



The Kings' Messenger

THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Friends

The new term got off to a good start with news that we had been awarded Investors in People status. A great deal of effort has been put in over the last 12 months to prepare for our assessment. There has been an increasing emphasis on staff training and the new Performance Management system has been introduced for our teaching staff. The assessor was very positive and complimentary about the way in which we work as a school to get the best out of our staff. We are shortly to be presented with our award.

This term has also seen work start on our new Maths and Special Needs teaching block. Progress has been very impressive with the foundations and steel work now in place. We are all looking forward to the end of the summer term when building work will be completed.

At the time of writing, we are submitting our application to the DfEE to gain specialist technology status. Having had the previous bid turned down, we are much more positive this time and hope that the application is successful. A successful bid will mean significant additional funding to develop our work in Maths, Science, Technology and Information Technology. These resources will be used to provide new courses, additional staffing and equipment.

Speaking with a colleague earlier in the week, I was reminded that there are now less than 60 school days before the public examinations commence. This is a critical period of time for students, particularly for those in Year 11 who

are busy completing course work. With the exception of Year 10, we will see all year groups undertaking public examinations this summer. Preparation for examinations is crucial and can make a significant difference to the final grade. We are encouraging students to begin their revision early and make use of study guides and the Internet. Staff will also be running revision sessions, and our LRC will be open late for two evenings a week. We will shortly be writing to parents to inform them about the arrangements.

We have just started work on putting together ideas for our new Three Year School Development Plan. I am particularly keen to receive suggestions and ideas from parents as to how we should build on our success in our school, and will in the next few weeks, be sending a questionnaire to all families. I would be most grateful if you could take some time to complete the questionnaire and let us know your views.

Finally, we have had some excellent news on the sporting side. Two of our Rugby teams are through to the Somerset Cup. Congratulations, we wish them well in their final games.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chris Richardson', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Richardson
Headteacher



Modern Languages

Kilve Court or Charities Week?– Kilve Court or Charities Week?

In December of last year, when everyone else was preparing for the onslaught of our annual Charities Week or winding down for the Christmas break, two of our Year 9 students were preparing for an intensive blitz on their knowledge of the German language. Richard Scott and Sam Hancock had been selected to participate in a week's residential course for able German linguists at Kilve Court. So here is Richard with his thoughts before and after the course.

My first visit to Kilve Court and I'm going to miss part of my first Charities Week at the Kings of Wessex, I hope it is well worth it!! The programme has arrived – I know this is a course for able students but it's all in German! Actually, after reading through it, most of the phrases were pretty obvious and Frau Rebello helped me with the rest.

At Kilve the talks were interspersed with

meals and breaks while the pool table seemed very popular. We covered grammatical structures such as the present tense of verbs, word order, modal verbs, the perfect tense and the different cases.

The staff chose a fine afternoon to take us down to the beach. We came back nicely relaxed and ready for a Mr Bean video – on a German course? There had to be a catch! And yes, you've guessed it, we had to translate it into German!

The last morning of our course was taken up with preparation for our final presentation, no, not Mr Bean but an extract from Pingu, in German of course!

I thoroughly enjoyed what was a worthwhile course.

Richard Scott 9DB



Pingu fährt skil



Qui veut aller en France?



The ever popular annual French Study Trip to Fougères in Brittany is well under way and over forty students from Year 10 will be departing by ferry for La France on 2nd April to return on 7th April.

Whilst in Fougères, they will be participating in a number of activities which are geared towards improving their language skills at GCSE.

Tasks will include carrying out surveys in the

town about shopping habits in the local supermarkets, with further tasks and interviews to be conducted at the local police station, fire station and train station. There will be one non-assignment day which will involve a day trip to the beautiful walled port of St. Malo where students will walk around the ramparts and have some free time to discover the delights of the town.

