



# TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Mr J G Harrison, B. Ed. (Hons) **Headteacher**

Dear All

17<sup>th</sup> July 2008

## HEADTEACHER'S END OF ACADEMIC YEAR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. This newsletter includes details for the end of this term and the beginning of next as well as the usual mix of information and reports.

### STAFF CHANGES

A few members of staff are leaving us at the end of the year. Space does not allow me to go into details for each of them here. However, I should like to formally record our thanks to Mr N Furnell for 17 years of service to the School and the Science Department in particular. In recent years Mr Furnell has been the Work Related Learning Co-ordinator and we wish him well in his retirement.

#### Staff Leaving

#### Reason

Mr B Flecknoe	Retiring from teaching
Mrs A Fulcher	Retirement (for the second time!)
Mr N Furnell	Retirement
Mr R Mitchell	Taking up a teaching post
Dr D Orme	Another school (independent sector)

In addition, the following members of staff, who have been helping us out on a short-term basis, will be leaving us: Mr N Soni (Science) and Mr P Wheeler (French). We are indebted to all these colleagues and wish them well in the future. I would like to thank all these staff personally, and on behalf of the School, for all their efforts whilst working with us and for everything they have done for the boys both past and present.

The School has been fortunate indeed in recruiting members of staff for September and I list these new colleagues below:

Miss L Banfield	Biology
Mrs C Browning	DT Technician
Ms L Cacace	Mathematics (part-time)
Miss C Collins	Cover Supervisor
Miss S Cragg	Art Technician
Miss L Edwards	Geography
Mr K Godsmark	Physics
Miss A Jones	Physics
Mr I McClean	Cover Supervisor
Miss M Sandhu	Head of Sociology

**Term 6 ends for  
all students on  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Enjoy the newsletter and I wish you all a very happy summer break.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher



## **PRAISE FOR OUR STUDENTS**

It is always pleasing to receive letters and e-mails from outside agencies and members of the public praising our students. I am delighted that I receive them regularly and nearly every trip returns with stories of impressed locals, hoteliers, coach drivers, etc.

The boys have heard me speak about manners, honesty and character – and to hear how well our young men, your sons, are living up to those expectations is always nice. Here are some examples from recent weeks.

Tim Luck, Senior School Sports Co-ordinator, Tunbridge Wells School Sports Partnership:

*"I would like you to pass on my thanks to the five students from the Boys' Grammar who umpired and coached teams during the Tunbridge Wells District Primary School Sports Association Kwik Cricket Festival.*

*Ben Watts, Adam Geering, Matt Rice Tucker, Theo Burley and Rishi Patel conducted themselves with utmost confidence and proficiency and were a credit both to themselves and to your School.*

*They were competent coaches and worked with good humour and grace ensuring that the afternoon ran smoothly as the children in their care were well looked after."*

Taken from LOCAL – The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Magazine, June 2008 issue - "A Day in the Life of a Park Keeper":

*".... But at lunchtimes, St John's Rec is "the" place to be seen. It is the meeting place for pupils from Skinners, Bennett, TWGGS, TWBGS and students from West Kent College.*

*This trendy lunchtime hang-out usually attracts 50-80 young people and in the summer months it can rise to as many as 200. With that amount of young men and women in one place, all trying to impress one another, you may think it a likely spot for trouble to break out, but you would be wrong.*

*"The young people that meet here are well behaved. They call me by my name, and it's the same with Claire, the local Police Community Support Officer who looks after the St John's area of Royal Tunbridge Wells", Trevor explains.*

*Trevor and Claire work as a team and together they speak to the young people about any concerns. Trevor and Claire recently had a purge on littering and explained the problems that litter creates. "Now the Rec is spotless when the young people leave. They are great; there is a mutual respect between everyone involved and we all take pride in keeping the park tidy."*

## **KIRKLAND ROWELL**

In April 2008 Pupils and Parents completed a questionnaire covering academic and non-academic features of the School's work.

These surveys are linked to the ones carried out two years ago in this School and others taken at over 750 other schools across the country and provide a useful picture of perceptions of the journey we are on.

### **Pupil Survey**

860 completed questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 69.1%.

Among the pupils who had been attending the School for over a year, 47% said the School had improved over the last year while 25% thought that the School's performance was worse.

The pupils' top priority for improvement is school facilities.

Departments achieving particularly high satisfaction scores were Media Studies, Spanish, DT, RE, Resistant Materials and Geography. The survey also highlights subjects where a significant change has occurred

since the last survey. Three subjects have significantly higher satisfaction scores this year: Spanish, RE and ICT.

Of the non-academic criteria, 7 categories were rated as excellent - Availability of resources, Community spirit, Control of bullying, School communication, Happiness of child, Developing confidence, School security. No areas were unsatisfactory, but areas at the bottom of our list were PSE, Careers advice, Levels of homework and School facilities.

Only one area showed a significant change since the last survey and that was an improvement in the "Happiness of child" score. Needless to say I was very pleased by that result.

### **Parent Survey**

718 surveys were returned, a response rate of 57.7%.

The parents gave a very good overall performance score (78%) while among the parents whose children were not in their first year at the School 23% said the School had improved over the last year while 7% thought the School's performance was worse. Of the parents of new pupils 4% felt the School had not lived up to their expectations while 25% said the School was better than they had expected it to be. I believe parents come with high expectations so this is a very pleasing statistic.

The parental views on academic subjects were in line with the student views. In non-academic areas they were most happy with School communication, Control of bullying and School security.

The parents also rated School facilities as the top area for improvement and the only area not to be rated "good" or "excellent".

The next survey will be carried out in the spring of 2010.

*John Harrison*

### **STOP PRESS – IAG ASSESSMENT**

The School has just received an assessment visit from the Government backed Connexions service to assess the quality of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) we provide to our students. The School scored 19/20 (20/20 was unavailable to us, the last mark is reserved for schools achieving the Investors in Careers Stage 3 Award – we have Stage 2 and are working towards Stage 3). Our assessor told us this was the highest score given to any school in Kent!

Congratulations to Mrs Baker, Mrs Hollins and everyone involved in the Careers and IAG work carried out in the School.

*John Harrison*

### **PARENTMAIL**

If any parent or carer has received this newsletter as a paper copy, but has e-mail access and not yet signed up for ParentMail, you are encouraged to do so. This helps preserve our precious resources and is proving to be a very efficient means of communication. If you wish to avail yourselves of this facility, kindly ask your son or daughter to call at the School Office for a form.

