



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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

Dear All

15th December 2010

HEADTEACHER'S END OF TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. As we work through the last few days before the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking a few people.

Firstly I would like to thank the unsung heroes of the site team for their tremendous efforts in trying to keep the site clear during the bad weather in December. Sadly I fear their efforts may be required again before the end of winter. When the bad weather arrived, we did have a lot of telephone calls asking about whether school was closing early. If we ever decide to close early (and I will try very hard not to) we will inform parents via Parentmail, text alert and the website. If your son calls you to say the school is closing, please check to see if that is an official position or just wishful thinking!

I would also like to thank the PTA for running the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday and to thank everyone who came along to support the event. Taking into account the fact that the event had to be re-scheduled due to the weather, it was a fantastic success and has contributed in excess of £6,000 to the PTA funds. Thank you to all, whether you bought raffle tickets, ran a stall or simply came along and spent money! Raffle winners have been contacted by telephone to collect their prizes. The lucky programme number was 324, so please check yours and contact me if you are the winner!

Many of you will have been entertained at the Christmas Concert this week and I am sure would wish to join me in passing on our congratulations to Miss Stokes, Mr Shillito and all the performers and helpers.

Finally, I would like to repeat my congratulations publicly to the U14 rugby squad for their winning performance in the Kent Shield final. I was in a Governors' meeting that evening and unable to attend: however Mr Douse kept me up-to-date via text messages much to the Governors' amusement and excitement. The final score of 15-14 (full report on the website and later in this newsletter) brought a cheer of celebration to the Finance and Premises Committee – and that is a very rare thing!

I do hope you enjoy the newsletter where in addition to the successes above, you will read about regional and national success in Technology competitions, Maths competitions and other activities.

Thank you all for your support this year and my best wishes to you all for a wonderful Christmas and a successful 2011.

Printed on behalf of

J G Harrison
Headteacher



FABER EST QUISQUE SUAE FORTUNAE

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal

On Monday 8th November, 143 shoeboxes were collected by Operation Christmas Child. Many thanks to all students and parents who helped to complete a shoebox - they are now on their way to Belarus in time for Christmas.

Ben Price (8A) and Ben Howe (10H) together with support from other members of Thirst, the school Christian Union, were instrumental in the success of this wonderful project. Next year they hope to inspire the students to give even more shoeboxes!



E Goddard/A Roberts/Z Bamgbola

Shakespeare on Humanities Day for Years 7 to 10

In the performance that was put on for us on Wednesday 20th October, there were many points covered. For example, we looked at different themes, such as love, jealousy and death. We looked in some of Shakespeare's plays, like "Romeo and Juliet".

Throughout the performance many ideas were passed on from actor to audience. They didn't just read, stood still, they moved about the stage and performed many of the plays Shakespeare wrote. This was a very interesting and fun way to learn about Shakespeare. Some points and ideas that were spoken about was how Shakespeare created Romeo and how he was shown with fake and genuine love.

These ideas could have been used because at our age group we are just starting to find out what love means. They could have used this play to tell us about how love can affect your life.

In another play, "Much Ado About Nothing", they again used love. But this time, the performers showed how love and jealousy can destroy you. The part that they chose to perform was when

Claudio sees his girlfriend flirting with another man. At Claudio and Hero's wedding, Claudio verbally assaults Hero and runs away. This could be trying to show that you can't be sure about everything.

Throughout the whole play, there was an eager performer waiting and pouncing at every opportunity to move onto Death. Each time he was repelled. This added some comedy and humour to the performance. Other events also made the audience involved, for example when the two boys were pulled up on to the stage and tied up.

