



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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

Dear Parents, Students and Carers

13th July 2009

HEADTEACHER'S END OF ACADEMIC YEAR NEWSLETTER

I cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by! In our last newsletter of the year you will read a number of articles highlighting activities, trips and successes enjoyed by our students during the spring and summer.

I would like to highlight a few here in my introduction. Last week we enjoyed a wonderful evening of music and song based on popular music of the '60s, '70s and '80s. If you were there you'll know what a fantastic evening it was and what a pleasure it was to see the students having so much fun. If you weren't there, look out for next year's events!

Last week also saw the end of the Indian Exchange visit that we have been hosting. We wrote about our visit to Kochi in South West India in the Christmas newsletter. We have now hosted our exchange students and teachers and completed the programme. We held an Assembly with Year 9 and 10 students recently and I know a number have already expressed an interest in visiting India in 2010.

Finally, two successes on the sporting front to tell you about. Firstly, we had a wonderful Sports Day in which the new house T-shirts made their debut. There are some photographs later in the newsletter. Finally, my congratulations to the senior tennis squad who won our 5th county championship of the year – a truly outstanding result. They beat Judd, Sevenoaks, Eltham College and then King's Canterbury in the final.

As the year comes to an end we say goodbye to some of our colleagues. Mrs M Forrester from the Welfare Department is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. Mr M Johnson leaves us after three and a bit years as Head of Music to pursue other challenges. Ms S Dafforn, Art Technician, will be taking a career break following a period of maternity leave. Miss S Cragg, who has been covering Ms Dafforn's absence, will be commencing a teacher training course in the autumn. In addition, Mrs P Hardingham, who has been offering additional support to our students over a number of years, will be moving on to pastures new. Finally, Mr A Hilton has come to the end of his contract in the Science Department. I thank them all for their contributions to the School over, not just the last year, but all their time with us. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

We shall be welcoming back Mrs A Sorel from her maternity leave and career break, together with Mrs L Baker, who will take up her position as Assistant Headteacher. Both these ladies will be working three days per week from September.

A party of 30 boys and 3 members of staff accompanied a football tour to Villareal in April and I am proud and delighted to share with you part of the letter I subsequently received from the sports travel company:

"Based on the feedback we have received following the trip, I felt obliged to write a letter to applaud the exemplary behaviour of all the pupils who travelled on the trip, and the professionalism of the supervisory teaching staff who gave up their free time to run the tour. In the days of increased legislation and increasing commitments on teaching staff within a school, it is too easy not to bother to organise any trips, even though there are undoubted benefits. Unfortunately not all school groups who travel with us are as well behaved."



humanities

FABER EST QUISQUE SUAE FORTUNAE

I do realise how very fortunate I am to be Head of a School where the students are generally so well behaved - a great credit to us and their parents.

Term 6 ends for all students on Friday 17th July.

A reminder that the first day of term for Year 7 and the Sixth Form is Wednesday 2nd September. For all other year groups it is Thursday 3rd September.

Have a wonderful summer, see you in September, and enjoy the newsletter.

Yours sincerely



J G Harrison
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance for the year was 94.4%. This is quite good and reflects the generally strong determination shown by boys to attend school. It also reflects the parental support in this area as well! Thank you.

A number of absences have been recorded as unauthorised this year. These are often when parents request additional holiday time. The School will not authorise holiday leave and I would ask that holidays are not booked outside of School holiday dates. I am aware that holiday prices reflect term dates. However, boys should not miss school for this reason. The Local Authority Education Welfare Officer and I have discussed this matter and the Local Authority may serve Penalty Notices in the future. I have also been asked to report students who are regularly late to the EWO, who may consider the issuing of warning letters or in extreme cases prosecutions. I am delighted to report this would apply to very few of our students, but it ought not to apply to any and we will be monitoring punctuality very closely next year.

Education is like the lottery in only one respect – you have got to be in it to win it!

Once again my thanks and congratulations to all those students with exceptional attendance rates this year.
John Harrison

INDIAN EXCHANGE

The Indian students and staff have been visiting us from 22nd June to 10th July. This Exchange is run jointly by TWGSB and TWGGS. I am sure all our students have welcomed the Indian students on the days they have been in School.