*L Johnson*

*School Office Manager*

### **STUDENT LEARNING GROUP**

The Student Learning Group was formed from students across year groups earlier this academic year in October; its purpose to promote a positive learning environment within classrooms and for the students' voice on learning to be heard and listened to by the School. In the long term it will encourage a stronger relationship between students and teachers and make learning more productive and interesting.

So far this year we have discussed a range of topics including the importance of an effective classroom and how it affects a student's performance. Our input has helped to provide teachers with a list of what students consider to be of most importance in classrooms. We have created a catalogue of extra-curricular clubs that take place at School with a view to ensuring it is kept up to date and published. We have also drafted a

Record of Achievement for students to document academic and extra-curricular successes in all aspects of their school life.

The future looks bright for the SLG with plans to use students in lessons as researchers, giving feedback to teachers in a constructive manner, so that learning can be improved. The current SLG will present their successes and plans for the future through house assemblies starting this coming September.

*Student Learning Group*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Many thanks to all those parents and carers who have supported the School's drive for improved attendance. I have been visited by the Local Authority's Officers recently to discuss attendance. The attendance in the School is good and many boys are attending for 100% of the time.

I have reproduced as an attachment two diagrams given to me by the Local Authority – the clear message being if you aren't in school it will affect your progress.

You will find the term dates for next year reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter and posted on our website.

*John Harrison*

## **PEER MENTOR PROGRAMME**

I would like to thank the Peer Mentors in Years 10 and 12 who have given so freely of their time for training and to help students in Years 8 and 10 in this the first year of the Peer Mentoring Programme at TWGSB. It has been a steep learning curve for all of us and I thank them for their perseverance, determination and understanding. I would also like to thank Miss LeSeelleur for her invaluable help with the programme this year. I have been delighted by the very positive response from students in Years 9 and 11 who have signed up for training on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July. This means that we will have fully trained Peer Mentors in Years 13, 12, 11 and 10 for the start of the next academic year.

*S C Marsh*

*Assistant Headteacher*

## **KEY STAGE 4**

It was a great pleasure to be able to read so many positive comments in the recent Year 10 reports and to subsequently meet with all the Year 10 students and to be able to congratulate so many of them on their hard work and achievement this year. I trust that this will be reflected in their Science and Maths GCSE module results in August. I would also like to congratulate Year 11 on the mature way in which they have conducted themselves in their final GCSE exams and again I look forward to congratulating them on their success in August. I also look forward to welcoming the current Year 9 students into Key Stage 4 next year. For the few students in each year group who need to, I hope that they will view the new academic year as a chance to make a fresh start and to make a more positive contribution to their education and our community. Finally, on behalf of myself, Mr Lincoln, Mr Spence and all of the KS4 form tutors, I would like to wish all of our students a happy, safe and refreshing summer break.

*S C Marsh*

*Assistant Headteacher*

## **SITE DEVELOPMENT AND ICT**

Significant work is planned for the summer including improving the facilities in the Main Hall, extending our ICT provision to allow the Small Hall to become a multi-use area with internet access, refurbishment of the Geography classrooms and the balcony area as well as the building of a new block on the site of the 'picnic area' to provide us with further hall space, two much needed Science laboratories and a Food Technology room.

The School is investing significantly in ICT during the summer providing laptops for teachers, 100 mini notebooks for student use and wireless networking throughout the site. The development of our VLE will be a significant piece of work during 2008/2009 and is lead by both Mr Lawrence (who oversees all ICT development) and Mr Carey.

*John Harrison*

## **PAYMENTS INTO SCHOOL**

A reminder: When sending in any payment to the School please write on the back of the cheque your

son/daughter's name, form and what the cheque relates to (ie name of trip, materials purchased, etc.)

Thank you

*Finance Office*

### **SURPLUS LOCKERS – YEAR 10**

After all Year 7 lockers have been allocated any surplus lockers will be available for hire by new Year 10 students. The hire of surplus lockers will be on a first come, first served basis. Should your son wish to have a locker, please send your cheque to Mr Silvester at the School to arrive no later than 12<sup>th</sup> September. For fairness, cheques received for Year 10 lockers will be date stamped and keys allocated in that order. Should demand exceed available lockers, then all unsuccessful applicants' cheques will be returned to sender – so please do put your name and address on the reverse. Cheques should be made out to "TWGSB". Year 10 hire will be for ONE year only and the charge will be £10.00 hire (non refundable) and £5.00 key deposit (refundable) – total: £15.00.

Collection of new Year 10 keys will take place in late September/early October at a date and time to be arranged.

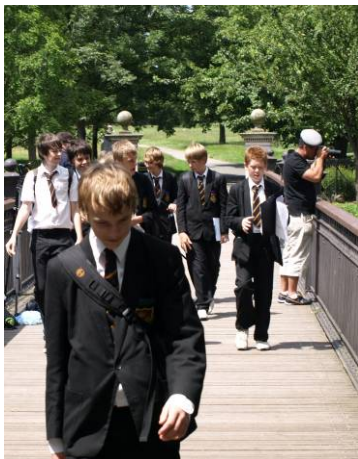
THE PERSON DEALING WITH ALL MATTERS RELATING TO LOCKERS IS MR SILVESTER, THE SITE, PREMISES AND PROJECT MANAGER. ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO HIM AND NOT TO THE HEADTEACHER OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF STAFF.

Thank you in advance for your participation and co-operation.

*M J Silvester  
Site, Premises and Project Manager*

### **REGENT'S PARK**

The English Department took the whole of Year 8 to Regent's Park on two different days. The mornings were spent exploring the Park, viewing the beautiful gardens and participating in games of tennis and softball. After lunch we visited the Open Air Theatre to see a Shakespeare play. Forms 8A, 8B and 8C watched "Twelfth Night" and forms 8D, 8E and 8F "Romeo and Juliet". The weather was kind to us on both occasions and the performances were excellent.



### **THE CHAUCER MAN**

Mr Trevor Eaton came to speak to year 7 about Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. He told the stories of "The Pardoner's Tale" and "The Nun's Priest's Tale" in modern and middle English, which was very entertaining.

*G Welford  
English Department*

### **HISTORY "MUSEUM"**

A small exhibition of historical artefacts, many relating to the world wars, has been created in the History area foyer. This has provoked interest from students throughout the School and we hope that parents will have the opportunity to view the exhibits at parents' evenings.