How you can improve your exam performance:

- The Languages Department has recently acquired a high speed tape recorder, so we are now able to offer students the chance of improving their listening skills through independent learning. If you are interested in improving this skill, bring a 90 minute cassette to your language teacher, who can provide you with some practice listening tasks.
- You can improve reading skills by practising past papers and develop fluency in oral skills by thoroughly preparing your general conversation booklet.
- Your Language Teachers are available most lunch times if you require any additional help.
- If you have not already ordered your GCSE Revision Guide or Dictionary, you can still place an order with your Language Teacher. Revision Guides are a bargain at £2.00 and dictionaries can be purchased at £4.50.
- There are a number of very useful websites on the internet which cover useful hints on grammatical structures, tips for revising vocabulary, reading practice as well as suggested answers for the oral exam.
- For Easter Revision courses, see the Modern Language notice board.
- If there is sufficient interest, the Languages Department will organise an intensive French and German Day during the Easter holidays to practise examination skills.



News from Maths

Work has started this term on the new Maths block, and, by the start of the next academic year, classes should be taking advantage of this new facility. The building is designed to house maths classrooms, an ICT suite and facilities for SEN, as well as an administrative area for staff. We are looking forward to having all the Maths classes taught in the same area, and I am sure that the students will be glad to see the demise of yet another “mobile”.

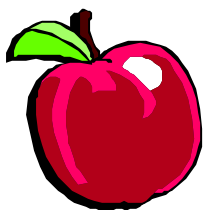


Andrew MacAuley and Tom Merry gained A* grades in the early entry Maths class; 15A grades and 8B grades were achieved. This class will go on to sit GCSE Statistics in the summer. Also sitting GCSE Statistics will be the equivalent Year 10 class. Our experience

in the first 2 years of GCSE Statistics suggests that this should lead to even better results in the future.

The new A Level syllabus seems to be going very well, and we are looking for some good results in the first round of AS exams in June. The current Year 13 syllabus is Modular as well, but students who do not achieve their required grades in June this year, will only have the one chance to improve grades, as these examinations will be phased out by next summer.

The term ahead will offer a great deal of opportunity and a great deal of work for students studying for GCSE in Year 11, for AS in Year 12, and for A Level in Year 13. Help for these examinations will be available, as usual, at lunchtimes in the Maths area. With hard work, (and just a little bit of good fortune), we look forward to an encouraging summer.



ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Design Technology has added to its existing stock of interactive resources. This month Food Technology has acquired a CD-Rom which is located in the Design Technology area on the network.

THE FOODS YOU EAT is a program with two Databases so that students investigate the nutrient content of foods, sources of nutrients & nutrient requirements.

To access this CD-Rom or any existing learning materials log onto the network via 'Applications, Everyone, D.T'



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school



UNDERSTANDING INDUSTRY COURSE



Twenty four AS level Business Studies students took part in a 2-day Understanding Industry course on 15 and 16 January. The Understanding Industry programme is a government initiative introduced to give 6th form students the opportunity of developing an understanding of industry. Although partly funded by the government we were fortunate and very grateful to receive funding from Inveresk PLC and Clarks International.

Hugo Pike, Regional Manager of the programme put together a most informative and varied 2-day programme that included sessions lead by practitioners who are experts in their field. Students took part in a range of activities including practice interviews,

initiative tests, setting up a small business and suggesting uses for a range of products.

We are most grateful to the following for their contribution to the course:

Clarks International Public Relations Manager, John Keery
Clarks International Designer, Emma
Inveresk PLC, Production Manager, Andy Nash;
Cosyfeet Director, David Price;
Halifax Building Society, Manager of W-s-M Branch; Karen Low
Nutricia Personnel Officer, Sue Williams

Student response to the course was most positive and it is anticipated that it will become an annual feature of the AS level Business Studies course in the future.

AS LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES STUDENTS REACH QUARTER FINALS OF AN INVESTMENT COMPETITION



A group of AS level Business Studies students, Tanya Slawson, Hannah McCarthy and Gemma Farrell (team name 'The Slugs') entered an on-line share investment competition ProShare and have won through to the quarter finals. Well done!!

Teams taking part in the competition are 'given' £10,000 to invest in a portfolio of shares with the aim of making as much money as possible. Although not yet millionaires, the team has won through to the quarter finals and are now required to submit a report on their investment decisions. They have also had the option to sell and 'bank' part of their investment or leave it in tact until the end of the competition.

Good luck to the team in the next stages of the competition.