As part of their fundraising towards the costs of entertaining the Indian guests, three students in Year 12 are doing a sponsored cycle ride around Bewl Water (twice!). Louis Peacock Young, Jack Redden and Jamie Dorricott would welcome any sponsorship from other students, parents and staff. Please support them in their efforts.
P Lowe

Indian Exchange Co-ordinator

AZU RIVAGE TRIP – ROCKLEY WATER SPORTS ADVENTURE

“The Year 8 trip to Azu Rivage was amazing, thrilling and utterly exciting. It could not have been made any more exhilarating even if they had added any extras! The activity that caught everyone’s eyes, and got all our hearts pumping, was the white water rafting, being told to bomb into a crashing rapid, and leap off a rocky outcrop and swim back to our rafts, etc., etc. Plenty of people “accidentally” fell into the freezing cold rapids. Virtually everyone suffered concussions from the boom on pico sailing. Others of us were just intent on sailing our darts, really quickly into other people’s boats. No matter what we did we all utterly enjoyed ourselves – even if the rafts fell apart.”
Adrian Barker, 8K

“This water sports trip was probably the best trip I have ever been on. Even though we had a 19-hour coach drive, it was lots of fun. When we arrived at the campsite we got sorted in our tents and unpacked our things. On that day my first activity was wind-surfing which was good but could have been better if there was some wind, but it was still great fun as we played lots of surfboard games. We also did a number of other activities such as kayaking, raft building, white water rafting, pico sailing, dart sailing and mountain biking. My favourite water sport was white water rafting. At the beginning I was a little nervous but after 10 minutes I got used to it as it was so much fun and had a great thrill especially when we went in the small rapids. I also enjoyed dart sailing as I had never sailed a catamaran before and we managed to go very fast. Also it was fun as you were with all your friends. The campsite tents were very big so it was great, even though in my tent a rat came in twice! I really enjoyed this trip because mainly of all the fun with my friends and all the experience I have gained on the water. All the Rockley staff and teachers were great on this trip and helped you when you needed help and support. I tried a lot of things I had never done before including eating frogs legs and snail. But overall this trip was brilliant.”

Kishen Patel, 8E

BECOMING A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to Ed Holdstock (7E) for winning the design competition for our Eco Code, which will be appearing around the School in every classroom from September. As a prize, Ed joined the School Eco Reps on a visit to Bore Place Organic Farm, where they all made their own pizzas from flour that they ground from wheat, explored the organic allotment garden, and met the organic milk producing cows and the rescued ex-battery hens who are now beautiful, sleek and producing plenty of eggs.

The allotment project is an exciting development which Mr A Roberts is leading, and the plan is that the ground will be prepared this term for the boys to start planting in earnest on their return in September – open to any boys who are interested, but spearheaded by Mrs Sladen’s Eco Reps.

Mr Tull now has his ‘Bat Group’, the materials are on order, and the boys involved will begin making their bat boxes as soon as they get back next term.

Reuse of paper is definitely on the agenda, and over the summer we will be looking to buy a booklet maker so that any paper that has a clean side can be used in a special TWGSB Eco Pad – a project that will be led by Miss Edwards’ group. Mrs Marchant will have these on sale for a very reasonable price in the Library.

Miss Banfield’s group will continue to monitor the use of energy and Eco Reps have already come up with a series of designs for signs to gently remind staff and pupils alike to switch off appliances when not in use. They will join together with the Carbon Trust, who have been invited in to help us to reduce our energy emissions by at least 20% over the next few years, and the Eco Reps from this group will take a leading role in helping the School attempt to do this.

The School Travel Plan has been approved, and has been commended on its excellence due very much to the tenacity of Mr Lawrence. Hubs and Spokes cycle network pressure group is working very hard to ensure that cycling does not disappear off the local political agenda and TWGSB is taking a lead role in co-ordinating the input from schools in the Tunbridge Wells/Tonbridge area. It is a slow process, but one worth pursuing for the health of us all and the vitality of our planet.

The Key Stage 3 Astronomy Evening on 2nd April was a resounding success. After an extremely entertaining talk by Mr Greg Smye-Rumsby from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich about the Moon, its origins and how it benefits the Earth today, the new school telescope made its first appearance. Notwithstanding a few hiccups (we eventually realised no-one had inserted an eye piece!) the scope worked beautifully. Mr Beard and Greg supplied another three telescopes between them, and approximately 80 pupils, parents and staff gazed in awe at the Moon - studying among other features the landing point of Apollo 11 forty years ago, the amazing detail in the mountains and craters, and the terminator (the division where the moon goes into shadow). There was also an opportunity to look at Saturn with some of its moons, and even see the shadow on the surface that the ring makes as it passes around the planet. Some pupils and parents were able to do some photography, and it would be fantastic to have some copies of their photographs to put on the School Website.

