



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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

Dear All

21st October 2009

HEADTEACHER'S END OF TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first full newsletter of 2009-10. I find it hard to believe we are at the end of term 1 already. So far this year we have run a consultation evening (for Year 13), a meet the tutor evening (for Year 7) and held our open evening and days for prospective families and children. The 207 boys in Year 7 have settled in very well and have made themselves at home. Last week they enjoyed History trips to Battle. I have also seen them hard at work and play in and around the School, although I suspect they are really looking forward to the "half term" break now!

I have been delighted to see boys getting involved in a number of clubs and societies this term. Particularly pleasing was the significant turn out by Year 10 boys and their parents at last week's Duke of Edinburgh launch evening. I think this scheme is excellent and believe the boys involved will really benefit from the experience.

We were delighted to welcome the following members of staff at the beginning of September and I hope they all enjoy their time as part of our community:

Miss E Gee	Art Technician
Mrs A Green	Learning Support Assistant
Mr D C Lesquerre	Teacher of Science
Mrs K Noel	Teacher of English
Mr J Shillito	Teacher of Music
Mrs M E Stirrups	Teacher of Science

In the newsletter that follows you will find reports from clubs and societies, teachers and teams. I hope you will find them interesting and informative.

At the time of writing we are just about to have our first Humanities Day. A full report of this will be included in the term 2 newsletter.

Yours sincerely

J G Harrison
Headteacher

CONTACT DETAILS

Thank you to parents who have returned their sons' data collection forms duly amended. We do need all the sheets returned (even if a nil return) duly signed by you. As you will be aware, this is an annual exercise. However, we would ask you all to keep us fully informed *throughout the year* about changes to



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students' home information, for example new address, contact telephone numbers, extra contacts, change of family circumstances, etc. A letter or e-mail addressed to the School Office would suffice. Any confidential information should be directed through the School's Welfare Office, Mrs Pyefinch. Thank you.
School Office

NEWS FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

National Cipher Challenge (sponsored by IBM and GCHQ)

Well done to *Epic Win* (Peter Morris, Sam Taylor, Michael Catt of Year 13) and *The Morris Minors* (Daniel Smith, Jon Sutton, Jack Swainsbury of Year 13), who currently share first place (admittedly with many other teams) after the first two rounds. There are over 1200 teams taking part. Points are awarded according to accuracy and time taken to crack ciphers that increase with difficulty each week.

I strongly encourage able Maths/Computing students in Years 7 to 11 to have a go at some of the earlier rounds with a view to entering this prestigious competition next year. The following link takes you to the Introduction page, from where you can navigate to each round's cipher:

<http://www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/the-challenges/introduction>.

TWGSB Grand Prix Season and "Maths in Motion" Competitions (Sponsored by Jaguar Cars)

The third TWGSB Grand Prix season is underway, with three races now completed. About thirty students are currently registered to race, and anyone from Years 7 to 11 can take part, even if only for one race.

The 56-lap Malaysian Grand Prix was particularly competitive, with Ben Howe (9H) winning by just 3 seconds from Daniel Kommu (8H), with the next five finishers all within a minute of the winner. After two seconds and a fourth place finish, Daniel leads the Drivers' Championship on 21 points, from Stuart Hosiene (9H) on 20 points after two thirds and a second. A lot of our drivers are "novice" Year 7s, but they are improving rapidly, and some have been picking up Championship Points.

Although last year we took part in the three international races against schools from the UK, Hungary, Spain, The Netherlands and New Zealand (winning two and coming second in the other), we are currently not eligible to take part in these races this year due to a change in the entry criteria. However, we do have the National Christmas Grand Prix, a race we won in 2007, coming up over the San Marino circuit in December.

UK Senior Mathematics Challenge

All Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians will be taking part in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge on 5th November. This is the most widely recognised national Maths competition and a good performance is particularly useful to Year 12 students when making their university applications next year. Progression through subsequent rounds can lead to a place in the UK Team for the World Championships. Two years ago one of our students came fifth in the Final Round.

Maths Enrichment Club

This KS3 club meets on Wednesday lunchtimes in M5. Activities include mathematical puzzles, games and problem solving. Later in the year, some pupils will start to focus on the UK Maths Team Challenge which takes place in the spring. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 who are interested in taking part, or just enjoy Maths, should make themselves known to Mrs Abu Hayyeh.

Bridge Club

Miss Connell runs this club on Thursday lunchtimes in M4. It is open to all ages and abilities, and complete beginners in Year 7 are particularly welcome.