It is coming up to exam time once more so Year 9 and Year 11 students should be thinking about revision. The Science Faculty has Revision Guides available for purchase for KS3 SATs (£2.50), and NEAB Double Science GCSE (£2.00 per subject). Please ask your Science teacher for details.

The Psychology Website Competition

Over the Christmas holidays, AS Psychology students were set the task of designing an advertisement for a website related to a topic on their course. Using the knowledge they have already acquired in lessons, they were asked to think about imagery, novelty and slogans – the things that make an advert grab your attention and remember it.

The outcome is currently displayed in the LRC and there are some stunning entries which have already had some students rushing to their computers to take a more detailed look. Topics range

from sleep and dreams to brain surgery, media violence and multiple personality disorder. There is plenty to suit all tastes, so take a look next time you are there.

Thank you to all who took part and brightened up life in the LRC during January. Also to Mr Richardson who kindly judged the competition for us.

Prize winners were:

Best slogan	<i>Ben Garfitt</i>
Most novel	<i>Pete Smith</i>
Most intellectual	<i>Catherine Sanders</i>
Most striking image	<i>Ella Scotchmer</i>

The overall winner was *Mike Edmunds* who received a £20 book token.



Year 13 Psychology Trip to Broadway Lodge On the 30th January, a coach full of year 13 psychology students visited Broadway Lodge to gain information and insight into the 'substance use and abuse' part of the A level Psychology Health Option.

Broadway Lodge is a treatment centre in Weston-super-Mare for people suffering from alcohol/drug abuse, or eating disorders.

When we arrived, members of the treatment team at Broadway Lodge gave us a talk about the methods of treatment used there such as: detoxification, group therapy and counselling.

They also described to us a typical day for a patient. We were told (to my horror!) that they were woken up every day at 7am, and their treatment continued until 9.30pm. They described to us how the patients often felt when

they arrived, and the problems facing them as a result of their addictions.

By far the most interesting and useful part of the visit was when some patients talked to us in smaller groups about their experiences. It was very sad and touching to hear some of their stories about how their addictions had ruined their lives, and how close some of them had come to killing themselves. It was very helpful to hear about the problems faced by these people, and how difficult they found it to give up substance use. I learned that addicts were just normal people who had a very serious disease, which if left untreated could be fatal.

I think most people found the trip to be very thought provoking and valuable, as it gave us an insight into substance abuse which we could not have gained from our lessons in school.

Camilla Gore



Students reports on 'Macbeth' performed by 'Shakespeare in Schools' at Strode Theatre in Street on 30th January 2001

On the 30th January, a party of Year 9 students from The Kings of Wessex went to the Strode Theatre at Street to see the play 'Macbeth'. The first part of the afternoon was spent watching a workshop put on by the actors of Macbeth, or should I say 'The Scottish play'. First of all they introduced their characters and told us about their personalities. There were three male actors and two female actors. They did the workshop and then produced an edited account of the play all in about 2 hours 30 minutes.

They did various exercises which were to broaden our knowledge of the play. There was one particular exercise which I liked very much. Whenever a character clapped their hands, everyone froze except that person and then the character would tell you what they were thinking. When they clapped their hands again, the scene carried on as if nothing had happened. I thought this helped with our understanding of that scene greatly, and by the end I knew what everyone was thinking and feeling.

Alice Trapnell 9SP

After an amazing workshop, I was waiting to see what the real performance would be like. I was looking to see what costume and makeup they were wearing and how they interpreted the different characters. I must admit that I was pleasantly surprised they played all the characters using only five actors involving any number of costume changes and role changes. It must have been very confusing remembering whether you are Macbeth or Banquo, thane of Glamis of the King or Banquo's son. Yes, very confusing it must have been. But, they never faltered in their lines and never came on as the wrong

character, or did the wrong voice. In fact, the whole thing was absolutely flawless! It was much better than I expected it to be.

I was especially impressed with the continuity of the whole piece and the way that they delivered the lines in such a convincing way. I think that Macbeth was a particularly well played character. He was the most convincing as he really put his whole being into the part. I really would like to see it again, but an overall pleasing and very educational performance.