One of the newest developments this term has been our link with other schools in the area. A wiki page has been set up as an official way for schools to keep in touch with one another. I know that the Eco Warriors from other schools have created a social eco-network between themselves and would love pupils from our School to join them. Tom Parminster (9K) has agreed to become our lead Eco Rep next year and he will be looking for an Eco Rep from each of the sub-committees to join him at the Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge on 16th September next term, to discuss how pupils can take ownership of the Eco Missions going on in West Kent schools.

And to finish, a little something to mull over during the long summer holidays

“If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.”

Biologist, E O Wilson



*R Lovera
Sustainable Schools Co-ordinator*

ILLNESS AND SWINE ‘FLU

The latest advice received is that the containment stage is now over and school closures are no longer a risk. It has been reported that significant numbers of cases may occur in the autumn. In that situation we will continue to follow the LA and NHS advice. At present that advice is that boys should attend school unless unwell. If they present with ‘flu like symptoms, then please contact your GP and keep your son at home until he is better. In effect treat it like you would treat normal ‘flu.

The most up-to-date information about swine ‘flu can be accessed on the Health Protection Agency

Website: www.hpa.org.uk.

John Harrison

CHILD EMPLOYMENT

During Child Employment Week, Kent County Council is raising awareness of child employment law. The law applies to children of compulsory school age until they complete Year 11. It is important that children are employed within the law and it is the employer’s responsibility to ensure school age employees are registered with the Local Authority. Once registered a work permit will be issued by Kent County Council to the employer and a copy sent to the child and their school.

If you are unsure whether you child has a work permit, please contact your local Child Employment Officer. If a work permit has not been issued, your child could be employed illegally and may not be covered by the employer’s Liability Insurance.

Working can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience with many positive benefits; however it is important that any employment does not affect your child’s education, safety and well being. If you or your child would like advice or information about working within the law, then your Child Employment Officer will be able to help.

*Sarah Guy
Child Employment Officer (West Kent)
Telephone: 01474 544543*

YEAR 6 TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

A REPORT FROM SOUTHBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June, Year 6 took part in a series of technology workshops. These included Electronics, Resistant Materials, Food and Graphics. Both pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day and have some very happy memories.

"I liked making scones – they smelt warm and cheesy and were delicious to eat afterwards. The kitchens were very hygienic; everything was set out for us. Ms Wedrychowski was very nice – she made scones for us and let us taste them before we made our own so that we would know what we were aiming at. It was strange having a kitchen as a classroom. Now we are looking forward to doing food technology at secondary school."
Callum, Jordan, Eirlys and Josh T

"I really enjoyed electronics. At first I was very scared that I was going to get burned but once we started I found that I could work really quickly. Once you have got used to using a soldering iron, it's really easy to make. I'm proud of what I made. I would love to do more electronics in my new school."
Charolotte R

"I really enjoyed the woodwork because I got to use equipment that I had never used before. You had to be very patient when melting plastic but it was fun. I made a mistake when drilling and cracked my plastic, but I was allowed to do a new one and I was pleased with it. Our teacher said she enjoyed it as well."
Lianne K

"I liked making the scone bags and recipe cards in graphics because you could choose which ribbons you wanted and what colours to put on your recipe leaflet. I chose purple ribbon and my leaflet was brightly coloured. I thought the room was quite small compared to ours but they have 14 or 15 children in a class and we have 31. I think I might be interested in doing graphics in the future."
Courtney T

"I liked the electronics lesson especially melting the solder. I enjoyed connecting the different components to my circuit. I found some of the parts difficult to attach but I managed it in the end."
Mahrie T

"I really enjoyed my day at the Grammar School and can't wait to go there next year. My favourite subject was electronics and I would definitely like to do it in secondary school."
Lewis H

"We would like to thank our teachers for taking us there and all the teachers at the Boys' Grammar for planning such exciting activities, helping us and giving such a delicious lunch."
6H and 6dP

TINSELTOWN COMES TO TWGSB 2009

TWGSB hosted its fourth annual Oscars evening in April to celebrate the work of Year 13 Media Studies students. A panel of 10 judges selected the 5 winning groups out of a total of 14 and all agreed that the standard was very high. 250 students, parents and friends entered via the red carpet, dressed in evening attire and being snapped by the year 12 paparazzi. Year 10 boys waited on guests, serving drinks and snacks and the evening was filmed by Year 12 Media students.



The Best Direction award went to Saad Akhtar and Toby Dowling (ominous looking clown armed with a can of silly string).

Best Editing went to Matt Parker and Nick Hollyoak (white studio and bicycle).

The award for Best Special Effects went to Sam Brown, Mark Latter and Ben Wilson (thought bubble with guitar).

Best Performance went to Sarah Little and Jessie Gearing (Josh disappearing into lamp post).