Tom Pike (9M)

PE Department news

Year 11 House Sixes:	1 st	Kestrels	60 points
	2 nd	Falcons	50 points
	3 rd	Eagles	40 points
	4 th	Hawks	30 points
	5 th	Ospreys	20 points
	6 th	Merlins	10 points

Year 7 Final Inter House Football 7-a-side:	1 st	Ospreys	60 points
	2 nd	Kestrels	50 points
	3 rd	Falcons	40 points
	4 th	Hawks	30 points
	5 th	Merlins	20 points
	6 th	Eagles	10 points

Year 8 Inter House Football 7-a-side :	1 st	Falcons	60 points
	2 nd	Kestrels	50 points
	3 rd	Ospreys	40 points
	4 th	Eagles	30 points
	5 th	Hawks	20 points
	6 th	Merlins	10 points

Year 9 Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 9 rugby team who beat Hurstmere School in the final of the Kent Shield on Wednesday 24th November, 15-14, as mentioned by the Head on page 1. In an entertaining, see-saw Shield final between two well matched teams, Hurstmere took the lead very much against the run of the early play and this gave them confidence enabling them to hold on to lead 7-0 at half time. TWGSB responded after the break in determined fashion, stringing some good phases of play together, applying more pressure and scoring two tries to open up a five point difference (12 – 7). Hurstmere battled back and some strong running led to a fine try, enabling them to regain the lead at 14 – 12, with less than five minutes left. TWGSB attacked with purpose and although the Hurstmere defence looked like it would hold firm, they gradually worked their way into the Hurstmere half and were rewarded with a penalty. Hooker Mutch coolly converted from the 22 with what proved to be the very last kick of the game to take the Shield.



R Price, PE Department

Football

We are pleased with the progress that all our teams have made. The 1st XI is in contention of winning the league again and is in Round 3 (Last 16) of the Kent Cup. The 2nd XI has competed well against 1st XI teams from other schools and will finish their league in mid-table. The 3rd XI has found the going tough in a league with 1st XI and 2nd XI teams from other schools. However, the team has improved as the season has gone on and all of the boys have shown the right attitude and a willingness to improve. The 4th XI has played two fixtures with a fine away victory at Ardingly College.



The Year 10 A team has performed well and has reached Round 4 (Last 16) of the Kent Cup which is due to be played on Tuesday 14th December. The Year 10 B team enjoyed fine away victories at Brentwood School and at Ardingly College. The Year 9 A team has done particularly well and are through to the last 32 of the ESFA competition having beaten a very talented Oasis Academy 4-2, as well as being through to the fourth round of the Kent Schools competition. While there have been some outstanding individual performances, the side's greatest strength has been their team spirit and determination.

The Year 8 A team encountered two difficult matches in the cups and was knocked out in the early rounds. However, a decent number of boys have been training regularly on the 3G and there are signs that they will develop into a good team. The Year 7 A team under the guidance of Mr Price has enjoyed a fantastic first season and we are delighted with their progress. The team is unbeaten in competitive games having reached Round 5 (Last 64) of the U12 ESFA National Cup and Round 4 (Last 16) of the Kent Cup. We have been impressed with the talent and enthusiasm of the players in the squad but also with the players who have been regularly attending training on the 3G.

On two separate occasions more than 100 pupils have represented our teams on the same day. Firstly with ten fixtures against Brentwood School on 9th October and secondly with eight fixtures against Ardingly College on 20th November. In addition, keenly contested inter-house competitions have taken place on our fantastic 3G pitch for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. A very busy and highly enjoyable term's football. Very well done to all the pupils involved.

D R Menzies, Master in Charge of Football

Basketball

The Year 9 team have reached the district final and are due to play Cranbrook, who they have already beaten in a previous game. The Year 11 team had a reasonable season and made the semi-finals of the competition where they lost to Cranbrook.

Year 9 have only lost one competitive fixture to date in any sport.

C Hart, PE Department

English Department Theatre Visits

We have been able to arrange a variety of theatre visits this term, starting with the Sixth Form English Literature students who went to the Comedy Theatre, London to see 'Birdsong', a Trevor Nunn production which is adapted from Sebastian Faulks' novel. Year 12 study this text as part of the AS Literature coursework module and the performance was excellent. Year 13 Literature students were invited too and they were all keen to come, having studied the text last year.

We were also able to take Year 12 to see 'The Accrington Pals' by Peter Whelan which is also studied as part of the AS English Literature coursework module. This was very different as it was produced by the Phoenix Players, an amateur dramatic company, based in Mayfield and performed in Mayfield Memorial Hall. This play is rarely performed and we were quick to make the most of this opportunity once we saw it advertised. We attended on the opening night and it was a very professional production. We all enjoyed it and it clarified some of the more obscure aspects of the play, so we anticipate some really good essays.