Maths Clinic

The Clinic operates on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in M6. There has been a great response from the Sixth Form to "staff" the Clinic. We have a pool of over twenty successful and willing A-Level Maths students to call upon, willing to give their time to support pupils from Years 7 to 11, on an individual or small group basis, with their Maths homework or to go over recent work again.

Maths Clinic caters for two types of situation:

- i) A letter and Attendance Record Form are sent home to inform parents where the class teacher has recommended that a pupil attends Maths Clinic for a period of time. The pupil is allocated to a specific Sixth Former so that some continuity and a relationship can be established. Reminders are placed in register trays each Tuesday and Thursday. However, Maths Clinic is not a detention or punishment and attendance is not compulsory or chased. Lack of attendance will be evident to parents on the Attendance Record Form. However, a pupil who chooses not to attend or is not receptive to the help on offer, should not seek to make excuses if their future progress or results disappoint – they have chosen to waste the opportunity to improve as well as the Sixth Former's willingness and time.
- ii) A drop-in facility for pupils who want help with their latest homework or some other Maths problem. No invitation or appointment is necessary. Individual help will be provided by a Sixth Former. Some pupils find the experience of working with an older pupil to be less threatening than asking the teacher, and we would encourage such pupils to take advantage of what the Sixth Formers can offer. We even witness such pupils coming back for more!

www.mymaths.co.uk

The Department has a subscription to this site, giving pupils free home access. All pupils should be aware of our School log-in and password, and most will have additional access details in order to complete any online homeworks set. The site is frequently used in our teaching, and pupils can re-study and practise most topics that they have met.

Year 10

Year 10 should be busily working towards their first GCSE Module to be taken on 21st January 2010. As we approach the examination, please encourage your sons to make use of the Maths Clinic, mymaths.co.uk and the MathsWatch CDs that are available for purchase from the Maths Department for £3 each.

*G Young
Head of Mathematics*

LIBRARY NEWS

West Kent Schools Themed Book Award

Boys from TWGSB will be joining this scheme for the third time this year. The Award was set up to encourage and promote reading for pleasure in schools. Students in two age groups, Teen and Young Adult (KS3 and KS4/5) will be reading and discussing five books on the theme of "Secrets and Lies". Recommendations from students and staff at participating schools were considered by the school librarians and a short list agreed as follows:

Teen

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Blood Red, Snow White by Marcus Sedgwick
Stravaganza: City of Masks by Mary Hoffman
Tell Me No Lies by Malorie Blackman
Secret Diary of Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend

Young Adult

Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons
Set in Stone by Linda Newbery
The Talented Mr Ripley by Patricia Highsmith
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
Restless by William Boyd

Reading has begun and groups will be meeting at intervals to discuss the books. Voting for the winner takes place in February at the end of Term 3 and the result is announced and celebrated at an Awards Evening at Trinity Theatre on 18th March 2010. All students taking part will receive a prize and an invitation to attend the award ceremony.

The Library will, of course, provide several copies of each title, but would be very grateful if any parent could donate or lend any of these books to us until next February, when voting takes place. We have 30 boys taking part and any extra copies would be very useful. If you are able to help, please e-mail me at School: smarchant@twgsboys.kent.sch.uk.

Author Visit

On Thursday 1st October students in Years 7 and 8 were delighted to welcome Chris Bradford, author of the popular Young Samurai series, and were duly enthralled by the reading from his books and his message of respect and discipline in all that you do. The presence of a Samurai sword guaranteed 100% concentration from all present and ensured the sale of a number of books! After signing books, Chris conducted a writing workshop in the library with a group of Year 8 boys who produced some very exciting opening paragraphs. He had an excellent rapport with the boys and those that are not planning to be authors after this visit are probably thinking of martial arts at least as a hobby.

*S Marchant
School Librarian*

YEAR 13 DESTINATIONS

Last year 129 students completed Year 13 at the School. I thought you might find it interesting to know what they have gone on to do.

Destination	Number
University	97
Gap Year (University in 2010)	25
Employment	5
Unknown	2

The universities include Aston, Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Kent, Leeds, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Reading, Royal Holloway, Surrey, Sussex, Swansea, Warwick and York. This year we also have students continuing their studies in America in both Baltimore and Tampa.

The students are studying an amazing range of courses. A few examples include: Architecture, Law, English, Maths, Sports Development, Aerospace Engineering, Visual Arts Production, Music, Art, Geography, History, Media, Economics and Civil Engineering. We all look forward to seeing them again in December at Success '09 and hearing about how they are getting on.