Katherine Baker 9EB





A Report on the Year 9 Educational Trip to Paris 'The Little Angels/Fairies'

Day 1: We arrived at school and boarded the coach at 6.45 am. Kara Whitehouse and Laura Dixon and me (Emma Luckwell), were really tired and all said we needed to get some sleep, but we got on the coach and started talking and didn't sleep. We stopped off at many service stations on the way to the Channel Tunnel and when the coach drove onto the tube, some people had to get off the coach because it rocked from side to side as it made them feel ill.

When we got into France, we stopped off at a service station and Kara, Laura and me had a craving for some ice-cream. We tried ordering three ice-creams in French, but it was very difficult and we kept getting confused. After 5-10 minutes, we managed to get the ice creams we wanted.

We had been on the coach for many hours and people were getting a bit moody, but we three were having a great time. When we got to the hotel, we got our passes then went to our rooms. The hotel was very large and had a lot of buildings attached to it.

Once we had settled in, we all went to the Disney village for dinner. When Kara, Laura and me had eaten, we went shopping. We went into a shop called 'The Wonderful World of Toys'. We spent about 45 minutes in this shop, planning what we could do/wear tomorrow around the Disney park. In the end we decided to buy a wand and tiara each in different colours: pink for Kara, yellow for Laura and blue for me (Emma).

Day 2: The fun begins! At about 8.00am we were all woken up from about 20 people banging on our door! Kara got out of bed and answered the door, then we found out we had slept in for nearly two hours and we were in trouble. We couldn't help it if we were asleep! We had missed breakfast and had to get

ready in 20 minutes with people knocking on our door every two minutes which was holding us up. No one knew about the wands and tiaras so it was a big surprise when we went downstairs with our angel/fairy outfits.

When we got to the park, we were told we had to meet up and have our names ticked off the list. We had to meet at the big castle in the centre of the park.

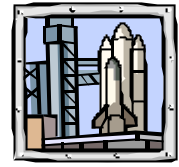
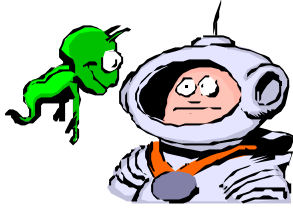
As we were going around the park, people kept saying things about our wands and tiaras and stopping us to take pictures. Mrs Palacio also took our picture.

We were really enjoying ourselves. The remainder of the day was spent going to Fantasy Land and we had a ride on the spinning teacups. We had a MacDonald's and later we had dinner. When we went back to the hotel, we realised we had locked ourselves out of our room. Mr Bennett had to take us to reception to get a key.

Later, we all had to meet up at the park for 8.00 pm to attend a seminar, where we fell asleep! We were very tired from walking around the park, and it was very cold. When we returned to the hotel we stayed up until 3.00am before falling asleep

Day 3: Again we had slept on and were woken by people banging on our door. This time we made it to breakfast but were not very hungry. We had to go to another seminar where we fell asleep again! We boarded the coach after the seminar to return home, but we were not looking forward to the 12 hour journey. We were woken at the service stations so that we could stretch our legs. The journey went quickly. I could not wait to get in my own bed and sleep for as many hours as I wanted to!

Emma Luckwell
Year 9, Tutor 9SP



I really enjoyed Disneyland as it was something a bit different to a normal trip (as this one was fun). I liked one of the talks more than the others, as it was about Space Mountain and I found it very

interesting and informative. I also liked being treated like an adult and this meant we could eat and do what we liked (within reason).

Paul Archer Year 9

Paul Archer 9th

Disneyland Paris was a really enjoyable trip for everyone who went, even though there was a lot of travelling. The hotel had a cowboy theme, but the food wasn't good. The best rides in the park for us were definitely Space Mountain and Indiana Jones backwards. We enjoyed the free time. The seminars were

interesting and related to all areas of DT and Art. Everyone was a bit tired though. We shared the hotel with lots of other schools. Lots of toys were being brought from the hotel shop. We found the trip really enjoyable and didn't want to leave the park!

