



Issue 37 : April 2001

The Kings' Messenger

THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Friends

With Easter almost with us, we can look back on a successful Spring term. Some two weeks ago we received great news from the DfEE that the school had received one of the new achievement awards. The award has been given to the school for improved examination performance over the period 1997-2000. This really is a tremendous accolade and reflects the commitment with everybody involved in the school. The award brings with it £25,000 which is to be paid as a bonus to staff.

This term saw the school production of 'Grease'. A staggering 197 students were involved in the performance either as actors, musicians or hands backstage. I am sure those of you who saw the production will have been equally impressed as I was with the talent and quality of the performers.

Talking of talent, I was pleased to hear recently that Katherine Baker, a Y9 student, has been successful in gaining a place with the National Youth Music Theatre. There was also an impressive musical performance by our students at the Rotary Club music competition with Lucy Mason achieving first prize in the Upper School category. Runners up were Stephen Leftley, Tom Merry, and Robbie Fortune.

Achievements on the sporting field have been equally as impressive. Our U16 Rugby team were winners in the Somerset State Schools' Rugby Cup and the U14 came second. In Hockey, our girls U18 have again reached the finals in the County Cup.

Congratulations to all these students for their outstanding performances.

At the time of writing, a group of Y10 students are taking part in the French study trip. They are spending a week in Fougères where they will be improving their French language skills.

For students taking examinations this summer, Easter is a crucial time for revision. Staff have been organising revision sessions and providing drop in advice for students. For the first time this year, we will be trialling Easter revision days in French, German and Science. Many students have also taken the opportunity to purchase revision study guides. As parents, it is vital to ensure that your child has in place a revision timetable and undertakes a sustained programme of revision between now and the public examinations: little and often is the key to success. If students or parents have any concerns or worries about revision, please do not hesitate to speak with the staff at school.

Finally, I do hope that as parents you have received the recent questionnaire. I am very keen to hear the views of parents, both positive and negative, on how we are doing as a school. Your opinions do count and will help to inform future priorities. If by any chance you did not receive a copy of the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to give our school office a ring so that we can send you one.

I do hope that you and your family have an enjoyable Easter break. We are looking forward to the warmer days ahead and hopefully less rain!

Yours sincerely

Chris Richardson
Headteacher

Modern Foreign Languages

Fröhliche Ostern



Eierfärben



der Osterhase



der Osterkuchen

Joyeuses Pâques



L'omelette
pascale



Les poules en
chocolat



La fête des
rameaux

Easterrevision@kow.com

The Modern Languages Faculty will be holding Revision Days during the Easter holidays on the 18th and 19th of April. The French Day will be hosted by Miss Noreen Fogarty (Head of Modern Foreign Languages) and the German Day by Miss Georgina Rebello (Head of German). Early in March letters were issued to all students who had expressed an interest in an intensive GCSE Revision day and the parents of a number of students who had been identified as "C/D" borderline candidates were informed of the Revision Days following the Year 11 Parents' Evening. The response has been most encouraging and we envisage

making Easter Revision Days a regular feature of the Modern Languages revision programme. The Revision Days will be tailored to fit the needs of the students who have opted to participate in them: there will be practice in each of the Modern Foreign Language skills at both Foundation and Higher level and the emphasis of the day will be dictated by the predicted grades of the students participating: our aim is to enable the students, at the very least to achieve their predicted grade, and hopefully to exceed it!

German Revision Day: April 18th

French Revision Day: April 19th

French Study Day at Bristol University

On Tuesday 20th March I accompanied all the Year 12 French AS Level students on a study day held at the Wills Memorial Hall at Bristol University. Topics covered, included differences between the French and English education systems, racism and the media. Issues such as smoking and teenage rebellion were dealt with through the medium of sketches and quiz questions which

kept the audience on their toes. The lecturers used Powerpoint presentations on a giant computer screen to increase the clarity and impact of their subject matter. All students were provided with a very full and helpful set of conference notes. "The day went really well, apart from the heavy snow which we braved in Park Street at lunchtime. We gained from learning the