Best Music Video went to Danny Vigar, Mark Pratt and Tom Morton (famous).

Sincere thanks to all staff and students who helped out.

TRIP TO THE BIG APPLE

Thirty Media Studies students and three teachers visited New York for five days in February. We stayed in the Ellison Hotel again, in Time Square, the centre of Manhattan. On previous years (this was the third visit) there has been thick snow and an average temperature of minus ten. However this year it was warm with sunshine and clear skies, perfect for taking photos. We packed a lot into each day, visiting the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Empire State Building, skating in Central Park, Ground Zero, all the tourist spots. We also did a tour of NBC Studios in the Rockefeller Centre, the Museum of Moving Image in Queens and the New York Film Academy. Because of the exchange rate, it was a lot more expensive this time. However this didn't seem to deter anyone as shopping mania took hold and one boy bought three pairs of shoes! I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, largely due to the fact that the students were well behaved, polite and great fun too.

K Johnson

Media Studies Department

NORMANDY TRIP

This year's trip to the D Day beaches in Normandy was a great success. Despite some concerns over the weather forecast, the days were generally sunny and the boys enjoyed their rest and relaxation at the end of each day playing on the beach or the grass above it. Unfortunately, the hostel could not provide the lifeguards I had asked for so the boys did not have the opportunity to go swimming. Nonetheless, true to their form throughout the trip, they did not complain and simply got on with finding other forms of entertainment, such as demonstrating impressive dancing ability at the disco! During the excursions the boys listened attentively and showed genuine interest and enthusiasm, with many conscientiously filling in the work books they were provided with (incidentally, they should ensure they hand these in to their teacher as they will be judged, with the best ones winning prizes). The trip started with a trip to the Bayeaux Tapestry and Falaise Castle, where William the Conqueror grew up, before moving on to the Second World War sites such as Omaha Beach and Pegasus Bridge. Present at the latter was one of the commandoes who relieved the force of paras who had taken the Orne river crossings. Such veterans are sadly dwindling in number and boys in future years may not have the privilege of meeting them. The trip culminated with a visit to the British Cemetery at Ranville, where the boys paid their respects to those who laid down their lives to liberate Europe, laying a wreath and observing a minute's silence. I would like to round off by thanking those members of staff who helped the trip run smoothly and also the boys, who were an absolute credit to themselves and the School.

S Mason

History Department

LION KING MUSIC TOUR

Once again we loaded the mini-bus with 11 fabulous musicians and their instruments to embark upon our second musical tour to Speldhurst Primary School, where rehearsals are under way for our musical collaboration of The Lion King. The band of students from Years 7 to 10 includes: Oliver Etherington on piano, Tom Evans on bass guitar, Alex Bolam and Dan Wild on percussion, Zak Calvert on cello, Tom Dye on violin, and Eden Fish, Louis Waterman, Toby Morgan, Joe Clark and Peter Roper on acoustic guitar.

The students behaved like true professionals and were a credit to the School. Despite being so new to the School, the younger students have taken to the touring life like ducks to water, and are looking forward to the three productions which take place on the 13th, 14th and 15th July at Speldhurst School.

C Stokes

Music Department

THE EXODUS PROJECT: YEAR 8 HUMANITIES

This term all of Year 8 participated in one of our Learning to Learn Days as an introduction to the 'Exodus' project. In the morning students were divided into small groups across the year group and were given the opportunity to take part in six skills-based workshops. These were delivered by a group of dedicated 'Exodus' staff from the English, Media, History, Geography and RE departments. The workshops included building a shanty town, themed karaoke, political debate and making a movie. They were designed to help students to think about the different ways they learn and all had the theme of Exodus at their core. In the afternoon, students were invited to a screening of our professionally made Exodus movie, which introduced them to the project they would be studying for the rest of term in English, History, Geography and RE. After this students returned to their tutor groups and spent the afternoon with their designated learning leaders and mentors examining their learning styles, reflecting on the day's activities and thinking about their own ideas for the next stage of Exodus.



EXODUS – Year 8



This boy was born in a refugee camp in Kenya - his parents having fled persecution in Somalia.



humanities

Learning to learn

Working together in RE, History, Geography and English



Mumbai slums



A girl in Calcutta, India, looks after her brother instead of going to school.



Forgotten children

migration refugees slavery refugees migration slavery migration refugees slavery refugees slavery

All of Year 8 have been working hard in their groups to create an original presentation to answer the key question "What does Exodus mean to the lives of people?" The best presentations are being judged during the week 6th to 10th July by learning leaders and outside assessors. One group will be selected from each form and these will be shown on Celebration Day in the afternoon of Tuesday 14th July to staff, parents, peers and guests. We look forward to sending a formal invite to the parents of the winning groups to help us celebrate the achievement of Year 8 students during this unique cross-curricular project and learning experience.