We are indebted to one of our Governors, and retired Deputy Head, Mr Mervyn Davies, for providing us with some fascinating objects and also to the current Head of Geography, Mr Ash, who has allowed us to borrow some of his own models that relate to aspects of World War Two, such as Dunkirk and D Day.

We are also keen to display models created by the students; we already have a wonderful trebuchet, made by Freddie Allaway of Year 7 and hope that other Year 7 students will respond to the modelling challenges of the Plains Indians project during term six. All tips will be displayed!

*S Glover  
Head of History*

## **NORMANDY 2008 AND 2009**



Following our very successful Year 9 visit to Normandy in June a one-hour DVD has been made. This aims to represent all aspects of the trip, including the experiences of the students, whether they were visiting the war memorials or enjoying the facilities of the excellent Bon Sejour Hostel. The DVD can be purchased for £5.

A short promotional film, taken from some of this footage, can also be seen in 'shared documents' under Normandy 2008. The boys who are going to Normandy in 2009 may like to view this film to get a flavour of what is to come!

*S Glover  
Head of History*

## **HUMANITIES VETERANS ACCOUNT**

The boys were fortunate enough to meet some of the Normandy Veterans, who talked to them about their experiences of World War II. It costs about £400 for each of these men to make the journey to France, but, unlike American and Canadian soldiers, no funding is available to them.

As a Humanities School, we are keen to support the Normandy Veterans Association's fundraising so that as many as possible can make the journey for what could well be their final major reunion.

During the next year there will be opportunities for the families of students in this School to make contributions. Already the small profit made from the DVDs is being placed in this special account and donations are particularly welcome.

*S Glover  
Head of History*

## **SUMMER CONCERT**

It was my pleasure to attend the School Summer Concert on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July. It was a wonderful evening showing the amazing range and depth of talent that exists within the School. Thank you to the students, parents, staff and governors who attended many of whom saw me to say how much they enjoyed the evening.

I would like to thank Mr Johnson and Miss Stokes for all their hard work in preparing the students for the evening and the performers themselves for the hours of practice they must have put in.

The works performed included orchestral pieces, classical recitals on piano, guitar, cello and violin; vocal renditions of songs written by artists such as Lou Reed, Jack Johnson, Lennon and McCartney, Elton John, U2 and Mika and a number of original pieces. There was truly something for everyone!

The finale from the Gospel Choir (including some students from TWGGS) was outstanding.

I'm already looking forward to the Christmas Concert (although I suspect Mr Johnson and Miss Stokes won't thank me for saying so!)

*John Harrison*

### **CHESS CLUB 2008**

The Chess Club has had an incredibly successful year with boys from across the three key stages taking part. In the end its popularity forced us to limit membership as we physically could not fit any more avid chess players into the room! Not being a chess player myself, the experience of all the members, who were able to coach each other, was invaluable, creating a dynamic and erudite atmosphere.

Thirty-two of the Club members participated in the British Land UK Chess Challenge – a tournament involving 66,000 children nationwide. Nationally 10% of these go through to the next round but a stunning eighteen pupils from TWGSSB succeeded in going through to the County Megafinal.

Callum Funnell from Year 12 won all of his games in the first round, followed closely by Harry O'Connor from 7E, who lost only to him! Harry then went on to win all of his games at the Megafinal and will be competing with 2,000 other hopefuls in the National Gigafinal at Keele University in Staffordshire. We wish him the best of luck!

Having now run the Club for a year, next year promises to be even more successful, with the possibility of outside coaches coming in and even a visit from this year's overall Challenge winner! Make sure you book your place early in the year as the club has limited membership!



**Our Chess  
Champions,  
Harry O'Connor  
and Callum Funnell,  
deep in thought.**

*R Lovera*

### **NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT**

The end of year has developed into a flurry of activity. Students from Year 11 upwards had the opportunity to showcase their work in an Exhibition held in the Department from 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Exhibition was well attended and some students even made a healthy profit! The Private View was a sunny affair where invited guests were treated to innovative and varied artwork while two Year 7 students, Eden Fish and Edward Preston-Bell, provided musical interludes.

A genius stroke of luck meant that more parents and students were able to view the work during the Summer Fair, which made for a relaxed show. If you missed the Exhibition this year make sure you put the date in your diary next year!

Three of our Year 12 students dominated the environment competition open to primary and secondary schools in Kent. The title was 'Canaries in a Coalmine'. Students were presented with their prizes at a ceremony at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge.

1<sup>st</sup> Toby Dowling

2<sup>nd</sup> Danny Vigar

3<sup>rd</sup> Henry Lascelles

The Art Department has taken possession of a copy stand for animation and a hand held video camera which were provided by our local cluster network.

Students from all year groups can look forward to experimenting with animation and film making next year, I'm sure it will be a great opportunity.

The photography competition is on again. It is open to all students, parents, staff and governors of the School. Please see the posters around the School and ParentMail. The theme this year is 'Boys will be boys'. We are looking forward to seeing what you come up with over the summer!

*J Buttery  
Head of Art and Design*

#### **MADRID TRIP – MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE TO FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June, thirty Year 10 and Year 12 pupils and four members of staff, Miss Allen, Mr Kern, Mr Lincoln and Miss LeSeelleur went to Madrid.

The aim of the trip was to give those Year 10 and Year 12 pupils studying Spanish an opportunity to practise their Spanish in real situations, to gain a better insight into the culture and society of a Spanish speaking country and to try some Spanish food. We stayed at the Hotel "Mediodía" which was very close to the centre of the city and had dinner at a nearby restaurant called Fresc Co's. Every day pupils had to buy their own lunch using their Spanish.

Following Spain winning the European Championship on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June, upon arriving in Madrid on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we decided to visit "Plaza de Colón" where the Spanish players ended up, following their tour of the city. The players were saluted from the skies by planes and the pupils were able to celebrate in Spanish through chanting "¡Qué sí! ¡Qué sí! ¡La copa ya está aquí!" (Yes! Yes! The cup is finally here!) and "¡Campeones, campeones olé, olé, olé!" (Champions, champions, olé, olé, olé!) with the locals.



During the trip we visited the famous "Reina Sofía" and "Prado" museums, the impressive "Las Ventas" bullring and "El Palacio Real" (The Royal Palace). On Wednesday we had a tour of the "Santiago Bernabéu" football stadium and the official Euro 2008 Championship trophy was there. Pupils were able to hold the cup and purchase a photograph of them holding it – a once in a life time opportunity for most. On

Thursday there was a trip to a theme park. During the stay in Madrid, pupils also visited the famous department store “El Corte Inglés” as well as other shops around “Sol” which is the main shopping district of the city. Finally pupils were also given the opportunity to see the main square, “La Plaza Mayor” as well as the “Atocha” railway station and the “Retiro” park.