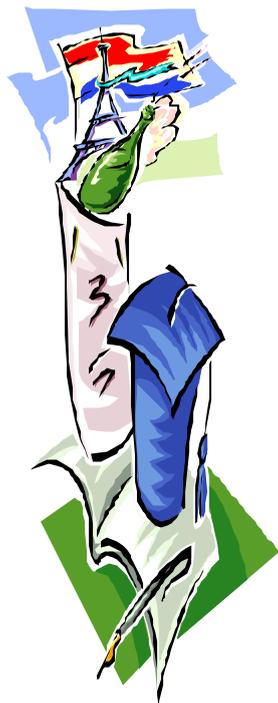
language in a different atmosphere and it was a welcome change from the classroom even if it was only Bristol not France" (Samantha Andews).

"Very good listening practice and an excellent opportunity to acquire additional subject specific vocabulary." (Rachel Warren)





The Mini-Assistant Scheme



For me, the idea of French conversation is a daunting one. My usually reliable confidence hops away from me much like the creature so closely associated with the country – that is, until I participated in the Mini-Assistant Scheme.....

My initial feelings were a cocktail of excitement and fear. Travelling is something I am fairly familiar with. I have stayed with Czech, German and Brazilian families. Yet here we were expected to have a competent knowledge of the language- at least!. If the Loire-Atlantique region were anticipating a scholar on Baudelaire, there was going to be a severe case of disappointment. During our stay we were to teach English to primary school children and another concern of mine was how tolerant a 9 year old would be after a monotonous record of “Je ne comprends pas.”

My doubts were somewhat calmed after conversing with my fellow linguists and the boat journey passed quickly once we discovered there was a Lionel Ritchie look-alike amongst us. And so it was that fourteen fatigued students, seven of whom were from the Kings of Wessex, reached Nantes, the nearest city to our various schools. After a highly official welcome in a building that resembled The Hague, I met my host family. I discovered that, instead of a family, I was going to spend ten days with just one male teacher, Patrick. Suddenly it felt that the next 14,400 minutes were going to be a little too intimate and my own bed was becoming rapidly more appealing.

However, the experience I had was unforgettable. Although intense, it was a great amount of fun as well. Relating to the other teachers was not a problem, especially after I discovered their rum fixation during a lunch break in the staff room and the schoolchildren were fantastically cute (I think I have developed paternal instincts!!!) I attended concerts and rehearsals for “Le songe d’une nuit d’été” or “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” For my birthday each of the pupils I taught, gave me sweets and cards, and I ate at an ultra-chic restaurant.

The trip was fantastic and well worth participating in, for any prospective French A-Level students. There is a limit to the facilities of a classroom and visiting the respective country is the only way of making a marked improvement in a language. In short, grasp it if you can!!!!



“The experience I had was unforgettable.”
“There is a limit to the facilities of a classroom and visiting the respective country is the only way of making a marked improvement in a language.”



Biology Department Outing

On the 27th of March, over 40 students and three members of the biology attended a day at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Bristol, entitled 'Aspects of Modern Biochemistry'. The students had a very busy day ahead of them attending 5 lectures and various talks given by PHD students describing their work;. The talks were varied and given by researchers not necessarily teachers which covered diverse topics that included Prion Diseases that included CJD and BSE, Aids and Drug

Design, Cell Membranes and Transport, DNA, Viruses and Cancer. The intention of the Biochemistry Department is threefold, firstly to help students understand and revise the difficult topics they have been introduced to at school, to give our students a glimpse of what life is like at university, and to recruit local students to what is a thriving department at a renowned university. The majority of our students found the lectures relevant, interesting, topical and useful. This was our seventh visit and no doubt we shall repeat the exercise again next year.