We took the whole of Year 7 to see 'The Railway Children'. This production has been brought to London from the York Railway Museum and is to be found at the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo Station. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the play in this unusual venue and although it does not spend much time on the 'stage', the train is clearly the star of the show.

We brought The Globe Players into school for the Humanities 'Time Travel' Day. They presented a range of ideas to Years 7, 8, 9, and 10, some of which were interactive. They looked at a range

of Shakespeare's plays following a thematic approach, performing extracts from plays such as 'Romeo and Juliet', 'The Tempest', 'Much Ado about Nothing', and 'Macbeth'.

We planned to take the whole of Year 10 to see 'The Road to Basra' at Tonbridge School, but unfortunately this was cancelled due to the poor weather on 1st December.

G Welford, English Department

Year 9 Ypres visit

Unfortunately, due to very adverse weather conditions, this visit was postponed. As soon as I have a new date I will send out a Parentmail message to the whole of Year 9 with the revised date. It may be possible for some boys who did not originally apply to join this trip to secure a place. I was concerned that nearly a quarter of the boys did not return their final slip, which not only gave contact numbers but also an agreement that the boys could spend an hour under distant supervision in Ypres, by the due date. I hope that the Parentmail system will work effectively when the new date is confirmed.

S Glover, History Department

Year 7 Battle Visit

During the week 18th to 21st October, Year 7 visited Battle Abbey and the battlefield site for William of Normandy's famous victory near Hastings in 1066. The students were able to enjoy the visitor centre, with its dramatic film interpretation of the crisis in 1066, as well as Norman and Saxon armoury and weapons. Each form was treated to a knowledgeable tour around the famous battlefield by experts, notably the military historians, Mr Mason, Mr Strongman, Mrs Glover and Mr Hale. This included the steep ledge of Senlac Hill where the Saxon shield wall formed and subsequently fell apart, as well as the boggy marshland towards the bottom of the battlefield, where Breton soldiers had tempted ill-disciplined Saxons to a bloody fate. There was even time for students to attempt their own shield wall and Norman infantry charge on the battlefield site, which fortunately for us, created no casualties. Each class was able to pay their respects at the site of Harold Godwinson's last resting place and the end of Saxon England, before being disappointed by their teachers telling them that no weapons were to be bought from the gift shop. Thoroughly worn out after a good walk, Year 7 were able to head back to TWGSB having survived the battlefields of 1066, unlike the Saxons and poor King Harold.

R Hale, History Department

Mungo Visit – 22nd November



Mungo has been to visit us before and I have read his book, hence I knew we were in for a treat. He was originally invited to the school by the graphics department, but his experience stems far and wide. After his talks students can go away with lessons learnt about many subject areas such as media, communication, graphics and geography, but the most valuable lessons Mungo teaches are his lessons about life.

Mungo is a cameraman who came from Tonbridge, so it is easy for us students to relate to him. He went to school at Hayesbrook and told us about his school life and how he didn't really care too much about it. After leaving school, he went and pursued a career as a cameraman. However, it was not as easy as just becoming a cameraman and he had to battle for many years until he finally got a foothold into the high end of filming. He now films shows such as 'The Apprentice' and 'The X Factor'.

Mungo gave us a great insight into his adventures across the globe from being a cameraman and backed up his speech with many interesting pictures and amusing stories. Through this entertainment Mungo kept driving home a point to us about school by telling us this quote: 'If you can dream it you can do it'. It was a quote from Walt Disney and shows that if you are inspired to do something and truly believe in something then you can 100% follow up that dream with actions. Mungo also gave this quote a second meaning by telling us the importance of our school work and meeting deadlines. It was good to get the opinion of an industry professional that was so close to home and has been through everything that we are about to go through or have been through.

He provided us with a key point about our school life and showed us that it is easier to achieve your target career with qualifications. The point he is raising is a simple one, but nonetheless one that is worth noting.