The trip was enjoyed by all involved and gave pupils a chance to witness and experience the culture and society of a Spanish speaking country.

Pupils also gained confidence in speaking Spanish and enjoyed using the language in real situations.

Below are some comments from some of the Year 10 and Year 12 pupils who were on the Madrid trip:

Toby Dowling - 12H, Alex Haldenby - 12L , William Ottway - 12H

“Going on the trip as sixth formers gave us the extra freedom to experience the culture of Madrid such as the cuisine, history and city atmosphere. The opportunity of speaking Spanish with the locals has developed our conversation skills along with our confidence. The amazing time that we had on the trip has inspired us to continue with the language and put our lessons into context”.

Rhys Bevan - 10F

“When we went to Spain, I didn’t expect it to be so hot. The whole trip was very good and well planned out. I think the best thing about the trip was the theme park because it was amazing and had no queues.”

Felix O’Leary - 10E

“Choosing to go to Madrid was probably one of the best decisions of my life. Not only did I have an amazingly fun week, I saw the Euro 2008 trophy; a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Adam Orme - 10B

“Overall I thought the trip was amazing and I am really glad I chose to go on it. Every day we did something different like going to the Bernabéu Stadium - that was great.”

Henry Whatley - 10E

“I have really enjoyed this Madrid trip and especially the theme park. It has been a great experience and one of the best trips I have been on.”

Oscar Waller - 10A

"I thought that the trip to Madrid was very fun and interesting. The accommodation was good."

*N Allen  
MFL Department*

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Please see below the links to our uniform stockists – Simmonds of Tunbridge Wells and Horncastle's of Sevenoaks, which you may find useful.

[www.simmonds-ltd.com/Schools/TWGSB/tabid/2646/Default.aspx](http://www.simmonds-ltd.com/Schools/TWGSB/tabid/2646/Default.aspx) - 35k

[www.horncastles.co.uk/acatalog/Tunbridge\\_Wells\\_Grammar\\_School\\_for\\_Boys.html](http://www.horncastles.co.uk/acatalog/Tunbridge_Wells_Grammar_School_for_Boys.html)

### **NEWS FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

As the end of a memorable year of achievement in both academic and extra-curricular activities approaches, I am delighted to announce that the Department now has some national champions!

#### **Manav Mehta:**



### **2008 UK KS3 Jaguar Cars “Maths in Motion” Champions**

This year, the Jaguar Cars “Maths in Motion” Challenges were opened to schools without Maths Specialist status, so we leapt at the opportunity to take them on! Despite being years behind in experience, Manav Mehta and Liam Morris (both Year 9) won the all-age Jaguar Cars “Maths in Motion” Christmas Grand Prix last December against 300+ schools. That involved them analysing a race track, setting-up a racing car, planning a pit-stop strategy etc. - but this was all done at School. The success gave them automatic qualification to the National Final, held recently at The Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire, where they competed against schools that had successfully come through a series of regional qualifiers. Here, the boys had to compete against the clock, against the best in the UK, on an unseen fictitious circuit and with unpredictable weather that changed every 15 minutes. They had to work under strictly supervised conditions with no teacher-contact – a real test!

Many of the schools present had made the Final on previous occasions and knew the stress and pressure that lay ahead, so some took the luxury of sleeping in late at the local Holiday Inn. Instead, our boys rehearsed roles, calculations and tactics whilst parked on the M25 at 6.30 am and again over breakfast on the M40.

Apart from one calculation blip, which they discovered and corrected with 30 minutes to spare - enough time to make the necessary adjustments to anticipated speeds and fuel requirements - the boys signed-off hopeful and with some confidence.

The warm-up Teachers' Race over the Monaco circuit saw Mr Young start 16<sup>th</sup> (of 33) on the grid, rapidly drop to .... (off the screen!) ... before making rapid late progress to finish 9<sup>th</sup>, but, I stress, only 25 seconds behind the winner.

The boys started 12<sup>th</sup> (of 33) in their race and steadily moved through the field. The 33 finalists comprised 11 from each of KS2, KS3, and KS4, so three races in one led to some confusion but it was clear that they were doing well, especially when TWGSB was being recorded as the fastest car over most of the later laps. Overall, they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the race but were beaten by two KS4 teams. Thus, Liam and Manav received the trophy as the 2008 UK KS3 Champions, together with a variety of prizes for themselves and the School, to go with those previously won at Christmas – close to £2,000 in value overall!

During the coming months, if technical and time-zone issues permit, it is hoped that Liam and Manav will be able to compete in a live internet race against New Zealand, Kuwait and USA.

Within days of Liam and Manav's success, challengers for their crown have arisen from the year group below, via our first **Year 8 Inter-House "Maths in Motion" Competition**. All pupils in the year group had the opportunity to set-up and race a car against the rest of their House, with the first four qualifying for the Final. Some talented drivers failed to qualify but are encouraged to prove their mettle in the Year 9 extra-curricular activity next term.

All 24 finalists successfully made it to the starting grid for the Final, held at lunchtime in the Hall, where Sam Thomas (Eagles) pulled away over the final laps to win by 25 secs from Callum Baker (Falcons) and Greg Erxlebe (Ospreys). Eagles were the overall House Competition winners.

As their reward, Sam and Calum were invited to set-up the School's entry for the recent national **Jaguar Cars "Maths in Motion" Summer Madness Grand Prix**. After some intensive training before only their third competitive race, they secured a brilliant 4<sup>th</sup> place behind more experienced pairs whom Liam and Manav had encountered at the National Finals.

Year 8 have been kept busy because earlier in the term they all took part in the **Junior UK Maths Challenge**, achieving 21 Gold, 43 Silver and 51 Bronze Awards. Particular congratulations go to Alexander Patton, who received the "Best in School" Certificate. The overall level of performance was very pleasing and encouraging as it represented our highest proportion of Awards yet. Many other pupils were within just one or two correct answers of achieving a Bronze. Well done to you all!