'Stuart', the Virtual Reality Doll (GCSE Child Development) is now very much part of the Child Care course. He is a very popular addition and a very valuable asset. The students are allowed to take him home and care for him over a 24-hour period. After obtaining parents' consent, students collect the baby at 1.15pm, and he is activated. He has to be with them at all times as would a real baby. He has had quite a few experiences in his short life – travelling to and fro on the school bus; out on the hocky pitch; watching netball; attending lessons. Most students have enjoyed the experience as the comments show. One student was waiting at 9.00 am 'to get rid of the !*!*!! thing! I pointed out that a real baby would be with her at least 16 years, and she hadn't even managed 24 hours! She was to return at 1.15 pm as planned.

Sleepless nights, Ugh!

I am never going to have a child! Sam

I am tired Natasha

Having Stuart was hard work, Kate

Babies and buses are hard, Hannah

I really enjoyed the experience, Jenny

When can my mum have him? Katie

I am so glad I don't have to change his nappy, Natalie

I felt like a natural mother, but I don't want one yet, Jodie

Babies and weekend activities don't mix, Jo

I enjoyed having him, but no children for 10-15 years, Laura

Babies and coursework don't go together

I felt he was real and I was sorry to give him back, Jo

I wouldn't allow my sister's boy friend to smoke in front of Stuart

Please can I have him again, Joy



The Tempest'

Production at Holy Trinity Church in Bath

As part of our current studies in English Literature, our class was given the opportunity to go and see a production of 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare at The Holy Trinity Church in the centre of Bath. Unfortunately, with only twenty spaces left in the church, not all the students could take up this valuable opportunity to hopefully enrich their understanding of the play.

We set off from the school at six that evening and arrived in Bath sometime near 7pm. We got to the church where the play was being held, showed the doormen our tickets, and went in. Our eyes were immediately fixed on the large floating white illuminated globe linked to the floor in the middle of the church. There were no spots or any other lights to be used in the production because as we found out this was a very simple, but surprisingly effective production in terms of the use of space, light and involvement with the audience.

A rather cheerful chap who recommended every seat in the house, showed us to our seats. The seats were old weathered oil drums with cork mats on top, which were quite uncomfortable when sat on for a couple of hours. The actual play was a rather interesting concept, which I have never really seen or heard of before. There was no stage; we were part of the stage. The actors would come in between our seats and use us as props to lean on. Mrs Anderson found this out when Caliban (slave of Prospero, the old Duke of Milan in the play) laid himself directly onto her back so she couldn't move and this was where he stayed for maybe two minutes, which was quite uncomfortable for her, but very funny for the rest of the audience.

The actors used people to demonstrate what they were saying. This was shown brilliantly when

Caliban was explaining to Stephano and Trinculo (a Lord and a drunken butler) how he would show them the barren parts of the island, at which point he went and stroked a bald man's head in the audience, and then said how he would show them the fertile parts of the isle, whilst smoothing the hair of a young man's head. There were many more instances where the audience was either used to demonstrate the intentions of the actors, or to make a particularly dull section more comical.

Another brilliant part of the performance was the character 'Ariel', a servant spirit to Prospero, who was played by about eight members of the cast whenever they were not doing their main part. They put a lot of energy into this part and were running around the audience to appear at the other side of the room, jumping into and climbing onto each other to give the sort of presence that you would imagine a spirit would have. Although there was a leading actress for 'Ariel', there were many more repeating and speaking the lines in unison while doing this in different parts of the room. This echoing of voices gave it the feel of her being a spirit.

The whole play was totally engrossing, humorous and so intriguing. It was definitely a great idea to set out a play in that sort of way. If you were sitting in a normal theatre with the stage set out as usual, you would expect so much more from a play, but the basic approach they took was more than enough to keep the audience awake. You could not possibly lose your attention because the performance was all around you. This sort of performance would definitely prompt me to go to see another Shakespeare play if it was to be acted out in the same way, because of its simplicity and clarity. Overall it was an enjoyable night and a valuable experience for all.

by Mark Woodward 10TT

The International Computer Programming Competition BIO

*Edward Torbett, Year 12, has reached the final to
be held at Cambridge University – Well done!*

HISTORY All Year 13
Historians entered two
modules in November
– British History and a document
paper on Nazi Germany. Results,
issued in February, were very
encouraging indeed. Of particular
note was that four students gained
grade AS on both modules:

- Sophie Franklin Smith
- Sondos Afifi
- Nicholas Ovenden
- Hilary Truscott

And two more obtained one A and one B:

- Samuel Astill
- Jennifer McIntyre

Staff News – History



Dr Sheila Jamieson gave birth to a girl – Rona, weighing
in at 8lbs 10ozs on 28th March and we send best wishes
to mother and baby who are both doing well.