A Upton
Head of RE/Exodus Co-ordinator

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A very big "thank you" to everyone who contributed in any way to the Summer Fete last Saturday. A profit of £1,662 was made on the day. Combined with the raffle, a total in excess of £4,000 was raised.

Please make a note in your diaries that the PTA AGM will be held in the evening of Monday 21st September. Details will follow next term.

John Harrison

NEWS FROM THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Forty-eight students recently took part in the **Year 7 Inter-House Maths Challenge**, which was a most enjoyable and active day of mathematical problem solving. On arrival they were given some warm up questions to prepare their brains for the competition! The first challenge involved the whole team working together to solve mathematical problems. The second activity was a Head-to-Head competition, followed by the Mini Relay. For this, each team of four was divided into two pairs, A and B. Pair A were given odd numbered questions and B had the even numbered questions. The answer to question 1 could be calculated without any additional information but each of the other questions required the previous answer before it could be solved. Each pair took it in turns to answer a question. Once a question was finished one student had to run to their leader to get it marked and then take the next question to the other pair who were

sitting at the opposite end of the hall. After lunch, the competition continued with different types of puzzles: tangrams, code breaking, maths cross-number puzzle and computer games.

After an extremely competitive day, Merlins came first. Well done to Oliver King, Sam Dorman, Cameron Favell-Gallifant, Ross Galloway, Fin Carroll, James Hind, Jamie Weller and James Gowie. Mr Harrison presented the trophy and certificates to all of the participants. Well done to you all! And thank you to all of the Year 12 helpers.

The previous day Mrs Abu-Hayyeh took a Year 7 team to the first **West Kent Maths Puzzle Day**, organised by the Kent Maths Advisory Team. Daniel McDouall (7K), Daniel Jakes (7K), Luke Broomberg (7O) and Antony Sanjana (7H) had an enjoyable morning although finished outside the first two places.

Year 8 have also been busy. Earlier in the term they all took part in the **Junior UK Maths Challenge**, achieving 10 Gold, 49 Silver and 55 Bronze Awards. Particular congratulations go to Max Lamb (8M), 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!

More recently they have been taking part in our **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 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. The Final is planned for the last week of term, when students will also have to work against the clock.

The **TWGSB "Maths in Motion" Grand Prix Season**, which started back in September, has now concluded after seventeen races. Cameron Smith (Year 10) won the Drivers' Championship, with Craig Gazzard (Year 10) runner-up and Daniel Kommu (Year 7) in third place. Over 40 pupils managed to achieve at least a point for a top eight finish in one of the races. Team Bang (Cameron and Craig) comfortably won the Constructor's Championship.

Daniel and Ali Manser (Year 7) were knocked-out of the **UK KS3 Championship** (won by TWGSB in 2008) in one of the semi-final heats, suffering from a poor qualifying grid position and then encountering major traffic problems during the race.

Some consolation was gained a few weeks later in the third **International Grand Prix**, when our car, prepared on this occasion just by Daniel, beat the future UK KS4 Champions, other top UK racers and entries from Hungary, New Zealand and The Netherlands.

During the year, TWGSB has won two of the three international races and came second in the other, with cars set up by Daniel, Ali, Charlie Woodham and Ed Walker (all Year 7). Craig also won the **National Rule 4 Grand Prix** – a mathematically more demanding variation for KS4 students.

We have one final competitive race on Friday 10th July – the **National Summer Madness Grand Prix**, where several hundred cars take part. We hope to improve on the fourth place achieved last year.

*G Young
Head of Mathematics*

"BIG BANG SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR"

Twenty-eight Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Mr Morris (Maths) and Mr Goddard (DT), attended the inaugural, and now to be annual, '**Big Bang Science and Engineering Fair**' at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London in March. We attended some fascinating talks on the latest research in physics, biology and avalanche modelling given by young scientists from various universities. Later we were able to visit the Competitors and Industry Exhibition, where we met people who use science, engineering and maths in industry and commerce today – and we were able to pick up a lot of freebies. Finally we discovered why David Beckham is a 'maths genius!' – he can work out the equations of motion,

the aerodynamics of a spherical object and the mechanics involved in kicking a football in an instant of a second! A very good day for everyone, and an event we hope to attend in the future.

Mathematicians, Scientists and Engineers, do you have an idea or a project that could be expanded into an entry for the **National Science and Engineering Competition**? It is an entertaining and useful way to while away those long summer days. For more information go to <http://www.nationalsciencecompetition.org/competition.asp> or see Mr Morris in the Maths Department.