Also, well done to Year 7 Hawks on winning their **Inter-House Maths Team Challenge**. All of Year 7 took part in the preliminary rounds during their Maths lessons, before two teams of four were selected to represent each House. The teams spent the whole day on activities such as Head-to-Head and the Mathematical Relay Race. Hawks' representatives were Sam Hawkins, Gareth Hughes, William Hinton, Adam Howland, Tom Hanham, Stuart Hosiene, Liam Gerlin and Jannic Holzer, but all teams showed great enthusiasm and determination. A big thank you to Dr Orme, Mrs Fulcher and Mrs Abu-Hayyeh, for organising the event once again, and the many helpers from Years 10 and 12.

Congratulations also go to James Stone (7E), who was our successful entry for the Spring Term **Maths in Kent Competition**.

There have been many other highlights over the last twelve months to look back upon with pride: our team of eight sixth-formers representing Kent and coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the King's College Competition; participating for the first time in the UK Sudoku Competition; being the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest performing teams from Kent in the National Cipher Challenge; George Coulon (Year 13) coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the Final Round of the British Maths Olympiad; a record number of Certificates in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge; Edward Miller (Year 11) being invited to University Summer School by virtue of coming in the top 40 in the MacLaurin Olympiad; nine

other students from Year 11 representing the UK in the European Maths Kangaroo; our KS3 UK Maths Challenge Team achieving 6<sup>th</sup> place in their regional heat.

Additionally, Maths Clinic, Maths Puzzle Club and the Year 9 TWGSB Grand Prix Season have run at lunchtimes throughout most of the year, and there have been visits arranged for senior students to attend lectures given by university speakers.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Fulcher and Dr Orme at the end of this term. They have worked together in developing our KS3 extra-curricular provision, including managing and training our UK Team Challenge Squad via the Puzzle Club, and introducing the Year 7 Inter-House Team Challenge. Their infectious enthusiasm will be greatly missed by the staff and the boys, and we all wish them every happiness in the future.

*G Young  
Head of Mathematics*

## **FRENCH PROJECT**

On the afternoon of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 10 Year 7 pupils of French along with Miss LeSeelleur and Mrs Hall made a visit to St John's Primary School, Tunbridge Wells for a French project afternoon.

The aim of the trip was for our Year 7 pupils to use their French to teach a class of Year 3 pupils with the hope of motivating the primary school pupils to want to continue with the subject. The Year 7 pupils worked in pairs and were "French teachers" for the afternoon. First, they taught some vocabulary on directions to their class and then used this to carry out a number of activities such as guiding their pupils around an assault course. The day ended with all groups writing and then following a treasure hunt in French that took place in the grounds of the school.

Everyone involved enjoyed the afternoon and the year 7 pupils proved themselves to be superb leaders.



I love working with younger children and this trip was no exception. I was amazed at the amount of French the children spoke and I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

**Eden Fish, 7B**



I had a lot of fun teaching the younger children, it was a new experience and I really enjoyed myself.

**Harry Woodgate, 7F**

I really enjoyed going to the school and all the kids were really polite. The best part was the treasure hunt. It's a shame we can't go back.

**Joshua Wixen, 7F**

*R LeSeelleur  
MFL Department*

## **A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE HOUSE SYSTEM AT TWGSB**

As the summer approaches (?!?) we reach the end of the first year of introducing a new house system to our School. This has been an enjoyable and at times challenging journey in which there has been much progress. We have successfully run a wide range of House Competitions from 'Travels with my Tie' to 'Maths Challenge' and 'The Cicero Cup' to mention a few. Each form in Years 7 to 11 is now in a designated house and the Sixth Form House Leadership Team ran their first House Assemblies. All houses have chosen a charity to support throughout the year and next year will see the award of the first House Charity Cup for the house which manages to raise the most money for their charity. There are House Boards for each house to keep everyone up to date on house events and an overall House Board where each term league tables are published. We still have a way to go before the house system is successfully embedded into the heart and soul of the School, but I believe this shows we have made a positive start.

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed our new Sixth Form team of House Captains that will lead all house events next year ranging from delivering House Assemblies to organising charity and sporting events. Each house will now be led by a House Captain, Sports House Captain and Charities House Captain. These new House Captains are full of the enthusiasm and energy needed to help drive the house system forward in 2008-9.

Well done to all who participated in the wide range of house competitions that took place this year and thank you to all the staff and students who organised and ran these competitions and helped to launch the house system at TWGSB.

*L Baker  
AST*

## **INVESTORS IN CAREERS AT TWGSB**

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of Stage 2 Investors in Careers award. The assessment for this award took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June but this clearly did not hold us back! The assessor spent a morning at the school, reviewing our Careers Education and Guidance policy and schemes of work, interviewing staff and students alike to provide evidence in order to assess whether we measured up to the exceptionally high standards required to achieve this nationally recognised Kite Mark award for excellence in Careers Education and Guidance provision. Our assessor was delighted with what he saw and as a consequence has recommended us for Certification of the Stage 2 award.

I would personally like to thank all staff and students involved in helping us to achieve this award.

*L Baker  
AST*

## **EXODUS 2008**

For the second time since gaining our Humanities Specialist School status we delivered a unit of project based learning across History, English, Geography and RE. The topic of Exodus was decided upon as a theme that could be embraced across these Humanities subjects and one that we felt would inspire our Year 8 students.

Our Exodus project began with the 'Learning to Learn' day, which was delivered to half the Year 8 group at a time for a full day. In the morning students were put into learning groups that were not based on their tutor groups and attended a range of skills based workshops which ranged from building a shanty town to making their own movie using real film footage from aboriginals in Australia. These workshops were designed to get the students thinking about the different ways in which they learn but all had the theme of exodus at their core. In the afternoon students were invited to a screening of our Exodus film which introduced them to the project they would be studying for the next 6 weeks. After this all students were returned to their tutor groups and spent the afternoon with their designated learning leader, examining their preferred learning styles, reflecting upon the learning that had taken place during the day and finally a relaxation exercise.

All students then worked towards producing a group presentation answering the key question, 'What does exodus mean to the lives of people?' Each form selected the best presentation to represent them at our 'Celebration Day' which took place on 14<sup>th</sup> July and in which students had the opportunity to present their learning from this unit of work. Parents of those students who were selected by their tutor groups were invited to attend this afternoon as well as governors who had been involved in the project.

As a reward to our Year 8 students for all the hard work they had put into this project, we thought it would be appropriate to give a gift that is life changing. As a year group Year 8 are now sponsoring a child called Ashraf, who is 9 years old and has 8 brothers and sisters. He lives in Afghanistan, where life expectancy is 47 and child mortality (under 5) is 25%. 72% of the population cannot read as they have to work instead of going to school. As you can see, the need for help is great and now you are all part of this help.