John Harrison

MEDIA STUDIES

This term the Year 13 students have begun preparing for filmmaking coursework, researching and developing a concept for a music video and recording all their findings on a digital portfolio. We made the most of the recent good weather to take both groups to Brighton on a filming field trip, where they had to shoot a number of scenarios and experiment with different shot types and camera movement.



It was a fantastic day and the students really made the most of the opportunity to work in groups to a deadline, explore the city as a potential location as well as enjoy some fish and chips on the beach! This year the standard of the work so far is extremely high and with over 20 of our students applying to Media Studies related courses at University, we are looking forward to a real showcase of some future filmmakers' work at our Oscars night in February.

*C Fernandez
Head of Media Studies*

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

Jordan Annells in Year 11 passed his ARDS test during the summer holiday. This enables him to race cars in Junior Formulae, which he will start next spring.

Back in August Samuel Wootton in Year 11 completed the Great Channel Islands Challenge Walk with the Hildenborough Explorer Scout unit. He walked a total of 100 miles over 5 days around the coastlines of both Guernsey and Jersey through mainly wet weather.

Enrico Atkinson, Year 8, has been selected to be a member of the Pre-Cadet (U15) England Judo Squad. He currently has a shoulder injury, but hopefully will be able to recommence training in the new year.

Parents, please don't be shy in notifying me of your son's achievements, especially if he is unlikely to tell me himself!! It is good to share in other's successes.

John Harrison

TUNBRIDGE WELLS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2009

Congratulations to the TWGSB Gospel Choir who took part in the Royal Centenary Concert on Sunday 11th October 2009 at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells. Thirty students sang in a mass school choir with students from Beechwood School, Bethany School and Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, accompanied by the City of London Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and conducted by Joseph Cullen. They performed Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart, Adiemus by Karl Jenkins and Zadok the Priest by Handel to a very appreciative audience. Well done, everyone!



MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME

On 1st October TWGSB enjoyed the first of a series of gigs which will showcase our many talented school bands. The band consisted of year 13 Music Technology students, Patrick Peel Barnard and Josh Smith on electric guitar, Alex Dove on Drums, Dan Saunders on keyboard and Alex Deadman on bass and vocals. Will Fox led a talented team who set up lights, live video feed, took photographs and video. The gig was well supported by staff and students and raised £50 towards our new school piano. We look forward to our next gig on Wednesday 4th November.



OLIVER

Rehearsals are underway for our forthcoming production of Oliver which will run for three nights from 9th to 11th December. We have two fabulous casts providing increased opportunities to take a lead role. The students are fortunate to be receiving help with the dance routines from Louise Denton, a dance teacher from Hillview School for Girls. We have a total of 75 students involved in the production including 23 Year 7s, with an orchestra of 20, a chorus of 50, and an enthusiastic production team working on lights, sound and stage management. The company are also looking forward to watching a performance of Oliver at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on 11th November, which currently stars the comedian, Omid Djalili, as Fagin and Jodie Prenger, winner of the 'I'd do Anything' TV show, as Nancy. So enjoy a pre-Christmas treat and bring all the family to see this wonderful show. **Tickets will be available soon.** We look forward to seeing you there.





*C Stokes
Acting Head of Music*

BECOMING A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

URGENT – Year 7s needed to join the team...

A team of Eco Reps, representing the School, took part in an inter-school meeting at Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge earlier this term and discussed with other pupils from West Kent schools how they might move forward together. The meeting was extremely useful and the boys who attended were clearly an important part of the decision making.

The allotment project has joined forces with 'Green Fingers Club' and is an exciting development which Mr A Roberts is leading. The boys have been inspired by their inspection of Skinners' vegetable garden, which we went to visit in the penultimate week of term, and are raring to go.... Experiments on the patch of ground above the greenhouse over the summer have shown that possibly a little more sunlight is needed for growing most crops and a new patch of ground is being rotovated within the next week so that ground can be prepared over the winter. The idea is to plant (and eat!) a huge crop of potatoes this year which will help to break up and improve the quality of the soil, before splitting them into three rotational beds for roots, curcubits and brassicas the following year. (Subsequent potatoes will be grown in containers, which is much less laborious!) Tomatoes, aubergines, chillies and peppers will be grown in the greenhouse this year. If any parents have any extra seed potatoes or seedlings for the greenhouse which are surplus to requirements, we would welcome donations! Manure or compost is also welcome, as are any long planks of wood/sleepers that will help us to define our raised beds.

Mr Tull reports that the bat boxes are almost complete, and the task of identifying suitable habitats and positioning the boxes in order to attract bats is almost upon us. We are hoping for a visit from the Kent Bat Group who will advise us on how to best approach this task and how to appreciate the wildlife that we are hoping will move in.