L Morris

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Tennis Success

Having already beaten the Judd School (last 16) and Sevenoaks School (quarter-final) the TWGSB Senior Tennis team arrived at Benenden School for finals day on Friday 26th June in confident mood. The coin toss pitted TWGSB against Eltham College in one semi-final with King's Canterbury facing Sutton Valence in the other. The boys would play one singles (2 sets) and one doubles (2 sets) in each match.

The players adjusted well to the early morning damp conditions and were soon on top against Eltham College despite them having a fine Kent player as their number one seed. The entire team of Dan Marshall (Year 12), George Kennedy (Year 10), Jamie Clemmow (Year 11) and Joe Maunder (Year 11) played very well to comfortably win by four matches to two. Despite losing, Dan Marshall played well in a very competitive match. The other three boys played very well to enjoy fine singles victories. Jamie Clemmow and Joe Maunder triumphed in a fiercely contested doubles match with some excellent points being played out.

The final matched us against King's Canterbury. TWGSB made the best possible start by racing into a three matches to nil lead at the halfway point. Marshall and Kennedy both won their singles whilst Clemmow and Maunder comfortably won their doubles. King's Canterbury clawed one match back when Maunder was defeated in his singles. However, once Clemmow had come back from 1-4 down to win the first set 6-4 TWGSB found themselves in an unassailable position. Rather than continue to play on in the very hot afternoon conditions, the King's Canterbury coach conceded the tie and TWGSB were crowned Kent Schools Senior Tennis Champions.

A fantastic achievement and the boys deserve a great deal of credit. This young TWGSB team has a genuine chance of retaining the title next year.

D Menzies/R Price

Ospreys Win Inter House Junior Tennis Tournament

The Ospreys team of A Chapman, J Knight, E Fish, T Domoney-Johnson and L Evans won all their matches in the Inter-House Junior Tennis Tournament, even the decisive match against Merlins who came second.

R Price

English Schools Track and Field Cup

Congratulations to boys who obtained two figure points from the English Schools first round:

Intermediate:

200 metres Mat Saunders (15), Ed Hall 25.7 secs (18)

400 metres Cameron Knapp 58.6 secs (18)

800 metres Joe Newsome 2m 18 secs (17), George Kennedy 2m 23 secs (15)

1500 metres Angus Wyatt 4m 35 secs.

High Jump Cameron Knapp 1.50 (16), D Ford 1.62 m

Triple Jump Mat Saunders 10.75m

Shot R St Pierre 8.84m, J Newsome 8.88m

Javelin 35.10 m G Kennedy

Junior

100 metres Charles Taylor (22)

200 metres Lewis Church

400 metres Chris Coggin 68.1secs

800 metres Daniel McDouall 2m 29 secs (17)
1500 metres R Pratt 5m 11 secs (16), J Doyle 5m 14 secs
High Jump Lewis Church 1.42m (17)
Triple Jump 8.99m (13) 8.75 m (12)
Shot 8.19m Ed Brett (13), Jens Johannson 9.25m (17)

R Price

Kent Schools Athletics Results

Congratulations to the following:

Intermediate boys final:

Josh Bentham 4 mins 10.8 secs (first), Angus Wyatt 4 mins 39.3secs (ninth)
High Jump Final Dominic Ford 1metre 70 (seventh)

Junior boys:

400metres Final Cameron Knapp 59.8 (fifth)
High Jump Final Cameron Knapp 1metres 60 (third)
800metres Junior Boys final Joe Newsome 2mins 16.5secs (sixth)
Year 7 boys Lewis Church 200 metres Final 29.5secs (first)

R Price

Sports Day – Friday 3rd July



A colourful scene with new House T-Shirts – and fine weather too!



Sports Day proved to be an excellent, fun event with the whole school present for the first time for many years. It was a pleasure to see so many colourful T-shirts (great idea, Mr Douse!) all representing their House with pride and determination.

Sports Day records were achieved by the following:

Year 8 100m – Charlie Taylor – 12.06
Year 12 Javelin – Calum Byrne - 44.15m
Year 12 80m Hurdles – Ryan Hickmott – 11.00m

Well done to all who were involved and especially to the competitors.

*K Downing
Head of Physical Education*

HOUSE COMPETITION

You will have read about Sports Day elsewhere in the newsletter. However, Sports Day is only one aspect of the School's House Competition.

At the time of writing only 10 points separate Eagles from the leaders, Hawks, and one competition remains to be completed next week – the House Maths Grand Prix. It all comes down to this!

A number of cups and shields can, however, be awarded and these will be presented in the next few days.