SPORTS NEWS

Senior Netball 1st Team The 1st Senior Netball Team have had a successful season captained by Claire Merry. Practices have been well attended and the team have played consistently well in their matches. They beat Well Cathedral by 5 goals and encountered a close game against Queens College winning by the narrow margin of two goals. These were good wins against strong public school teams. Gemma Filer and Lorna Addicott were strong in defence; Claire Merry and Sion Wilson remained consistent in the shooting circle. Well done to all players on a successful season.

Sports Leaders Award The Community Sports Leaders Award is organised by the PE department for students in Years 12 and 13. The course aims to teach students how to work with clubs, primary school children and assist

Sakoba Dance A group of students from Years 10 and 11 spent three memorable days working with Frome College in a workshop for African Dance. The project started with a cold morning on the school mini bus. All the 10th years were worrying, as the 11th years reminisced over the last visit we had from Bode Lawel of Sakoba dance. When we got there we started by joining in a warm-up, which we all felt was aimed to make us look as stupid as possible. We then went straight into working on our performance piece. We were told the title was going to be 'Demons' and it would be about the evils of everyday life.

Another long day followed with a muscle-killing warm-up and non-stop drumming from African drums. This day also involved lots of shouting from our teacher Bode, though

Dancers: Chloe Bowman, Bryony Webb, Jess Hambly, Becky Robinson, Chantelle Ford, Lucy Withers, Becky Covell, Jonica Walinshaw, Lucy Edwards.

U14 Team The U14 Netball team have grown in confidence with every game. Potentially they can play well and realise the need to play consistently well. There have been several positional changes and players have adapted well. Captained by Sarah Brierley they lost just two matches against Chrispin and Wells Cathedral. A total of three matches were cancelled due to severe weather conditions and the foot and mouth epidemic. More players are attending practices and the team can look forward to building on their success next season.

in organising games activities. A first aid course was recently organised as part of this award through the Football Association, dealing specifically with sports injuries. Students from Year 12 attended the certificated course held at the Leisure Centre.

it was hard to take him seriously, especially whenever he yelled 'OK' in his funny accent.

Ten days later, we all travelled down to the Tachi Morris centre in Taunton for a day of rehearsing and an evening of performance. About an hour before the performance we were given costumes and I think we all agree that I had the worst (I'm not joking, it looked like I had a nappy on my head!). The performance in the evening was brilliant. We were all so excited and it felt strangely good to be on a stage singing African songs at the top of our voices and going into contemporary, tribal dance.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the three days and were very grateful for Sakoba coming to teach us.



Foot & Mouth Hits Geography Residential. The Foot & Mouth crises led to the cancellation of this year's Geography residential course, based in Bude. Visits had been planned to Dartmoor and a number of coastal sites. Many of these involved footpath access, and the boundaries of the Devon 'infected area' quickly extended to include most of the towns identified for settlement investigations. Students (and Miss Flook) were disappointed to lose their field study experience (seaside holiday?) at a week's notice, but understood the reason.

Plan B was hastily arranged by Mr Scourse and Mr Goodchild, namely a day sampling shingle at Seaton and a series of settlement investigations using local centres, from Taunton to Frome. Briefing and follow up time were built into a 3½day programme. It didn't quite match the atmosphere of a residential week – evening walks to the spectacular Atlantic Seaboard, fine hotel accommodation and plentiful food, sourjourns to the chip shop, late night moral debates, cooked breakfasts etc, even the occasional romance and inevitable heartbreak! However, it did provide a reasonable academic substitute and has equipped students with the necessary first hand experience to tackle their 'fieldwork skills' paper in the AS level exam.

