evenings and the air of renewal and regeneration! OK, let's not go overboard. There's still a nip in the air, and there's a way to go before we can sip cold drinks in the garden. Did you know, though, that Earth is actually further away from the Sun in the summer than it is in the winter? The reason that it is warmer in the northern hemisphere is that in summer we tilt towards the sun. In winter we tilt away. This makes the sun lower in the sky, and the heat energy is spread over a larger area, passing through more atmosphere as it arrives.

Science Week

15 to 19 March is National Science Week. To celebrate this, the department has organised a number of events. On Thursday of this week 150 boys from Years 10 and 11 attended the Faraday Lecture at Symphony Hall. This year's theme was sound, and the boys learnt about the processes involved in recording a CD, amongst other things. Thanks to Mr Gunn for organising this trip. Thanks, too, to Messrs Mobley and Pilkington, who have organised trips to the City Hospital, Birmingham Women's Hospital, the Birmingham Assay Office and a local pharmaceutical company for some students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. These trips give students a chance to see science in action in the workplace, as well as firing their enthusiasm for further study. They are valuable, and I thank my colleagues for their input.

Throughout the week there will be other standalone events during lessons. If you are interested in finding out more, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science> and <http://www.the-ba.net>

AS, A2, GCSE and SAT's Revision

Boys should be working towards their examinations now, supported by departmental after-school revision sessions. There are plenty of excellent (and fairly cheap!) revision guides available to supplement the ones provided by the school, and an excellent on-line resource is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision>

Competition

There was limited interest in the last competition, so this time we have upped the stakes. For a chance to win a CD voucher, complete the following by matching the scientist with their area of study and hand it in to your science teacher in an envelope with your name and form by Friday, 26 March.

		<u>number</u>	<u>letter</u>
1 Vera Rubin	a Gaea Theory		
2 Marie Lavoisier	b psycho-analytic theory		
3 Lise Meitner	c atomic matter		
4 Lynn Margolis	d earth's solid core		
5 Jocelyn Bell Burnell	e dangers of low level radiation		
6 Maria Goeppart Mayer	f radioactivity and health physics		
7 Emmy Noether	g dark matter		
8 Margaret Cavendish	h nuclear fission		
9 Alice Stewart	i shell theory		
10 Karen Horney	j theory of combustion		
11 Elizabeth Kenny	k pulsars		
12 Marie Curie	l group theory		
13 Inge Lehmann	m physical therapy for polio victims		

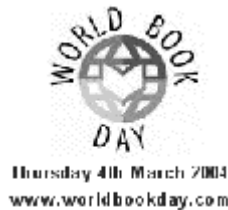
Mr Butcher

DESIGN AN EASTER EGG COMPETITION

This year's RE competition is to design and paint a hard boiled egg. Please see the notice attached to this Newsletter for more details.



Mr Lomas



WORLD BOOK DAY AT KNBS

Thursday, 4 March, was World Book Day. We celebrated at KNBS by having a variety of activities in the library for the Year 7 students to take part in. These included a word search, a book quiz and a bookmark design competition. All students taking part will be entered into a prize draw with the winners announced on Friday, 26 March. Thank you to everyone who took part and good luck!



We also gave each student a World Book Day book token, which they can use to get one of six specially produced £1 books, or alternatively they can use it towards a book or audiobook of their choice.

OVERDUE BOOKS

I have begun to send out reminders to all boys who have books outstanding from the library. Please encourage your son to return all overdue books as soon as possible. If you have any queries about the reminders, please get in touch with me through the school office.

MAGAZINES

Following my request last November for donations of magazines we have had a great response. Thank you to everyone who donated their old magazines, and a special thank you to Mrs Morris for her donation of a subscription to Empire Film magazine.

Please continue to send your old magazines into school as they are greatly appreciated by all the boys.

Mrs Newton

SNOWBOARD AND SKI AT SALT LAKE CITY, USA

The February half-term snowboard and skiing trip to Salt Lake City in Utah, USA, was a very enjoyable and memorable experience for all thirty-five members of the party.

A very efficient transfer through Chicago Airport soon brought us to the very clean and safe Mormon city of Salt Lake in the Rocky Mountains to ride the best powder in the world, blown across from the

Nevada desert. The safe off-piste snowboarding between the Aspen trees was a truly awesome experience for the twenty-five snowboarders. The ten skiers also enjoyed the well-groomed pistes between the trees with Mr King and Mr Lomas.