There will be a notice board put up in September near the RE rooms and Ms Upton is looking for volunteers to help design the notice board and write to Ashraf to find out how he is. If you would be interested in helping with all of this, please come and see her by the end of term. Alternatively you can simply visit the notice board to see his progress and find out about where he is from and his situation.

We hope you appreciate this gift; Ashraf certainly will.

This year also saw the introduction of a new award within this project. The John Harmer Award was kindly donated to us by Mr Mervyn Davies, who retired from this school in 1997 as Deputy Headteacher.

The award, won by Cameron Knapp, was for producing the most outstanding piece of written work during the project.

This has been an exciting, challenging and thoroughly enjoyable project and the hard work of all those involved has been rewarded by the enthusiasm and engagement and often profound learning of the students.

I would personally like to thank everyone involved who helped to make Exodus 2008 a success.

*L Baker  
AST*

## **PTA NEWS**

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the summer fete - whether you came to help run a stall, contributed stock for the stalls, bought raffle tickets or came along to spend time (and money!); your support is much appreciated.

Next year we hope to run some new events as well as some 'old favourites'. We have set the 17<sup>th</sup> October aside as a provisional date for our Quiz Night. We hope to have a Lower School Ball in November and an Adults Ball and Golf day (in conjunction with the Old Boys' Association) in 2009.

Regulars like the Christmas Bazaar and Summer Fete are also planned.

My thanks to Rebecca Clibbens and everyone else on the PTA Committee for all of their help, generosity and hard work throughout the year.

*John Harrison*

## **PE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### **Tennis**

There was a successful tennis party outing to Bromley Tennis Club for the Kent Doubles Championships. George Kennedy and James Clemmow won all their five group matches and quarter and semi-finals quite easily before narrowly missing out in the final. Joe Maunder and Jamie Dickins did well to gain a place in the quarter-finals too. Liam Gordon and Henry Cramer-Todd had an impressive quarter-final match against Judd but failed to get going in the semi-final and were defeated disappointingly by three games to love. Elliot Jones and Tom Bennel combined effectively to squeeze by Tom Overy and Piers Jahn in the semi-finals of the plate competition. After a valiant fightback, a high forehand volley just missed the line – so they just missed out in the final.

In the Kent Schools Tennis Finals the squad of Jack Greaves, Sam Gold, Liam Gordon and Tom Bennel narrowly lost to Judd in the semi-final after a 3 hour 56 minute titanic struggle! In the Seniors Jon Bone and

Dan Marshall acquitted themselves superbly against Dartford Grammar School who have won the previous two years as well! Clemmow and Maunder gained valuable experience too.

In the final of the Gifted and Talented Junior House Tennis the Kestrels team (L Gordon, G Forino, M Dall Antonia, G Farr, L Mahon and M Hartley) defeated the Falcons (S Gold, J Storey, A Harris, C Jarvis and H Salter). In the singles Gold won comfortably against Gordon, and Storey showed considerable promise despite losing against Forino (two years older). In the doubles Farr and Dall Antonia narrowly defeated Gold and Storey (3-2) and Forino and Gordon were comfortable winners against Hudson and Harris. J Greaves has improved considerably this year and P Jahn looks to be a name for the future. Well done to everyone who took part.  
*R Price*

### **Cricket**

Charlie Beale and Chris Brown shared a splendid partnership of 104 against Maidstone Grammar School in a cracking match, which we lost by a single run!

#### Year 8 House Cricket

##### Kestrels defeat Hawks

Highlights: MacKenzie (31) lusty blows by Statham and good all round batting by Powney, Bardrick, Latham, Parminter and Davis. Forward, Craddock and Coleman took 2 wickets apiece. Brown and Cornwall shared 37 partnership, boosted by Forward who impressed with shot selection. 3 late wickets by Bardrick.

##### Falcons defeat Ospreys

Highlights: Hall's quickfire 35 (7 boundaries), Howey (10), Robinson(19), Erxleben (8) and Surridge (12). Salter 3 and St Pierre 2 wickets respectively. Skillen 3 for 1 off 3 overs. Salter (41), Skillen (15), St Pierre 41 (peppering leg-side with 8 boundaries) completed a comfortable win.

##### Eagles defeat Merlins

Highlights: Saunders (31) and Leahy (15), Beale, Bateman and Cunnington containing and then picking off tail as they became frustrated with lack of runs. Beale (44), Connor (22), Bateman (14) and Cunnington (16) made hay while the sun shone!

#### Cricket House Final

Kestrels' late dismissal of fighting Falcon Newsome gains win in exciting Year 8 House Final -

Kestrels: F Mackenzie (31) N Latham (19) T Parminter (11) and J Bardrick (18)

Falcons: R St Pierre (45) A Jeyaratnam (20) D Sinclair (18) T Farrell (12) and J Newsome (26).

Good all round performances from Falcons' Skiller and Kestrels' Bardrick. Overall a fitting and exciting climax to the tournament.  
*R Price*

The Year 7 House Cricket Final will be taking place next week – Ospreys (7B) v Merlins (7D).

Well done to Kestrels (9A) who have won the Year 9 House Cricket Final.

#### IPL Sixes Tournament

Excellent weather and a great afternoon's cricket. Here are the results from the Year 7 Cricket Tournament:

A competition in rank order:

E  
B  
F  
C  
A  
D

B competition in rank order:

C  
D  
B

E

A/F tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Many thanks to all boys who played in the tournament and thanks also to those who have raised money through sponsorship.

### **Kent Schools Athletics Championships**

Excellent performances in the above Championships were achieved by:

Josh Bentham - 1<sup>st</sup> in Inter Boys 1500m Steeplechase

Joe Newsome – 5<sup>th</sup> in Junior Boys 800m

Cameron Knapp - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Junior Boys High Jump

### **Sports Day Winners**

Two very successful Sports Days were held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July, with the following forms winning their year group: 7F (Falcons), 8C (Hawks), 9D (Merlins) and 10E (Eagles).

New Sports Day records were achieved by the following athletes:

Year 7 100m – Charlie Taylor- 13.06

Year 7 70m Hurdles – (new event) - Keir Burbidge – 13.78

Year 8 70m Hurdles – (new event) – Alex King – 12.53

Year 9 80m Hurdles – (new event) – Jack Lennard 12.63

Year 10 80m Hurdles – (new event) – Jake Watts – 11.66

Year 10 Javelin – Dominic Trett – 33.84

Year 12 100m – Stuart Hollins – 11.56

Year 12 Long Jump – Douglas Kern – 5.54m

Year 12 800m – Alex Hookway – 2 mins. 15.78secs. – smashed the old record by almost 12 secs.