Exeter Higher Education Convention This March, 65 year 12 students and 3 staff attended, alongside with 4,000 other students, a Higher Education Convention at Exeter University. Over 120 universities and colleges had stands that outlined what courses were available, what were the requirements for entry and other details not necessarily in their prospectus. There were lots of talks regarding student finance, gap years, how to fill in the dreaded UCAS form, as well as student life generally. This enabled our students to talk with representatives from institutions they were interested in and ask pertinent questions that would enable them to make more

enlightened decisions about their academic future. The Exeter Convention was one of a network of over 50 events attracting over 200,000 Year 12 students across the UK. Their intention is to make potential students aware of the options that lie before them, and according to the students from The Kings of Wessex, they achieved that aim. All of our students thought the day was worthwhile and although the weather was atrocious, the staff and students who attended the Convention realised its value and we as a school will, hopefully, return next year.

Danzatak in Prague After a 22-hour coach journey, we finally arrived in the beautiful city of Prague. It was completely different from any cities I'd seen. No buses or coaches around, just trams and metro stations. There were statues and monuments scattered around the city making it a historical and interesting city. After a good night's sleep, we plodded away from our nice warm beds, and then did a tour of the city, and I mean the whole city! We ended the tour at the Emmy Destin school. We entered a school that was so different from ours. The students changed shoes as they entered, and there was art and posters all

around. It was a nice experience. During the week we went back to the school everyday for dance classes where Danzatak and the Czech students choreographed a dance piece that we used in our performances. We had two performances in front of the school. It was a mixture of our contemporary dances and cultural classical dancing being performed by the Czech students.

The whole trip was an experience to remember. We made some new friends and learned a lot about a foreign culture. Thank you to everyone who organised the trip, to Karin Peele for dancing with us and Mrs Hunter-Clarke for keeping us in order throughout the trip. A special thanks to Dr Brice and his wife, for organising it all.

Becky Robinson

'Grease' I should like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' once again to everyone who took part in, or supported this year's school play. 'Grease' was the most challenging production that we have undertaken so far with 196 students involved on and off stage. The energy, commitment and enthusiasm of all

When I found out that this year's school production was to be 'Grease', I was really looking forward to auditioning. Becky Robinson and I took the role of 'Sandy'. The first couple of rehearsals came round quickly, and I was looking forward, yet a bit apprehensive to meeting new people with whom I had never worked with before. Over the six months of rehearsals, my worries of not knowing anyone soon disappeared and the cast built up a strong relationship. Whenever one of us came across a problem, either with the music, acting or the dancing, the teachers or the fellow cast were quick to help and give their advice. One thing

So, what does a Stage Manager do? As the Stage Manager of 'Grease', I was required to participate in all aspects of the production. From day one, I was involved with designing the set and helping to organise rehearsals. Primarily this involved checking everyone was present and writing down any notes, movements, sound or lighting cues that would be required in particular scenes.

As the production date neared, I helped with the construction of the set, the rigging of the lighting and sound systems, and generally turning the school hall into a theatre. Believe me, this is a difficult and time consuming job!

those involved is a real credit to them. I would like to wish them all a well deserved rest, but a large number are involved in other projects both in and out of school. I am sure that these will be as successful.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented group of people to work with.

I must say about the production was that it went very quickly. Before we knew it, we were up on the stage and actually performing. The performance nights went even quicker and it was soon all over.

I know that everyone that took part in 'Grease' is now at a loss of what to do with their lunch times. I will always remember the way everyone who worked closely in the cast together built up strong friendships, and although everyone didn't always agree, we all managed to solve any differences we had.

Melanie Froud

Next came the technical rehearsal. This was a logistical nightmare. For the first time we had all of the technical equipment to co-ordinate. This included almost 100 lighting cues, sound cues and special effects cues such as the explosions and red strip lights on the steps.

During the production itself, once the audience had arrived, I was in charge. Anything that happened, visually or technically, was cued by me and controlled by the backstage team.

Stage Managing 'Grease' was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, but one that required a huge amount of dedication and commitment. I recommend it for anyone with a passion for theatre.