By Joanna Chappell, Charlotte Gale and Sarah O'Neill

Disneyland, Paris

This trip is organised so that students can see the practical application of Design and Technology. It also encourages students to use other skills, especially speaking "en français, sil vous plait". The staff on the trip would like to thank all 48 students for their superb behaviour throughout the trip. I think we definitely had the best students.

Grease



I am always amazed at the number of students who want to be involved with the school production. This year, two weeks of auditions soon became three as almost 150 students expressed an interest in performing. Then we had a further 46 who asked to help out backstage and 63 who wanted to take part as a dancer. We have now been rehearsing for about 6 months and 'Grease' is almost ready to be performed. Finishing touches are being put to dance routines; the set is almost finished and we continue with the hunt to find the hundreds of props and costumes that we need.

The annual production is now a very important part of the school year at The Kings of Wessex and I always feel very privileged to be part of the team that produces it. To watch so many students from different year groups working together – helping each other with lines, songs or just having a chat about their respective days, is remarkable. It is at this point

we realise that the value of Drama goes far beyond the actual performances.

However, before we become too carried away, I must point out that the performances themselves are also a vitally important part of the production process. 'Grease' will be performed from the 7th – 10th March at 7.30 pm in the school hall, and tickets are now available from the school office at £5 and £3.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents, and staff for their support so far; it is very much appreciated. I hope to see you at the production and by the way, if anyone knows just how we can get a 1950's Chevrolet on stage, I'd be very pleased to hear from you!



Dance Students from Years 10 and 11 will be participating in a Dance Workshop at Frome College on the 5th and 6th February. They will be choreographed by the SAKOBA Dance Company who specialise in African dance and work with students from Frome College. A final rehearsal will be held on the 16th February in Taunton and the students will perform their work at the Taachi Morris Theatre on the Friday evening at 7.30pm. Parents and friends of the students involved will be invited to attend the performance.

PRAGUE 2001

The dates of this year's exchange with students of the Emy Destinove` School in Praha 6 have been agreed.

The Czech students are due to arrive here on June 2nd (Saturday) and will leave again for Prague on Saturday 9th June. We, in our turn, will depart for Prague on Saturday, 2nd October and return the following Saturday.

This is an ideal opportunity for our students to experience a country, city and culture which is, as yet, not too familiar with most of us. Some of our students who, in previous years have already taken part in the exchange, have kept in contact and have revisited their partners in Prague – an indication of how

welcome we are made to feel when we visit the Czech Republic.

Whilst there students will have the opportunity to visit historic monuments and castles which are fascinating even for teenagers! The centre of Prague itself is an interesting mixture of old and new with something, somewhere that will suit all tastes.

Students will have the details of the exchange presented to them at school and there will be a letter available to bring home for your information and permission. Please contact Dr Ellis if you would like any information about the exchange

Dave Ellis

WESSEX WALKS

Advanced Warning!

Last year students, parents and friends of the school helped raise over £1300 (a very creditable effort) which went to the "Save the Children Fund" to help alleviate the suffering of children displaced from their homes by war. Thank you.

This year the walk will be on Sunday 6th May, again from Bleadon to Wells, so get into training and come with us on that date for a fun stroll in the Mendip Hills. Students will be

informed of this date through assemblies in school and will receive the customary letter home for information and permission later in the term.



Platform 12

This year's 'Platform' magazine is in production. Please encourage your progeny to enter poetry, prose, artwork, or photography to the appropriate places. 'Platform' will be on sale during the summer term at the absurdly low price of £1.



Senior Netball Practices have been well attended and matches started with a win against Sidcot for the 1st VII team 13-10. Two closely contested matches were played against a strong Churchill

school with the 2nd VII winning 15-10. The 1st VII managed to pull back a 5 goal deficit at half time and drew level in the 3rd quarter. However good some excellent shooting by the Churchill goal attack saw the opposition win by 4 goals.

Junior Netball A disappointing number of Year 9 students have attended netball practices. The U14s first match of the season against Rossholme

was cancelled by the opposition. The team have since played one match against Churchill winning 15-10.

Under 15 VII The Under 15 netball team have had one game at the time of writing. They played their first match

against Churchill and played well, winning fairly easily, 22-7. Practices are on Thursday lunchtime for any girl interested.