Attendance Cup	Winners Hawks	Runners Up Eagles
Year 7 Sports Shield	Winners Eagles	Runners up Ospreys
Year 8 Sports Shield	Winners Eagles	Runners Up Kestrels
Year 9 Sports Shield	Winners Hawks	Runners Up Merlins
Year 10 Sports Shield	Winners Falcons	Runners Up Hawks
Sports Day Cup	Winners Eagles	

The observant reader will notice the link between attendance and achievement!

Congratulations to all those who have represented their houses and competed this year. We will announce the overall winners in School at the end of next week.

Points Position Prior to Final Event

Hawks	1790
Eagles	1780
Merlins	1650
Ospreys	1570
Falcons	1480
Kestrels	1350

Each competition awards points – 60 for 1st, 50 for 2nd, 40 for 3rd down to 10 points for 6th place (if entries received).

OTHER SUCCESSES

“The Design and Technology Department has won the Good Schools Guide national award for achieving the best GCSE results in Graphics for the year 2009.

This was due to the good efforts of the 2008 Graphics students and the good team work between students and DT staff with excellent support and assistance from the Leadership Team, who made sure that coursework folders were returned for assessments at the right time.

We thank God for this!”

*Z Bamgbola
Head of Graphics*

Mark Pratt, Danny Vigar and Tom Morton of Year 13 received the award for Best Music Video at the Oscar Awards Ceremony in April. After the evening Mark Pratt managed to contact the band "The Script" whose track they made the video to. Following on from this Mark received correspondence from them and all three boys were invited on 13th May to the O2 in London to meet the band (with VIP passes, etc) and watched them make their version of the video. Needless to say, they all had a great time!

Jonathan Turvey, Year 12, was awarded Player of the Year by his club, Sevenoaks U18 Rugby Academy, on Wednesday 29th April. The award was presented by Will Greenwood of Rugby World Cup 2003 fame.

Thomas Andrews, Year 12, and his father recently attempted to swim across the Gibraltar Strait. They set off from Tarifa in Spain at 2.00 pm (local time) and 6 hours and 26 minutes later reached a rocky outcrop in Morocco. Despite the presence of Portuguse Man o'War jellyfish in the area and the local sharks, whales and dolphins, they actually saw very little wildlife during the crossing, although tankers, container ships and other shipping were ever present. The crossing did take longer than anticipated because of unusually strong and unpredictable currents – which pushed them into the Mediterranean rather than towards Morocco. As a result, they swam close to 25 km to get across, when the nearest point in Morocco is only 15 km from Spain. Thomas showed incredible fortitude and determination to complete the crossing and he is one of the youngest swimmers ever to make it.

"Twelve year old Enrico Atkinson, of Tonbridge Judo Club, bagged a gold medal for the second year running at the prestigious Budo Nord International Cup, in Sweden, recently. The Tunbridge Wells Grammar School pupil was one of a large squad of the Club's players who travelled to the annual training camp and tournament in the town of Lugli. This year the camp attracted around 600 young judo enthusiasts from all of the Scandinavian countries, plus teams from Hungary, Germany, France and Spain. Fighting at -50kg, Atkinson had five contests and in the semi-final came up against his old adversary, Neil McDonald, from Scotland. Normally this would be a very closely fought battle, but on this occasion Atkinson marched onto the final with ease. The fight for gold was against a strong Scandinavian player who proved to be troublesome in the first part of the contest, but Atkinson's experience and training at national level came through to win him the gold medal in convincing style."

Article courtesy of the Courier newspaper

The School was awarded a £1,000 Special Merit Award in this year's Rolls Royce Science Prize. This award was based on the action plan submitted to the National Science Learning Centre in York. The prize money was in recognition of the quality of the ideas in the action plan and is being paid to the School to help improve Science teaching and learning.

Josh Bentham, Year 11, managed to retain the U17 Kent Championship for 1500m steeplechase earlier in the year and featured in a Courier newspaper article. Due to his time of 4.29.9 being 6 seconds inside the qualifying standard, Josh is very likely to be picked for Kent to run in the English Schools Finals in Sheffield in July. Josh also won silver at Ashford in the South of England Championships when he also managed to improve his personal best to 4.28.6. At the time of writing Josh is currently ranked 5th in the United Kingdom for U17s.