Olly Seviour

Parking problems at the Leisure Centre. Those of you who visit or leave the Leisure Centre at the end of the school day, will have probably experienced the parking problem first hand. It will come as no surprise therefore that after a great deal of thought and much anxiety, we have decided that the current parking problem experienced at the Leisure Centre at 4.00 pm needs now to be managed for the benefit of both School and Leisure Centre needs alike.

A number of reasons necessitate the course of action described below.

You will appreciate that at this time of the day, not only are casual customers, teaching staff, sixth formers and students leaving, but Leisure Centre instructors, duty staff and a whole host of regular customers are arriving.

The Leisure Centre activity and swimming programme which starts at 4.00 pm, is very popular and attracts a significant number of users, many of whom are now finding it extremely difficult to park. At this time of the day, it is also possible to find up to thirty or more parents arriving to collect students some of whom also park.

Whilst our first priority is to accommodate our customers, at the

same time we have no desire to inconvenience those parents collecting their youngsters from school. We realise the problems they face endeavouring to do this elsewhere in the village. However, what we tend to find is that some parents actually start arriving around 3.30 pm onwards, taking up valuable parking spaces. Customers and staff arriving naturally become frustrated at not being able to park and as a last resort often then park on the roadway, thus leading to further congestion and associated problems.

As a result, we have decided that this situation is no longer acceptable and that we need to be seen to be taking a course of action. We therefore wish to request that parents collecting youngsters will oblige us by following the recommendations below.

Parents collecting their youngsters do not park at the Leisure Centre at this difficult time of day, and that they do not arrive to collect until after 4.10 pm and no sooner.

We hope parents understand the reasons for this request and feel they can support it.

We will continue to monitor the situation and advise of any further developments or concerns.

Mr D Macdonald, Director of Community Education

Websites for Revision

The following websites have been checked and provide very helpful additional revision activities and advice. Students are encouraged to use them from home or in school via the school Intranet and its "Revision Guides" page.

A Level - How to revise.	http://www.s-cool.co.uk/subjects/alevel/how_to_revise.asp
AS Guru	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/asguru
GCSE BBC-Bitesize	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/gcsebitesize/
Physics Help	http://www.escape.ca/~dcc/phys/physhelp.html
Schoolzone - list of revision sites	http://www.s-cool.co.uk/
GCSE Revision for Maths, English, Physics & French	http://www.gcse.com/
GCSE Maths	http://www.i-t-teacher.freemove.co.uk/revision/index.html
KS3 BBC Bitesize	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/ks3bitesize/

These links were all tested prior to publication, but their existence into the future cannot be guaranteed.



SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Rain, rain and more rain, snow, flooded pitches and sadly foot and mouth disease restrictions have decimated this year's season. Many matches unfortunately have had to be postponed or cancelled. This is a great shame as there is a high level of enthusiasm and commitment from students in all year groups who have a strong desire to represent the school. There are not many schools in Somerset who can boast A and B teams at every level.

Currently the 1st XI are undefeated with impressive wins over Churchill, Minehead, Wellsway and Norton Hill. This is particularly encouraging as the majority of the team are staying on next year when hopefully we will have more luck with the weather. They are now looking forward to welcoming the Old Boys back at the end of term for their annual fixture – normally competitive affair to say the least!

Year 11 are due to play Beechen Cliff in the quarter final of the County cup in the last week of term. We wish them well as they aim to continue an impressive run of form which has earned them victories against Broadoak, Wells Blue, Worle, Norton Hill and an A & B double over Millfield.

Year 10 can count themselves very unlucky this year as they have been most disrupted by the weather and cancellations. The A team have currently only played three games with a pleasing 3 – 2 win against local rivals Churchill being their best performance. The B team were desperately unlucky to lose 2-1 with literally the last kick of the match against Norton Hill and to go down narrowly to a strong Millfield team.