2nd VII Again, the team have only played one match at the time of writing. They played well and got off to a comfortable start. However, they let Churchill back into the game and finally won 18-16. Thanks must

got o Katie Rossiter and Hannah Laken for filling in at late notice. Practices are on Tuesday lunchtimes.



Under 15 XI Are still in the County cup. They played extremely well against

Heathfield at the Blue school – Kings won 3-1

1st XI The team played well against a very good side from Richard Huish School (Taunton). It was a very competitive

game and Kings finally won 2-1.



Year 9 Football vs St Dunstan's (Somerset Cup First Round)

Year 9 got off to a blistering start with a convincing 5-1 win in their first ever game at Kings. This certainly was a very encouraging performance with slick passing and sharp finishing being the order of the day. Year 9 look forward to a second round match

Year 11 Football The season started with a convincing 2-0 win over Broadoak in the Somerset cup. On a cold day and a very soft pitch, the Year 11s knew they were in for a battle against a strong Broadoak team. The first half started promisingly with new midfielder, Doug Watson fitting in well with some superb battling. Our first goal came from a run down the flank by Right Midfielder, Mike Denbee who shipped a ball in for Joe Branch to have an easy tap in. In the second half, Broadoak battled back well, but Kings kept up the pressure and got a deserved second by David Heard's precise cross which crept in at the far post.

In the next round we were up against a very useful Worle side, but the conditions were dreadful. Kings started superbly with a very solid defensive line of Jack Allen, James Smith, Tom Merry and Robin Scanlon. The

against local rivals Churchill in February. There is an encouraging number of players competing for places in both the A and B squads. It was great to see over 40 boys at trials in December who were keen to represent the school. This will hopefully lead to a successful season.

first goal came from a free kick which was headed in at the near post by Mike Denbee. We kept the pressure up and from some excellent movement off the ball. Ben Curtis was put through to strike the ball into the net.

The start of the second half was the best period for Kings and from the kick off Ben Curtis was put through to strike past the stranded keeper. Again, from the kick Kings put pressure on Worle forcing the mistake for Ben to finish off his hat-trick. The score was 4-0. Worle battled back and with a set of passes got one back. This got them going, then came a second and a third to make it 4-3. With 15 minutes left Kings stepped up a gear and with some great saves by Iain Fuller kept us in the game. The final score was 4-3 to Kings, putting us into the Quarter finals. The team played superbly and deserved to be in the Quarter finals.

Mike Denby Year 11

Senior Football The 1st XI football team have made an incredible start to the season. Led by Captain Steve Sokol, they have won their opening three games in style. A feature of the side's performances so far has been their solidity in defence with only one goal (a dubious penalty) conceded. At the other end, James Masters, Mike Edmonds and Mike Denbee have been finding the net with some ease as the results below testify.

Kings 2 v 0 West Somerset
Kings 7 v 0 Churchill
Wellsway 1 v 5 Kings

The 2nd XI is captained by John Greenhalgh this year and his side quickly proved our footballing strength in depth at the school with a fine opening victory over Wellsway School 3-1. The captain himself scored two fine goals as he led from the front.

SPORT



Year 11 Cup Semi-Final We're the Kings of the Castle !!

Kings of Wessex Year 11 rugby team put together their best performance of the season beating Castle School Taunton 30 - 10, to earn a place in the Somerset Cup Final.

Conditions at Sharpham road were perfect. Little wind and soft ground made conditions ideal for rugby.

As soon as the game kicked off, Kings went on the offensive, gaining the ball back immediately and showing fluency and consistency, which quickly yielded a score. Castle school came back though and pressurised Kings line until they gained a score. The teams fought hard and both gained another score before half time. Kings went into the break 13 - 10 ahead from a penalty scored by Owen Howell.

Kings came out from the break more determined than ever to win. Maintaining possession and recycling the ball well with forward gaining the 'hard yards' and the backs piercing the gain line every time they had the opportunity. Kings were again rewarded for their hard work scoring three more tries. A conversion was added by Owen Howell. This left the score at 30 - 10, and last minute defending and hard work finally gave the game to Kings.