Boxes have now been bought to collect paper for the making of rough pads and will be distributed to all classrooms during November. Eco Reps from Miss Edwards' group will be trained in how to make the pads.

To help raise awareness of the need to recycle, the pupils in this group will also be creating a display wall made out of recyclable waste, prior to recycling bins for materials other than paper making an appearance around the School.

Miss Banfield's group will continue to monitor the use of energy and come up with ways that will help the School to reduce our carbon footprint.

In line with our aims to reduce the carbon footprint of pupils travelling to and from school, a team of pupils through all the year groups will receive training in November to enable them to create a viable reduced carbon emission travel plan for pupils on an individual basis. This will include car-sharing initiatives and bus/train route information. This team will be known as the 'Journease Crew.'

After the extremely successful Astronomy evening last April, where the School telescope made its debut performance, a second Astronomy evening with Greg from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, has been planned for the end of November and will be open to all key stages. The focus for this event will be a talk about the gas giants (planets of the outer solar system) and then a viewing of the Moon and Jupiter through a variety of telescopes. A letter will be sent home after the break with details of this event.



Mrs Sladen's group (and guests) have been busy planting bulbs for spring flowers along the driveway. It seems to be taking ages to get them all in the ground, but the effect in April will be lovely - only about another 150 to go in the ground! We also have a couple of dozen free trees coming, which Mr Silvester has said can be planted along the grass between the playground and the car park and in the quiet area to give the pupils some shade during the summer months. To this effect we are taking part in the BBC's 'Breathing Spaces' project.

And to finish, a little something to mull over this October break...

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

Greek Proverb



*R Lovera
Sustainable Schools Co-ordinator*

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting on 21st September when new Committee members were elected. The officers of the PTA are:

Chair	Mrs Alyson Corrigan	Alyson.corrigan@tateandlyle.com
Vice-Chair	Mrs Anne Deane	anne@pastaeaters.plus.com
Secretary	Mrs Romelle Piercy	R_Piercy@sky.com
Treasurer	Mr Simon Bishop	fbing@btinternet.com

TWGSB PTA presents
PETE AND DAVE'S QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER – 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start
£10 per adult, £5 per child (to include a fish and chip supper)
Please see separate mailing for tickets

Forthcoming events include the Quiz Night and a Christmas Fete on Saturday 5th December. Further offers of help would always be most welcome to any of the above.

John Harrison

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Football

This has been a very busy term of fixtures, where Kent Cup matches, friendlies and Inter-House tournaments have taken place.

Our Year 7 squad have made a very promising start, reaching the third round of the National Cup, defeating Bexhill High School and William Parker Sports College in rounds 1 and 2. There have also been B team games for Year 7 and we have regularly had 60 boys attending training. Kestrels won a highly competitive Inter-House tournament, which was well attended by players and supporting parents. Year 7 start their County Cup games after half-term.

Our Year 8 squad progressed to round 3 of the Kent Cup defeating St Thomas More 7-0 and Howard 5-1. They have won the majority of their games and played some highly competitive fixtures against Brentwood, Ardingly College, St Bedes, Sackville and Wilsons School.

The U14 squad have progressed to round 3 of the Kent Cup, defeating Strood Academy 2-0. They were narrowly beaten in the National Cup by Bexleyheath, only losing out on penalties. They have also had numerous fixtures including B teams and have played some excellent football.

The U15 squad have had their best season to date, reaching round 3 of the Kent Cup and gaining some excellent victories against strong football schools such as Ardingly, St Bedes, Brentwood and Wilsons School. They were defeated by a very powerful London School/Woolwich Polytechnic 5-2 in round 2 of the National Cup.

Our U16 squad were surprisingly defeated 2-1 in the first round of the French Cup to a strong BETHS team, and have yet to start their matches in the other Kent Cup competition. Many of our U16 players have represented the senior football teams in matches on Saturday mornings and are gaining valuable experience of playing with and against older age groups.

Our senior teams have made excellent progress so far this year, and I have been extremely impressed and proud of their commitment to school football. Our 1st X1 are undefeated in the East Kent Premier League and are joint top with Dover Grammar School. They have progressed to round 3 of the National Cup and round 3 of the Kent Cup. Our 2nd X1 are second in East Kent Division 1, a commendable effort considering this team is playing predominantly against 1st X1 squads. They have also progressed to the Quarter Final of the 2nd X1 cup, defeating Bexley Grammar School 4-2 in the last round.