On the weekend of 9th and 10th May the annual Eric Twiname (the ETs) National Championships for junior dinghy sailors and windsurfers took place at Rutland Water in the East Midlands for the 23rd year. This RYA event allows regional UK zone squads to compete against each other in the various classes. Cameron Moffatt, Year 10, who is a member of the RYA (Team GBR) South East Zone Windsurfing Squad, competed in this year's ETs for the second time. For the first time since the championships began the South East Windsurfing Squad won the competition. Cameron will not be in the squad next year due to his age (and GCSE commitments) but he will continue windsurfing for pleasure, mainly at Bewl Water and Hythe. He is currently a qualified Assistant Windsurfing Instructor (unpaid) at Bewl and is looking forward to becoming a full instructor next March when he turns 16 and can start being paid for teaching windsurfing.

Michael Dowling, Year 8, took part in a Fun Run in Farnham, Surrey, in May to raise money for his World Challenge trip and, although it was not a race, Michael was third in the first 5km lap. He ran 10km in total.

Congratulations to Paul Ansdell and Seb Floyd, Year 10, who were part of the Tonbridge Invicta FC U15 "A" team victorious in the final of the Tandridge League Trophy played at the Whyteleafe Stadium. Invicta won 4-2 on penalties after the game against Stanhope FC of Croydon ended 1-1 after extra time.

Sam Bonner, Year 13, was part of the Invicta squad who picked up a gold medal as winners of the Junior National Water Polo Championship. It was an incredibly tense match at the Manchester Aquatics Centre with Invicta beating Dunfermline 10-9. If any boys are interested in taking up water polo, Sam's local team (Monson) trains juniors on a Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm until 8.15 pm. Sam would welcome anyone interested and would be happy to show you the ropes.

In a waterside series canoe race from Devizes to Newbury, William Carus (Year 10) and Jonathan Passmore and Greg Aldridge (both Year 12) – all members of Tonbridge Canoe Club – took part, consisting of four races of increasing distances, the final leg being 34 miles. Congratulations to Jonathan who came third in the K1 juniors with a series time of 18 hours 28 minutes 4 seconds; Greg and his partner 8th overall in the K2 juniors with a time of 17 hours 30 minutes 29 seconds; William and his partner, who did three of the races, finishing the final leg in 6 hours 38 minutes 48 seconds in 16th place.

TENNIS CAMPS AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club (Nevill Ground, Warwick Park) has kindly given us two tennis nets to replace a couple of our more worn nets.

As a "thank you" we would like to bring to your attention their Summer Camps (for members and non-members). The weekly courses start on Monday 27th July (afternoons for 10 to 16 year olds, mornings for 4 to 9 year olds). You only need to book a minimum of two sessions (there is a 10% discount if you book all 5 sessions and a 10% sibling discount). The cost is £20.00 per day (or £17.00 for members). Please use the booking form at the end of the newsletter.

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

At the end of July I am involved in a cycle tour (part off road) of Northern Spain. We hope to cover about 500 miles in the mountains, which should be real fun, and we hope to raise some funds for The British Heart Foundation as well. I have raised funds for this charity for some years and if you are kind enough to sponsor me I would be very grateful. If you wish to do so, please follow the link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Picos-cycle-challenge>.

You can find out more about the work of the British Heart Foundation by going to: <http://www.bhf.org.uk/>.

JustGiving sends your donation straight to British Heart Foundation and automatically reclaims Gift Aid on all eligible donations, so what you give is worth even more. Thank you very much,

*N Tull
Head of Design Technology*

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

Term 1 Begins for Year 7 and the Sixth Form on 2nd September 2009
 Begins for all other year groups on 3rd September 2009
 Ends 23rd October 2009

Term 2 2nd November to 17th December 2009
 School closed to pupils on 6th October for a Training Day

Term 3 4th January to 11th February 2010

Term 4 22nd February to 31st March 2010

Term 5 19th April to 28th May 2010

Term 6 7th June to 21st July 2010

Summer Holiday Fun

Tennis Camps at Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club.

(Nevill Ground, Warwick Park)

Summer Camps 2009

Monday 20th to Friday 24th July

Monday 27th July to Friday 31st July (+ tournament camp)

Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August

Monday 10th to Friday 14th August (+ tournament camp)

Monday 17th to Friday 21st August

Monday 24th to Friday 28th August

9.30am to 12.30pm 4 - 9 Years

1.30pm to 4.30pm 10 - 16 years

£17.00 per day members

£20.00 per day non-members

(Drinks and snacks included)

Must book minimum of two days

10% discount if you book all 5 days

10% siblings discount

Call **01892 519398** to book

(Credit and Debit card bookings taken)

Booking Form

Dates _____ AM or PM _____

Name _____ DOB _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

Tel No _____ Mobile _____

Allergies/Medication _____

Please find enclosed a cheque for £ _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Send to: Coaching@TWLTC, TWLTC, Nevill Ground, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5ES