Our first day in Salt Lake was an acclimatisation day, when we had an excursion to the Olympic Village at Park City to view the Bobsleigh, luge and skeleton runs and the frightening K90 ski jump. In the afternoon we took in a snow-tubing park and later a shopping trip to the famous Park City factory outlets. That evening we celebrated *Steven Jacques's* birthday at the Hard Rock Café in Downtown Salt Lake City.

For the next five days we skied and snowboarded the empty slopes of Powder Mountain and enjoyed the thrills of a gigantic dump of champagne powder snow which came on Wednesday evening.



Each evening, an activity was arranged, which included a film night, themed cowboy night, night skiing, ice skating on the Olympic ice sheet and tenpin bowling (where *Michael Hart* received his large birthday cake.)

Snowboarder of the week - *Josh Turbill* (plus best head plant into a river bed)

Skier of the week - *Chris Brown*

Casanova of the week - *Sam Williams*

Star of the week - *Michael Steadman*

Croak of the week - *Andrew Ashforth*

Chest plant of the week - Mr Gunn (two-foot crater)

Snowboard wrecker - *Sulaman Hussain*

Question-master of the week - *Ewan Whyte*

Most frightening moment of the week - Mr Lomas on skis (descending Deadhorse).

I would like to thank all of the boys for making it such a pleasant and successful half-term week. Next year we shall return to Utah and use the slopes at the Canyons where the US ski team train.

Mr Mobley

SPORTS NEWS

'Participation to reach Potential'

Basketball:

Year 7 v Frankley: The boys went into this game unbeaten and were hoping to take a further step towards qualifying for the knockout stage. However, what happened in the hour that it took to finish the game was unbelievable. In a very close game, in which both sides were in the lead, the boys from Frankley took a two-point lead with only 50 seconds left to play. We still continued to create and miss enough chances to finish off the

opposition, and with ten seconds left we still trailed by two points. **Jack Heslop** then decided to shoot from a silly distance away from the basket, something he had tried throughout the match without success. Mr Holme looked away thinking we had missed and only turned back when the shouts went up that Jack had actually scored. This took the game into extra time, which lasted for ten minutes. Both teachers decided to have a free throw shoot-out to find a winner (as we would still have been playing now!!) Even the shoot-out had to go to sudden death, which finally Frankley won, with the score 35-34.

Year 7 v Bishop Challoner: After the drama of the Frankley game, the boys needed to win their last game to qualify for the knockout stage of the cup. We entertained a Bishop Challoner side who matched us score for score in the first half in which we did not perform. However, the boys listened to the advice given at half time, and the difference between the two sides finally started to show. We eventually ran out 36-12 winners, with **Chris Godwin**, again being voted 'Man of the Match' for the twelve baskets he scored.



The draw for the quarter-finals has resulted in a home match against Ninestiles on Thursday, 11 March, with a 3.45 pm start. Well done to every lad who has represented the Year 7 Basketball team this year!

Year 9 v King Edward Camp Hill: won 56-16

Another fantastic performance from the boys to finish the season! We have now won six games and lost only two (both by one point), which must make us league winners and put us through to the quarter-finals of the Birmingham Championships. **Laidley and Green** led the way with the scoring again, ably supported by **Beech, Byford, Adi, Sebastian, Restall and Murphy**. The best moment of the evening came when Sebastian demonstrated his new techniques for the lay-up shot, when being closed down by a defender, by running up the wall like his comic hero 'Spiderman'.

These boys deserve all their success as they have been coming to practice sessions twice a week and have been coached by the Year 13 boys on a Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock. Great stuff, lads!

Interform Sport:

The participation levels so far this year have been fantastic. I have been so pleased with the involvement of the boys in all of the activities. The point scores as of February half-term are as follows:-

<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>
A = 90	A = 85	A = 120
B = 110	B = 150	B = 90
C = 130	C = 80	C = 80
D = 70	D = 85	D = 110
<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>	
A = 35	A = 55	
B = 95	B = 55	
C = 90	C = 100	
D = 80	D = 90	

Birmingham Championships Athletics at the National Indoor Arena



The Year 7 and 8 teams won through to the finals of the Indoor Athletics Tournament at the NIA.

The competition this year was extremely tough and dominated by the Ladywood, Edgbaston, Sutton Coldfield and Northfield districts. The boys tried very hard in all of the competitions but found it difficult to finish in the top three of the individual events. Well done to the boys who took part:-

Jack Bentley, Ben Smith, Jon Stephens, Samuel Farnell, Alex Lubin, Gavin Flower, Darren Fiddler, Carl Tolley, David Budden, Jerome Robinson, Graham Loat, Chris Pinnock, Tom Wilson, Gary Richards, Joe Howes, Michael Ralph, Joe Fox, Travis Hall, Abdi Kizildag, Tyrone Renford, Muaz Buaben and Jake Coleman.