Well done to all who played for a well earned victory and a great spirited performance.

Iain Walters and James Neave

Under 14 Somerset Cup Rugby (The Kings of Wessex vs. Heathfield)



We're in the final! Thanks to a fine performance. The game started ominously, as Kings spent 10 minutes on their try line soaking up some very heavy pressure. Heathfield looked certain to score, but Kings defended desperately and finally made it out of their 22. Heads then lifted, and some strong runs by Mark Pilgrim and Dave Cook kept us in their half. Heathfield still looked dangerous with a hard-running No. 8 and an elusive centre, however the back row worked hard and Dom Kotas soon closed the centre down.

The forwards had their strongest game yet with some excellent ruck ball and finally the pressure told with an excellent individual try from James Mclaughlin. Dave Cook added another from the back of a scrum, which Luke Gupta converted. Heathfield then scored one of their own from a pick-up by their No. 8. Dave Cook sealed the match with a strong drive from the base of the scrum for his second try. Heathfield managed to seal a late consolation try, but Kings managed to keep them out until the final whistle. A fine win, and now for the final against either West Somerset Community College, or Beechen Cliff.



What can I say about Kings of Wessex boy's sport except GREAT!

The year 11 lads were without a doubt a talented bunch of people as well as being great sportsman as well. Each and every one of them showed great enthusiasm during their time at the school always showing 100% commitment and never let the school down. We competed in Rugby, Football, Cricket and Athletics each and every year training regularly to reach our potential. The team that I feel deserves a special mention is the boys Rugby losing only 3 games in the entire time at the school.

Twice in the cup, Y9 and 10, and once to Churchill that we all felt was down to unfortunate refereeing. Our rugby team was lead spectacularly by Tom Merry, with help from powerhouse Mike Denbee, an overly committed Iain Walters and our Superhero James Neave. Well in the backs Jim Smith, Owen Howell and a great centre division naming one spectacular player who in our minds deserves a medal alone for his tackling, and that's Doug Watson.

The football team did just as well reaching semi finals of the county cup two years running, and playing an outstanding game against Millfield in Y9 to win 5-0

The next year Millfield got their revenge when they fielded their firsts to beat us 9-1.

A mention to the B team here who put one over on the rich boys and won 4-0, with a hat-trick from magic Eddy Wright, who didn't let us forget that for a long time.

The strength in the A's defiantly came from the back with week in week out fine performances from Iain Fuller in goal and Jack Allen who for some reason took up singing to the opponents, maybe he should have been in the choir. Mike Denbee again a fine power in the midfield and Joe Branch excelled through



out the season with outstanding performances every game. And of course our top goal scorer of the years Mr Benjamin Curtis, an outstanding striker who I'm sure will go on to better things in the future.

This brings us on to our Cricket squad. A good determined bunch of lads who always managed to joke around at James Smiths expense, either for his over exaggerated catches or his moleskin trousers. We defiantly had the making of a good side with two Somerset boys leading the way, Robin Scanlon and Tom Coombes.

We had super bowlers Tom Coombes easily the best at least taking two wickets per game with Robin Scanlon just behind but I feel I special mention should head towards Mike Denbee for his Elaborate Pie Chucking as well as Pie Eating. To be fair he did get a lot of wickets especially three away to Wells Blue. Robin Scanlon and Mike Wakefield were inspirational behind the bat as well as Pete Arnold averaging out at A Golden Duck per game. Well Done Pete!

Finally the Athletics squad, not huge but very good. We didn't lose one match over the three years, mainly down to 'Stuart I'll win everything Heatley' who without I don't think we would of stood a chance. He won everything from 100m to 1500m to triple jump. All round a class athlete. James Neave held the burden in the field wining all throwing events and Owen Howell wining every High Jump event that came his way. Mark Rowe was excellent not losing one Long Jump event.

Wherever you go you will always find a better team at some sport, some schools concentrate on a single sport and never lose at it, but what makes our school so special when it comes to sport is the fact we compete at very high levels in all sports not one but 4 or 5 and continually do well and that's why the Year 11 sporting boys were so good and so special.