Matthew Edwards (13M)

Congratulations to Matthew Prentice 12S who has recently gained BTEC Level 2's in Aviation Studies and in Public Studies through his involvement in ATC. These are equivalent to passes in eight GCSEs. Matthew also raised over £200 for the Household Cavalry Operational Casualty Fund through a sponsored shooting event with the Air cadets earlier this term.

D Seabrook, Science Department

TWGSB Needs You!

During February 2011, we will be holding a Humanities 'Food' Themed Day for our students. Do you own a restaurant or local food business? Are you a chef? Do you have an interesting job in the food industry? Whether your speciality is sushi or sausages we need you! If you can share your skills, contacts and enthusiasm for food with our students, we want to hear from you. Please get in touch with Rachel Adkin at radkin@twgsboys.kent.sch.uk.

R Adkin

Music Department News

The Music Department are busy rehearsing for a busy programme of musical events which take place in the last week of term.

Music at the Christmas Bazaar

The week begins with members of the orchestra and choir performing carols at the Christmas Bazaar re-scheduled for Saturday 11th December.

Christmas Carol Concert

On Tuesday 14th December we have our Christmas Concert in the school hall at 7.30pm. This year 125 students from all years will be taking part performing a lovely collection of seasonal music including 30 Year 7 students. The Year 9 Photography Club have been taking some wonderful shots of our rehearsals and they will also photograph the dress rehearsal next week. We will also be joined by Year 6 students from St Matthews Primary school who will be watching our dress rehearsal.

Carols in the Community

On Thursday 16th December we will be taking 30 musicians to perform a programme of Christmas music at 3 local venues: Sherwood Primary school, Oakley School and Mount Ephraim Lodge.

Christian Union Carol Service

On Friday 17th December the orchestra will be performing at the Christian Union Carol Service in the Main Hall at lunchtime and there will also be Carols in assemblies throughout the final week of school.



News from the Mathematics Department

“Maths in Motion”

TWGSB has won a six-race “Maths in Motion Challenge”. This was a new competition for autumn 2010, and although not part of the official Jaguar-sponsored “Maths in Motion” season, it included entries from schools across the UK, some of whom had reached the National Finals. We used the Challenge to give our new Year 7 some racing experience, and following four wins, one third, and one fourth place finish, we hope we will be able to maintain our record of National success in the future.



Particular congratulations go to Will Dawe and James Jackson (pictured above, both 7K), who achieved the four wins between them. Even if one was not our chosen entry, he would always push the other's car to its limit in practice, and hence we always had a thoroughly prepared car for each race.

National Cipher Challenge (sponsored by IBM and GCHQ)

Well done to *Epic Win 2* (Colin Grevers, Michael King, Cameron Smith and Ben Sandles of Year 12) who have now completed the first six rounds in this prestigious competition. Over 1400 teams entered but only about a quarter of these were able to solve the sixth round cipher. Points are awarded for accuracy and the time taken to crack each cipher. With the two toughest rounds to come, *Epic Win 2* are currently in joint 112th place but just a few points behind the leaders.

UK Senior Maths Challenge

Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians recently took part in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge. Year 12 did particularly well and any award achieved will be useful when making their university applications. Special congratulations go to Ben Sandles (Year 12), who was our top performing student.

Year 10 Revision and Examinations

Year 10 should be busily working towards their first GCSE Module to be taken on 17th January and their mock on 7th January. There are no excuses for not having work to revise, either during the Christmas break or any snow closures. Please encourage your sons to make use of the online textbook, the VLE course "Year 10 Maths Common" and their teacher's particular VLE course, the revision PowerPoint prepared by Mrs Abu Hayyeh which is available to all, mymaths.co.uk and the MathsWatch CDs that are still available for purchase from the Maths Department for £3. In response to some parental requests, we have also obtained a small supply of the textbook available for purchase for £10 (rrp £20) as an alternative to the free online version – cheques payable to "TWGSB" to be handed to Mrs Blakeman.