It was very pleasing to see so many students attend the year 9 trials at the start of term. The A team have a strong squad of committed players and have won their way into the last eight of the county cup where they will play Blake school. They have enjoyed good wins against St. Dunstons, Churchill, Norton Hill and were very unlucky to lose 2-1 to Millfield in a game they dominated. Congratulations go to Luke Gupta, Peter Reeve, Tom Manning, Doninic Kotas and Stuart Gowen on their selection in the Mid Somerset squad. The Year 9B team have been involved in two exciting games with goals galore. They started with a 5-5 draw with Norton Hill then lost 6-3 at Millfield, perhaps we will have to work on defence in year 10!

SOMERSET STATE SCHOOLS
UNDER 16 RUGBY FINAL MONDAY 19 MARCH 2001

KINGS OF WESSEX v RALPH ALLEN (BATH)
WON 6 – 3

Congratulations to the year 11 rugby team who thoroughly deserved this hard earned victory in a very tense and exciting final at Weston RFC.

On a bitterly cold evening with a biting wind both teams treated the large crowd of parents, teachers, family and friends to one of the most memorable finals this competition has ever seen. The level of commitment skill and sportsmanship displayed by both teams was outstanding and served as a fine example of all the best attributes that school sport can produce.

Ralph Allen started well and attacked Kings at every opportunity using their three quarters who had real pace and moved the ball well. However there was simply no way through the Wessex defence as the whole team tackled like demons. One brilliant last ditch tackle by fullback Doug Watson on their winger when he seemed certain to score summed up the first half. Eventually Ralph Allen had to settle for a well taken drop goal as this seemed the only way the Kings defence could be breached – a psychological blow had been struck and the tide was about to turn.

The second half saw Kings come into their own as their confidence grew and they started to dominate possession. Excellent forward play with a mixture of rolling mauls and short pops constantly put Ralph Allen on to the back foot and pushed Kings close to the opposition line. Despite some penetrating runs from the backs and some powerful bursts from the pack the Ralph Allen defence stood firm and Kings were held up on numerous occasions. Obviously the pressure was beginning to tell as Ralph Allen gave away a series of penalties in desperate attempts to kill the ball. Owen Howell and Tom Merry calmly stepped up and slotted two kicks to put us 6 – 3 up with less than ten minutes to play.

Those last agonising minutes seemed like a lifetime as Ralph Allen rallied in a desperate attempt to get back in front. However the Kings defence proved impenetrable with tackle after tackle being successfully made. In the fourth minute of injury time disaster struck, Ralph Allen was awarded a penalty in kicking distance to level the game. You could have heard a pin drop as the Ralph Allen fly half prepared to kick with anxious players and spectators almost unable to look. Fortunately the kick was pulled across the face of the posts and the cup was ours by the narrowest of margins, a deserved victory even if I am slightly biased!

If ever a group of boys deserved this achievement then it was our year 11. Their level of commitment and the training they put in leading up to the final, despite the demands of coursework and the vagaries of the weather, was outstanding. We are very proud of them, congratulations boys.

SOMERSET STATE SCHOOLS RUGBY UNDER 14 CUP FINAL

WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2001

KINGS OF WESSEX v WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE LOST 35 – 0

Considering this final took place during a torrential downpour in a mud bath at Bridgwater Albion RFC, the standard of play by both teams deserves great praise.

Having worked so hard to get to the final Kings can consider themselves unfortunate to come up against a VERY LARGE, powerful and talented West Somerset side. However Kings gave a very good account of themselves and made their opposition earn their victory right to the final whistle.

Passion, spirit, commitment and determination best sum up Kings performance as they made tackle after tackle picked themselves up and came fighting back whatever West Somerset threw at them. Many professional teams could learn a great deal from the manner in which no player gave up or dropped their heads even when all seemed lost. This was best characterised in the final minutes when, despite the score line, Kings camped in West Somerset's 22 and desperately attacked their line to the death.

Congratulations year 9 on reaching the final you should feel proud of your achievements – we certainly are.

SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

It was great to see so many students from all year groups taking part in this years tournaments. The standard of play was very pleasing, especially in the finals, and all matches were played in a wonderful spirit. Thank you to all those students who took part and congratulations to the winners, results were as follows :

COMPETITION	WINNER (S)	RUNNER(S) UP
SQUASH (Mixed)	Jilly Newbery	Kieran Fontaine
TABLETENNIS (Girls)	Holly Woszczyk	Hannah Lattey
TABLETENNIS (Boys)	Robbie Fortune	Peter Fowler
BADMINTON SINGLES (Girls)	Jane Laney	Claire Laney
BADMINTON DOUBLES (Girls)	Claire Laney Hannah Lattey	Jilly Newbery Holly Woszczyk
BADMINTON SINGLES (Boys)	Ben Garfitt	Robbie Fortune
BADMINTON DOUBLES (Boys)	Ben Garfitt Mike Edmonds	Robbie Fortune Chris Garley

House Matches – Results

- ❖ Junior Girls Hockey – Winners – Tintagel
- ❖ Junior Boys Football – Final – Camelot 2 v 0 Lyonesse
- ❖ Junior Girls Netball – Final – Avalon 10 v 0 Camelot

Senior Football and Netball Tournaments played in the last week of term. Therefore, results not available at time of going to press.

Netball

The 2nd VII have had a positive season in terms of team spirit and enthusiasm. The team in general were excellent at turning up to practice's, and never failed to work hard to improve. An early injury to Catherine Grant left the team without a shooter which caused problems. U15 and U14 shooters were always ready to fill in and give of their best. The team had a few good wins against Sidcot and Wells Cathedral, and a very narrow loss against a very strong Sexeys Bruton team. In this game their spirit showed by pulling back the score to a one goal difference. Esther Parfitt captained the team well and helped to create good team spirit.

U15 VII

A mixed season with some fixtures being cancelled owing to the weather and the foot and mouth issue.

The squad in general have worked very hard to overcome early season problems, and by the end had definitely improved general passing and court play. A notable early win against Churchill gave the squad confidence as did a narrow win over a strong St Dunstan's side. After that the U15's struggled against a very strong Wells Cathedral team which discouraged the team for a while. However, with extra practices and determination, they beat Sidcot 10-1 which restored their faith and well done to Hannah Searle who captained the team efficiently and well.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a large amount of accumulated lost property: including fleeces, scarves, hats, mobiles, walkmans etc.

Please collect any lost items *before the end of the first week back after Easter*. The Lost Property office (c/o the Caretakers) will be *open at break and lunch times only on Wednesday, 25th and Thursday, 26th April*.

Any items not collected by this date will be disposed of to Charity Shops and Recycling units

Computers for Schools!



Please hand in TESCO vouchers! Their scheme runs until 8th April 2001. One voucher is issued for each £10 spent in any TESCO store or for petrol. Hand them to tutors or IT Suite as soon as possible, thanks.

Linda Geary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL		
Saturday	7th	Easter Holiday
Sunday	22nd	
Monday	23 rd	Summer Term begins
Monday	30 th	Parents Careers Surgery 4-6 pm
MAY		
Tuesday	1 st	Year 9 National Test Briefing – 9.00 am in Main Hall
Wednesday	2 nd	Y12/Y13 Examination Briefing for students 9.00 am in the Main Hall
Friday	4 th	Y11 GCSE Examination Briefing – 9.00 am in Main Hall
Monday	7th	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday	8 th	<i>KS3 National Tests:</i> English – am/pm
Wednesday	9 th	
Friday	11 th	<i>KS3 National Tests:</i> Sciences – am/pm
Monday	14 th	
Thursday	10 th	Year 10 Examinations start <i>(no Y10 examinations Fri 11th – normal timetable)</i> Examinations recommence Monday 14 th Year 10 Examinations finish
to Friday	18 th	
Friday	18 th	Year 11 Record of Achievement Ceremony/ Year 11 Study leave begins
Monday	21 st	GCSE Examinations commence
Tuesday	22 nd	Year 13 Study Leave begins AS/A Level Examinations commence
Saturday	26th	Half Term Holiday
Sunday	3rd	
June : Mon 11th – Fri 15th		Year 10 Work Experience Week

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.