Year 12 Shot – Alex Hookway – 10.10m

Some notable performances were achieved by all athletes. Well done, everybody.

Finally, many thanks to all the Year 12 students who have assisted in the numerous Tunbridge Wells Schools Partnership events which have been run by Mr Luck with local primary schools. We have had a large number of students officiating or coaching in local events such as Multi-Skills Carnival, Kwik Cricket Festival, Hockey Festival and Tri-Golf to name only a few.

*K Downing  
Head of Physical Education*

### **KENT SCHOOL GAMES – HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

This is what Tim Luck, Senior School Sports Co-ordinator, Tunbridge Wells School Sports Partnership had to say about our School's involvement in the tournament:



*“For two teams that had very few opportunities to train together they bonded very quickly.*

*The boys’ behaviour and attitude over the two days was exemplary and they were a credit to both you and your School.*

*The U12 boys had a mixed day. Their learning curve was steep as they played against some very organised and well drilled teams in a very tough group. They acquitted themselves very well, punishing the weaker teams and making the more capable teams work hard for any kind of result. Only once were they beaten badly and to their credit they came straight back and won the following game. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their experience and were good company throughout the day, listening carefully to instructions and giving their best in every game.*



*The U15 boys had a very good day and were unbeaten throughout the tournament. The team dominated the first game and fell behind to a classic counter attack but battled bravely to earn themselves a draw. It was clear from this game that they had a good chance of getting to the finals so they put the disappointment of dropping a point behind them and took the tournament by the scruff of the next winning the rest of their group games until they came up against Canterbury, the only other unbeaten team in the qualifying group. We needed to win this game to get to the first place*

*playoff but were hindered by some very partisan umpiring for the home team. Despite camping in our half and having the benefit of a flurry of short corners, the Tunbridge Wells team looked the most likely team to score and were very unlucky to come away with a goalless draw which put them in the 3rd/4th place play off. This they duly won with ease. The boys can be very proud of their achievements as they played exceptional hockey throughout the day and really took the tournament by storm. They were a great bunch of lads and demonstrated a real togetherness throughout the day.”*

*T Luck*

## **OTHER SUCCESSES**

Some of our Year 7 boys are members of Rusthall Football Club and their team recently participated in the Amsterdam Cup Tournament in Holland. They had a very good tournament, playing 9 games in total and finishing as runners up (being narrowly beaten in the final 1-0, having conceded their first goal of the weekend in the last minute of the game!). In addition, some of these same boys - Sam Every, George Carey, Robert Pratt, Christian Lawal and Adam Davies-Knight – represented the School in the Kent Schools' Football Association having been selected to play for the West Kent District Schools Team for the 2007-2008 season. The team did very well and reached the final of the cup where, unfortunately, they were beaten by North Kent. The Rusthall side that they all play for also reached the League Cup Final for the season where, again, they were defeated by Doverhouse Lions. However, this was Rusthall's first season together as a squad so it was a very pleasing result for them.

Congratulations to Billy Stookes, Year 11, who recently passed his Grade 8 drumkit examination with distinction.

Congratulations also to Thomas Dye (Year 8) for completing his RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Seamanship Skills course (building on the level 4 award last year) and his Grade III Violin (with distinction) – what a combination of talents!

I suspect there are many more of our young men who have achieved great things of which we are unaware. Please, mums and dads and carers, do write to let me know about them!

*John Harrison*

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED EXCHANGE WITH HUGH CHRISTIE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE**

Five students on the gifted and talented register at Hugh Christie Technology College spent two days with us in May to see what life was like in a Grammar School and compare it with their own. They were greeted by James Bass, Max Benham, Alex Davis, Conor Skillen and Jack Hedger as their guides and experienced a wide range of lessons and activities throughout their stay.

Hugh Christie then played host to our five students the following week, where they explored life in a mixed comprehensive. All our students found it enjoyable, and one not many students experience, with some preconceived ideas being dismissed. The exchange was the first we had undertaken with Hugh Christie and marks the start of other collaborations and exchanges.



*G Stevens*

## **FANTASY FOOTBALL COMES TO TWGSB**

TWGSB is home to the Premier League's champions! Not some deranged ramblings of the Head (I am fully aware of what happened to Kent's League side – and I don't want to talk about it!!) but a statement of fact. Our 1<sup>st</sup> X1 won the Kent Premier League for the second year running. That success comes from putting together the best possible team. Do you have those managerial skills?

Next year we will be running a Fantasy Football League in the School. There will be a whole school league, mini year-based leagues, a staff league as well as a parents' league.

As with newspaper based fantasy leagues, each manager is allocated a set figure to buy his team members. Each week those players will amass points for scoring goals, keeping clean sheets, assists, etc. Each month sees a "Manager of the Month" award, league tables are updated weekly and at the end of the season trophies and medals are awarded to the winners. It promises to be a lot of fun.

Our league is run for us by "Schools Fantasy League" ([www.schoolsfl.com](http://www.schoolsfl.com)) and to cover the administration of the scheme and prizes they do charge an entry fee of £3.50 per team.

The league doesn't start until the new term is well under way, which gives everyone a chance to see what early season form indicates. I do hope lots of boys will be taking part. I also hope many mums and dads will have a go too – if only for bragging rights at home!

You can visit the [www.schoolsfl.com](http://www.schoolsfl.com) website to find out more.

### **The SFL Warm Up**

SFL have introduced an early kick off for the first time ever! This will work exactly the same as the normal SFL season, but for a period of just 7 weeks.

The Warm Up is entirely separate from the Main Season. It is an optional "extra" and it is free.

Entrants can pick a team from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July** to take part in a separate Warm Up that starts scoring in conjunction with the Premier League on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**.

Entrants will be able to make unlimited transfers to their team throughout the Warm Up with the winners announced on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October**.

Entrants can keep their Warm Up team as it is for the rest of the season, or make unlimited transfers before the Main Season gets started on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.

Entrants' points accumulated in the Warm Up will be removed ahead of the Main Season starting so everyone is on a level playing field for the big kick-off.

Further details will be posted at School as soon as they are received.

Good luck!

*John Harrison*

### **DATES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

A downloadable calendar of term dates is available from our website: [www.twgsb.org.uk](http://www.twgsb.org.uk).