Year 12 and 13 Revision and Examinations

Students will have taken a mock during the week commencing 6th December and will do another on 4th/5th January. They should be entering the holiday period close to their mathematical peak and return in January at a similar or higher standard. They should then be using the second mock to verify their progress and identify any final areas in need of attention. A student who does not

work on their Maths during the holiday is unlikely to be on that preparation path and will probably spend the final few days before the exam just getting back to where they were in December. The Year 12 Core 1 AS Exam is on the 10th January, just six days after we return. The Year 13 A2 Core 3 is on the 19th January so they have a little more time to rescue their situation but hopefully they will have learnt from last year's experience and that necessity won't arise.

Students have in their possession the main teaching text, a separate revision text, and a pack of past papers with mark schemes. They also have access to "Maths Sixth Form Common" on the VLE, which includes links to PowerPoints, notes, online lessons and exercises, and video tutorials for every topic. About 50 students from Years 12 and 13 have also signed-up for our revision classes to be held during the Christmas holiday. However, we view these sessions as a useful addition to a student's own revision and not a substitute for it.

G Young, Head of Mathematics

Senior Mathematics Team Challenge

Yassine Noui (Year 13), Cameron Smith, Michael King and Sam Blackaby (all Year 12) performed very creditably. They did well in the Group Round, and excelled themselves in the Cross-Number Round scoring 75 out of 80 points. However, things went awry in the Relay and we slipped back. However, 13th out of 38 was a very good result considering that we faced very stiff competition from many London and Kent independent schools.

Maths Inspiration - 15th November

Ten pupils from Year 12 recently attended the annual Maths Inspiration Lectures in London. The talks were on "maths in the movies", "maths in civil engineering" and "maths in the 4th dimension". They were, as usual, stimulating, entertaining and informative, and exposed future professional mathematicians, engineers and scientists to the challenges and intellectual excitement that awaits them if they continue with maths, even when the going gets tough. Maths and the movies seems to be a contradiction, but most films and computer games today use maths (such as vectors, matrices and fractals) and powerful computers for their special effects. The next time that you go to the cinema, ask yourself "is this real, or is it A-level maths?"

Ed McCann, a civil engineer who has been involved with the 2012 Olympic Velodrome and Heathrow's Terminal 5, talked about how maths is used when "Mother Nature lets rip". Ed showed us examples of how maths aids engineers to both analyse and design large-scale complex structures, and drew gasps from the audience when he showed a slide illustrating the maths used in bridge design. The maths may have seemed scary, but it is the commonplace language of today's engineers.

Finally, Matt Parker, a professional mathematician and comedian, talked about dimensions in maths; or how can 3-dimensional human beings who inhabit a 3D world, describe 4-dimensional objects. It was a stimulating lecture, making us stretch our mathematical imaginations, showing us how creativity and literally thinking "outside the box" form some of the tools required by mathematicians of today and the future.

L Morris, Maths Department

Year 7 trip to Lille – 26th November

At 6.30am, on a freezing winter's morning, some of Year 7 travelled to Lille in a coach. After travelling on the Eurotunnel we headed for Le Palais des Beaux-Arts, which is an art museum. When we arrived, the scenery was amazing. Situated right in the middle of a huge square was an enormous water fountain which created a perfect image for the art museum. Inside there were tremendous pieces of art hanging decoratively all around. This part of the trip was really interesting as there are so many different paintings to know about and what period of time they were from.

Next we went to the zoo. In here were many different species of animal and I learnt the most of their names on the activity sheet. Then we went to look around the old town. Whilst we went round we had to spot different names of places and write them down on a sheet. After that we travelled to the Grand Place as in it sat the big wheel which looked amazing and at 4 euros it is a superb chance. Finally we went to the Christmas Market. With so many stalls to look at it was delightful. The stalls were so completely different to what they are here, so it was a great opportunity to see what was on offer. Overall I had a great time in France, learning to speak their language and it was a great educational trip.

Cameron Wenham (7H)

2010 First Lego League Final

On Thursday 25th November we went to Canterbury for the final of the First Lego League. On the day we had to overcome and complete three tasks. These were presentation, technical talk and robot challenge board. We were first in all the rounds of the challenge board except the first and final round. Ten of us went and we all worked well together to get the robot up to the highest standard. We left with a trophy for 'Best Robot Design' having achieved the highest score on the challenge board in any one round.