Our 3rd and 4th X1 squads are both in East Kent Division 2. The 3rd X1 are currently second and our 4th X1 mid-table. Both teams have had some excellent results playing against 2nd X1 teams from other schools. Our 4th X1 recently defeated Simon Langton Grammar School's 2nd X1 5-0!

Training on Monday nights for all squads has been exceptionally well attended and we have regularly had up to 50 turning up. Well done!

An excellent start for all squads and many thanks to all staff and senior students who have helped with teams, particularly the 9 staff who enabled us to field 10 teams on a Saturday morning against Brentwood School, including all 4 senior teams.

Cross Country

Cross Country Club on Fridays after school has seen a huge increase in participation this year with a large number of Year 7 students taking up the sport for the first time and some Sixth Formers returning to it in order to increase their fitness levels. Unfortunately, a spate of injuries and illness caused havoc with the TWGSB teams for the English Schools Cross Country Cup, but there were some pleasing individual performances, which hinted at what might have been if full teams had been fielded. In the Junior Boys race,

Alistair Bishop finished in an excellent 6th position, with Alec Fullerton in a very pleasing 10th place. In the Intermediate Boys race Cameron Knapp showed the benefits of a conservative early pace, moving through the field from the mid-20s on the opening lap to an excellent eighth place at the finish, where he still looked full of running despite the challenge provided by an extraordinarily steep hill. Also running the Intermediate Boys race were George Kennedy and Jack Cozens but both were forced to pull out just after the half-way point with injuries. Next term sees The FH Taylor relays for Years 7 to 9 and the Knole Junior Run for Years 7 and 8. For further details contact Dr Newbold in Lab 6 or meet ready-changed after school at 3.45 pm on Fridays by the changing room playground exit.

Parents/Carers - Would you like to assist in Extra-Curricular Activities?

The PE Department is looking for any AOTTs ("Adults Other Than Teachers") to volunteer with coaching or officiating in our numerous extra-curricular activities after school. We are always looking for football or rugby referees, or enthusiastic parents who are prepared to give their time to assist in training. Please contact any member of the Department if you would like to help in any of our sporting provision. We look forward to hearing from you.

*K Downing
Head of Physical Education*

CHARLTON ATHLETIC HALF TERM FAMILY FUN DAYS

FREE Family Fun Days are being held from 12 noon to 4.00 pm each day during the "half term" break, Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October. The message from Charlton Athletic is, "Bring your mums, dads, sisters and brothers and come and have some fun!" The venue is The Skinners Kent Academy, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4PY. There will be a chance to participate in sports such as Football and Dance, including an opportunity to play on Charlton's Summer Slam inflatable pitch, take penalties in inflatable goals, participate in soccer skills events and dance your socks off in Dance workshops. Further information can be obtained through Nick Farr on 07875001147. (Nick is the Charlton Athletic Tunbridge Wells LCSP Co-ordinator.)

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed a variety of tokens and vouchers in such vast quantities. In all 18,000 Sainsbury's "Active Kids" vouchers were collected over the last year, for example, which meant that the School has been able to obtain valuable equipment for the PE and Food Technology Departments free of charge.

We nearly always participate in such schemes so please continue to send us Box Tops for Books tokens (from Nestlé cereal packets) and vouchers from Tesco, Sainsbury and Morrisons as their various campaigns arise.

In addition, we maintain a collection of used postage stamps for charity. Currently these are being gathered for The Spinal Injuries Association. Please keep all these items coming. Many, many thanks once again.

*K Bamblett
PA to the Headteacher*

LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR ALL

I have been asked to draw to your attention the fact that Tonbridge Grammar School and the Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge have teamed up to offer a range of exciting adult twilight language classes.

The following are available:

- Spanish Beginners', Intermediate and Advanced Classes;
- French Beginners', Post Beginners' and Intermediate Classes;
- German Beginners' and Intermediate Classes;
- Italian Beginners' Classes.

They are also offering classes to primary children in Year 5 and Year 6 to give them a taste of Spanish language and culture.

Interested parties should contact Mrs Samantha Twinam at Tonbridge Grammar School – telephone: 01732 365125 or e-mail: samanthatwinam@tgs.kent.sch.uk.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We are currently compiling a presentation folder for all of our parents.
Inside the folder there will be space to include

**ADVERTISEMENTS FOR
LOCAL COMPANIES AND
BUSINESSES**

3-4,000 FOLDERS WILL BE PRODUCED

and distributed to the parents of all our pupils and many others who request information about the school. Advertising revenue will generate income to

BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS

Please,

**TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SUPPORT TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL for BOYS
AND
PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS**

Space is limited – act now to reserve your spot

**Log your interest with Christian at F.S.E.
on 01604 410841**