Of particular importance,

First day of term for Year 7 and Sixth Form course registrations – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008.

First day of term for all other year groups – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

### **Dates for Students**

Term	Start	End
1	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> /Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
2	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
3	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
4	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
5	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
6	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July

Our school closure days next year Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Many thanks to you all for supporting our drive to improve on attendance. Please note these dates and I would like to remind all parents and carers that we will not authorise holiday leave.

*John Harrison*

### **BBC CHILDREN IN NEED CHARITY**

Oliver Southgate in Year 9 has undertaken a massive and ambitious theatrical production on his own initiative and aspirations. Any profits will go to the BBC Children in Need charity. He has got agreement, from his own efforts, from Cameron Mackintosh to use the script from "Avenue Q", currently running in the West End, for one night only at the Trinity Theatre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Oliver is directing, producing and starring in the show and he is also responsible for just about all the other needs that such a production requires. Originally Oliver had been agreed an Arts Council grant, which was to fund the actual costs of the show, but unfortunately that grant has been withdrawn due to funding cutbacks.

Oliver has started an on-line donation account to achieve more donations to his nominated charity (Children in Need). This can be accessed using this link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/avenueq>.

Oliver also needs a major sponsor to help fund the actual show. Any such sponsor would be advertised on all posters and in the show's programme. Any offers of help could be forwarded to Oliver c/o the School.

## **FUNDRAISING BY YEAR 12 STUDENT, NATHANIEL JANKS**

I am happy to publicise the efforts of Nat, who is one of our Sixth Formers. In his own words,  
*“On the 26th July 2008 I will start my gruelling cycling challenge of just under 1000 miles over 13 days. I will go from Lands End in Cornwall (the furthest South-West point in England) to John O’Groats (the furthest North point in Scotland)!!*

*The reason behind this madness is that I wanted to set a big challenge for myself that would encourage people to sponsor me. There is, in my opinion, no more worthy a charity to receive every penny that I raise than The Dianne Lang Foundation - set up by Dianne Lang to help South African children abandoned, abused, neglected and orphaned affected and infected by HIV and AIDS in the Eastern Cape. It is a small charity that has been virtually deserted by the South African government, so it needs all the help it can get.*

The website that you can sponsor me through is <http://www.justgiving.com/nathanieljanks>.

*Donating through Justgiving is quick, easy and totally secure. It’s also the most efficient way to sponsor me: Dianne Lang Foundation UK Charity gets your money faster and, if you’re a UK taxpayer, Justgiving makes sure 25% in Gift Aid, plus a 3% supplement, are added to your donation.*

*That means that for every £10 you sponsor me, the government pledge to pay a further sum of over £2 towards the Dianne Lang Foundation.*

*Remember - if you can’t afford to part with your cash, just part with your pennies - every little counts! So please sponsor me now! Many thanks.”*

*Nathaniel Janks*

## SEPTEMBER PRICE INCREASE



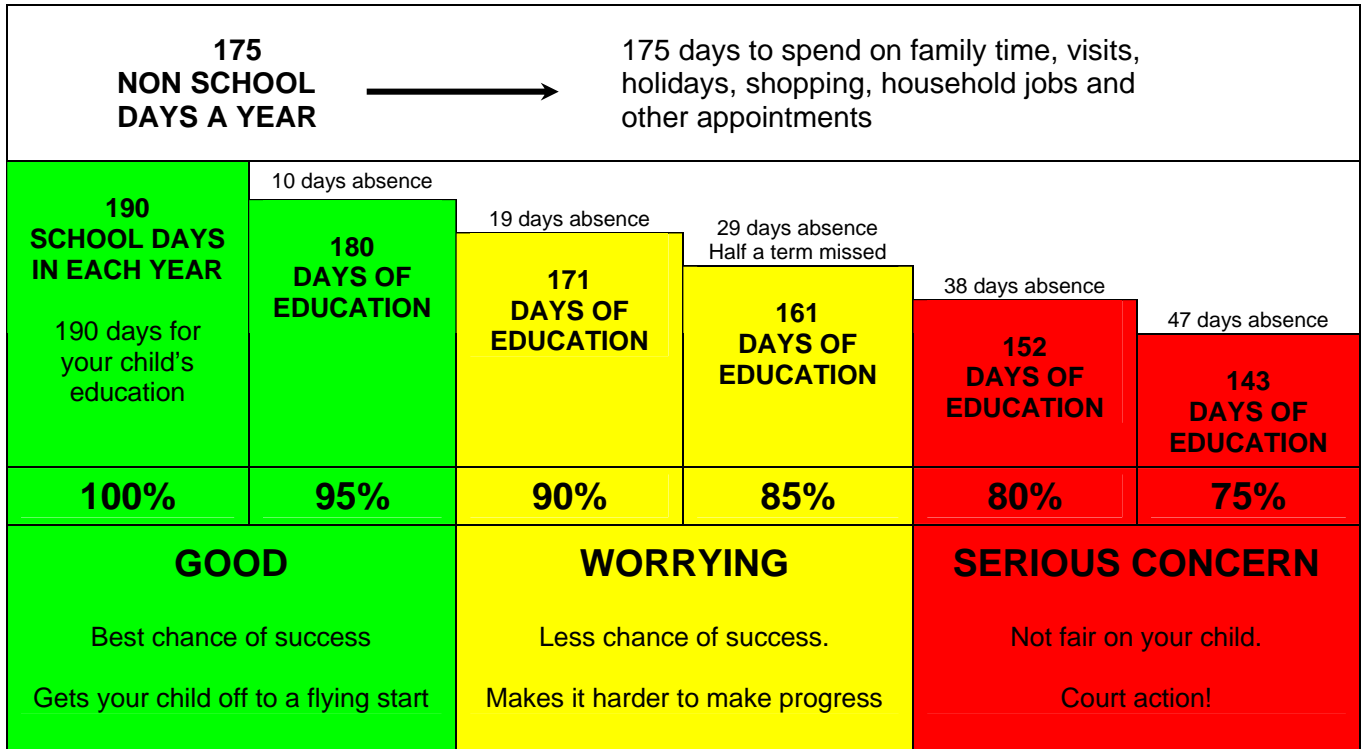
LARGE FOOTBALLS WILL BE £3.10

SMALL FOOTBALLS WILL BE £0.60

DUE TO INCREASED COSTS FROM SUPPLIER

# Attendance & Behaviour Service

## Days off school add up to lost learning



## Being Late adds up to a loss of learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