House Activities

This is likely to prove an extremely busy term for house matches. Practically all the hockey fixtures at junior and senior level had to be postponed before Christmas due to the appalling weather. These games will now be played after half-term when, hopefully, the pitch will have recovered.

Added to these matches will be the normal programme of events. Both Netball and Football competitions are due to commence closer to the Easter break.

Whilst the wet weather continues outside, we have been able to host the boys

Basket ball tournaments in the gym and leisure centre.

The senior trophy will go to Camelot House who beat Tintagel in the final. In the junior section, Camelot struggled, however, and finished in last position with Avalon taking the championship victory over Tintagel. Lyonesse House finished third in both competitions.

Current House Championship Table

1 st	Avalon	17 points
2 nd	Lyonesse	15 points
3 rd	Camelot	14 points
4 th	Tintagel	13 points

The Kings of Wessex
Community Education Service
delivers quality educational,
recreational and cultural opportunities
to adults throughout the Cheddar Valley.

The Department is particularly active during the evenings and on Saturdays offering a wide range of courses including:-

Computer classes
Health and fitness
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Courses leading to qualifications

For the SPRING TERM our one day Saturday workshops are:-

- * **Aspects of Complementary medicine**
- * **Silk Painting**
- * **Calligraphy**
- * **Swags and Tails**
- * **Colour analysis and make-up**
- * **Tiffany style painting on glass**

We would also like to hear from people who would like to join our team of course tutors.

For further information, or to enrol
Tel: 01934 743805 Community Education Office
Tel: 01034 744939 Leisure Centre Reception

**WHAT'S ON AT
THE KINGS OF WESSEX LEISURE CENTRE...**

MONDAY

Badminton Years 9—13 with Marie Grady. 4.00—5.30pm
Hockey Years 9 & 10 with Anne Lydon. 5.00—6.30pm

TUESDAY

Squash Intermediate with Anne Lydon. 5.00—5.40pm
Hockey Years 9 & 10 With Anne Lydon. 5.00—6.30pm
Lifesaving Ages 14 and over with Marie Grady. 6.30—7.30pm.

THURSDAY

Squash Years 8/9 &10 with Anne Lydon. 5.00—5.40pm

**Bookings for all the above courses
can be made at the Leisure Centre reception.**

**We are Now Taking Names of people wishing
to undertake the next NPLQ course.
The Date is yet to be confirmed, for
further information please ask for
Stuart Mapstone.
(National Pool Lifeguard Qualification)
Applicants MUST be Min 16 Years.**

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Please start collecting *Tesco* and *Sainsbury's* vouchers! The *Tesco* scheme runs from 29th January until 8th April 2001. One voucher is issued for each £10 spent in any *Tesco* store or for petrol. The *Sainsbury's* 'More Equipment for Schools' scheme will run from 18th March until 9th June. We are not collecting *Telegraph* tokens this year.

Mrs Geary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>FEBRUARY 17th-25th</i>		Half Term Holiday
Monday	26 th	School Commences
Tuesday	27 th	Parent Teacher Association Meeting at 8.00 pm
<i>MARCH</i>		
Friday	2 nd	Year 9 reports issued
Monday	5 th	Parent Careers Surgery 6-8 pm
Wednesday	7 th	Year 9 Parents – KS4 Meeting at 7.30 pm
Wednesday -Saturday	7 th 10 th	School Performance – ' <i>GREASE</i> ' at 7.30 pm
Monday-Friday	12 th -16 th	Y12 Geography field trip to Bude
Wednesday	14 th	Year 9 Parents/Subject Teacher Meeting
Friday	30 th	<i>STAFF TRAINING DAY – School Closed to Students</i>
<i>APRIL</i>		
Monday	2 nd	French Study Trip departs
Thursday	5 th	Year 12/13 reports issued
Saturday	7 th	<i>EASTER HOLIDAY French Study Trip Returns</i>
Monday	23 rd	Spring Term Commences

YEAR CO-ORDINATORS

Year 9:	Mrs M Sammonds
Year 10:	Mr T Clark
Year 11:	Mr A Hitt
Sixth Form:	Mr M Hayward

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Co-ordinator if you have any concerns or wish to discuss their progress.