Freddy Teubler (8C) and Nathan Schleider (8A)



Becoming a sustainable school

Another busy term has seen some new and enthusiastic additions to our group of Eco Reps – we have a contingent from the sixth form who have offered to look into ways in which the school might be able to conserve energy and reduce our huge energy bill every year. They have designed a survey and installed thermometers around the building to audit the effectiveness and efficiency of the heating in various areas. We look forward to their results and suggestions as to how they think we might achieve an improved use of energy.



The allotment produced an amazing amount of produce last summer and we have just finished digging up the last of our potatoes. The beginning of the school year saw Matt and Alex from year 8 taking a basket of our produce to Tunbridge Wells in Bloom held at the Corn Exchange, and winning a certificate and some spring bulbs to plant. They also had a photo opportunity with some recognisable faces...

We are now in the process of clearing the beds and preparing them for the spring, and are taking a day next term to work with a representative from Garden Organic, who will help us plant an orchard, manure the beds and plan what to put where next year. We would very much like to hear from any parents or grandparents who might be willing to come in and help out with the allotment, as there is always so much to do and so little time... if you are interested and willing to get your hands dirty (although we can lend you gloves!!) please contact me on rlovera@twgsboys.kent.sch.uk We usually work over lunchtimes, 12:30 – 1:30pm and at the moment we can organise most days.



A group of Eco Reps went to a Kent Bat Group presentation at Oakley School in Tunbridge Wells, which was both fun and informative. We were given an extremely interesting and useful talk on bats and how best to nourish and encourage them, and then we all went outside with bat detectors, which were able to detect both Pipistrelles and Daubentons which emit their echolocation sonar at different frequencies. As a result of this trip we have proudly and confidently attached our homemade bat boxes to some trees up near the school pond.

Another trip out this term, saw a group of pupils from across the age range, taken by Mr Pedder to visit Oakley Primary School in Tonbridge, in conjunction with the High Weald Project, The Skinner's School, and Weald of Kent Grammar School. The aim of the day was to help them to set up their own allotment area, and by all accounts, it was a very productive day.



Litter is still a huge issue, both in and around the school, and we would urge parents to 'have a word' and gently remind sons/daughters that it is not okay to expect someone else to pick it up for them. A team of staff from the SNAG group and middle management are in discussion at the moment to form an action plan to combat this constant nuisance, but it would be so much better if we didn't have to...

On a more positive note, the school took part in the "Food for Life Partnership Roast Dinner Day world record attempt" on Wednesday 29th September 2010 and the whole school had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch with some of the produce provided by our very own allotment.

Wishing everyone a very happy season... I will leave you with some tips for a merry sustainable Christmas:

A big part of the Christmas season is giving and this is also where you can take steps to have a more environment friendly Christmas. First of all, take another look at your Christmas card list. The truth is that most of these cards just end up in the garbage dump in a few days. So, instead of wasting your money and harming the environment in the process, use some card alternatives. If you have the time, make your own cards. If you absolutely must send cards out, make sure you buy those that are made from biodegradable materials or use the front covers of ones from last year and make Christmas POSTcards.

That's not all. Add a footnote asking that the card be recycled instead of thrown away. There are a number of companies that specifically recycle Christmas cards so you can even tell people where to send their old cards!

There are also ways to give more eco-friendly Christmas gifts. Let's start with the wrapping paper. If you must wrap, use wrapping paper that is recycled. Again, try and ensure that the paper is used again or at least sent for recycling afterwards. I find that using old newspaper and 'jolly' it up with some Christmas potato prints can be novel and effective! Try and invest in gifts like environmentally friendly Christmas gift certificates, where the person can get what they actually want.

You can also make a charitable donation in someone's name as a gift. Of course, there are ways to deal with all those unwanted gifts that you receive. You can donate them to various charities or hospices. There are even re-gifting forums out there where people can swap their unwanted gifts!

R Lovera