Football:

Year 7 v Lordswood (District Cup): The boys' first match since October saw us entertain Lordswood in the quarter-final of the District Cup. We took an early two-goal lead before Lordswood scored a scrappy goal. We then scored another goal to make it 3-1 at half time (**Budden - 2, Hull - 1**). The second half was the "**Carl Tolley Show**", when he scored four times. A goal from **Graham Loat** made the final score 8-1. The semi-final should take place on Monday, 8 March, against either Turves Green or Four Dwellings.

Year 7 v Turves Green (League):

Our next game was a tough encounter against a very good team from Turves Green. The first half was a midfield battle, although we did have more opportunities. However, Turves Green scored on the stroke of half time to lead 1-0 at the interval.



The second half was very similar to the first, and we deserved David Budden's equaliser with ten minutes left. Captain **Jonathan Stephens** then scored a great team goal. Within three minutes Turves Green equalised after a brilliant save by **Jack Bentley** was followed up. 'Man of the Match' was Graham Loat, who produced an excellent defensive display.

Year 8 v Alderbrook (Semi-final of Birmingham Cup) Won 4-2: We were very nervous as we started the game to try and book our second final in two years. Alderbrook took the game to us with some neat passing, but they could not penetrate our defence. Finally, we settled, and before long the constant pressure saw **Michael McDonald** score his first goal in two years, with a shot that looped over the keeper. More good passing and play saw us go 2-0 up with a well-taken finish by **Adam Smythe**.

The second half started the same, and Alderbrook pulled a goal back. However, we then scored two quick goals though **Joe Howes and Stuart Cottrell**. With seven minutes left



Alderbrook scored again, but we held out with 'Man of the Match' **Ben Judd** ensuring no mistakes were made at the back. The final is on Thursday, 25 March, against Great Barr. Kick-off and venue to be confirmed.

Year 8 v Archbishop Ilsley (Quarter-final of District Cup): The boys progressed to the semi-finals of the District Cup with a comfortable 7-1 win over Archbishop Ilsley. This was despite being 1-0 down within five minutes. However, this ended up being the last chance Ilsley created. The score could have been more if not for some good goalkeeping. **Joe Howes and Adam Smythe** both grabbed hat-tricks, whilst **Gary Richards** claimed the other to set up a semi-final with Turves Green next week.

Year 10 v Bartley Green – won 11-0:

The boys produced an excellent performance that made the opposition look very disjointed by the end. After **Shamsher Singh** started the scoring, the lads just could not stop. **Daniels** netted four, **Fleming** two, **Caulfield and Coyne** one apiece, and the boys from Bartley Green managed to put two past their hapless goalkeeper. Well played, lads!

Year 7 Rugby Tournament:

v Park Hall	0-0
v Arthur Terry	5-15
v Smithswood	5-5
v Sheldon Heath	5-5

Drew 3, lost 1.

Against the best in Birmingham, our Year 7 Rugby team did very well, losing only one game against the eventual winners, Arthur Terry School. With five minutes to go in the last game, we were in a position to qualify for the semi-finals, but all that changed when Sheldon Heath scored an equalising try. **Fiddler, Flower and Robinson** scored some excellent tries.

Well done, boys: **Pringle, Hankinson, Best, Grant, Burrows, Robinson, Hosey, Sheehan, Flower, Bentley, Fiddler, Lewis, Merryman, Tolley, Corfield and Mahandru**.

Hockey Tournament (Years 7-9):

The Selly Oak Championships have started again, and our Year 7 boys got off to a flying start with two great victories against Colmers Farm and Baverstock. Both games finished 1-0. Well done, lads!

If you want to make the team, you must come to the practice sessions. We are currently champions of this event. It would be nice to keep this trophy. (Wednesdays after school)

Other News:

The boys in Year 11 are currently visiting the David Lloyd Centre in Bromsgrove to learn how to play squash and racquetball. If anyone is interested in being part of this group, please see Mr Preece.

Wednesday afternoon Physical Education is also open to the Sixth Form. It would be good see a few more lads joining us on Wednesdays for these sessions.

Fitness Suite Practices: do you know when you can use it outside lessons? Here is a reminder:-

Year 9 - Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes
Year 10 - Monday after school/Thursday lunchtime
Year 11 - Tuesday lunchtime
Years 12 and 13 – Friday lunchtime

Rugby Practice: we are entered into Year 7-9 tournaments in the next six weeks. If you want to make these teams, you need to come to the practice sessions.

Mr Preece

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wednesday, 10 March

- SEN Drop-in Session: 3.15 – 4.00 pm

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.