



The King's Messenger

THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL *A Specialist Technology College*

Dear Parents and Friends

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

In the first edition of The King's Messenger this school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new parents.

Students in Year 9 have settled extremely well into the school. I have received many favourable comments about the progress they are beginning to make. Students in Year 10 and Year 12 have also settled well into their new courses.

On the 1st September we officially became a Specialist Technology College. This really is an exciting development for the school, not only in terms of additional funding, but also the exciting benefits that lie ahead. Plans are already well advanced for the construction of our new Manufacturing Centre which will be able to house our new computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing equipment. Work to develop our school Intranet is also well under way. The new ICT suite will open in Mathematics at the start of the new half term and an IT suite housing Modern Languages will be open before Christmas. New courses are set to be introduced in IT, Science and Design Technology.

A successful Awards Evening was held early in September. It was wonderful to join together with parents and members of the community to celebrate the success of so many of our students. I am most grateful that our MP, the Rt. Hon. David Heathcoat-Amory was able to be with us to present the awards. Sadly the date of the Awards Evening, September 11th, will be etched on our minds; as a school we joined with the nation in 3 minutes silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the destruction of the World Trade Centre. These are difficult times which have created some anxiety among our

students. Our thoughts and prayers go to all those who have lost loved ones in this tragedy.

At the time of writing, a group of our students are visiting our partner school in Prague. The school has a successful exchange with Prague. We look forward to hearing about how the exchange went on the students' return. Earlier in the term we welcomed a group from our partner school in Felsberg, Germany. They had an enjoyable stay and benefited greatly from the experience. I am most grateful to the families for hosting these students.

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the number of children who are taking time off in term time for family holidays, often without informing the school. Absence from school can have a detrimental affect on the performance of students in examinations and we ask all parents to consider carefully any request for children to be taken out of school for holidays. Holidays should whenever possible be taken out of term time. In advance of holidays in school time, parents are required to complete a holiday form, requesting permission for their child's leave of absence. These should be returned to your child's year co-ordinator a minimum of two weeks before the proposed departure date. Time taken for holidays should also be limited to a maximum of two weeks in any one year.

Finally, a reminder that the school will be closed to students on Friday 26th October for staff training day and will reopen to students on the 5th November following the half term break. Our Year 10 parents evening will be held on Wednesday 7th November between 5pm and 8 pm.

Yours sincerely

Chris Richardson
Headteacher

AWARDS EVENING : SUBJECT AWARDS

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Creative Writing Award | Jennifer Wainwright |
| Lindsay Award for Textiles | Laura Hughes-Caley/Emily Whitehead |
| Maple Leaf Cup for Art | Edward Olive/Hannah Smith |
| Richard Barnes Drama Cup | Oliver Seviour/Gemma Hole |
| Best Actor | Joseph Hincks |
| Best Actress | Melanie Froud |
| Jubilee Baton for Music | Katherine Jones |
| Richard Chinn Music Shield | Robert Mackenzie |
| Suzanne Wallis Cup for Music | Catherine Madely |
| Arnold Hill Cup for RE | Jennifer Tungate/Hannah Lingard |
| Gesamtschule Felsberg German Award | Laurie Deans |
| French Award | Louisa Harper/Rachel Warren |
| Lanes of Cheddar DT Award | Joanne Wright |
| Peter Corrick Computer Award | Daniel Coe/Neil Scrivens |
| Richard Cox Gough for Girls Sport (Deanes Award) | Louise Smith |
| Ryder Cup for Boys Sport (Deanes Award) | Adam Kotas |
| Peter Reeve Cup for Best Footballer | Thomas Manning |
| Mathematics Award | Samantha Percival |
| Science Award | Gemma Scott |
| Geography Award | Jacob Laken |
| History Award | Jessica Thompson |
| SPECIAL AWARDS AND CUPS | |
| Downey Cup for Service to the School | Senior Team |
| National Westminster Bank Cup for Persistence/Determination | Louisa Cosh/Simon Palusinski |
| Andrew Nicholson for Contribution | Richard King |
| Jill James Cup for Enthusiasm | Christopher Franklin |
| Jennings Cup for Character | Hannah Kemp |
| Hardy Award for Good Citizenship | Laura Taylor |
| The Kings of Wessex Shield for Showing all of the above qualities | William Stephens |
| Learning Resource Centre Award for Service to the LRC | Matthew Talbot |
| Community School Award for Service to the Community | Mike Gardner |
| The Kings of Wessex Old Student of the Year Award | Bill Matthews |
| Peter Bubbear Cup for Courage | Clare Reeve |

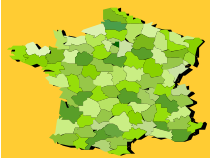
Modern Foreign Languages



Willkommen



Guten Tag



Bienvenue



Bonjour

Le Village est devenu plus petit!

Das Dorf wird immer kleiner

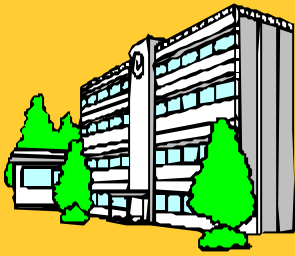
This Autumn Term, the Modern Languages Faculty returned to find that the long awaited demolition of the two dilapidated classrooms, L5 and HU1, had finally taken place. "Hut Village" (as it is known to those who brave the wind and rain to the outskirts of the school boundaries to teach their classes), now consists of the Language Faculty and the Psychology Department as our History and RE colleagues are now accommodated in the main school.

Not to be outdone, we had our own little reshuffle within the "Village" and now look forward to our own ICT room which is to be equipped with 32 computers by Christmas. In the meantime we have gained another interactive whiteboard. Our new Year 9 students have become quite entertained by objects whizzing across the screen with words in the foreign language shooting in all directions. Such was the impact that even parents attending our recent Open Days stood agog and mesmerised by these new technological developments – a far cry from reciting "amo, amas, amat...." from text books in the old days.... Our students are certainly experiencing new dimensions to language learning at KOW.

This term we were delighted to welcome Miss Guest to the Language Faculty. She joins us from a background in industry, having worked in companies exporting to Germany. We have the added bonus that she is accomplished in both the modern languages taught at KOW.

She will not only be teaching German to A Level but French to GCSE standard – a valuable asset in today's society when schools and universities are turning out fewer and fewer dual linguists. We look forward to working with her in the future months.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, the Faculty is planning a number of study trips for our Year 12 and 13 students who are embarking on the AS and A2 courses. These courses are aimed at helping students develop learning strategies and exam techniques to enhance their performance in the summer examinations. In addition it is also hoped that we will be sending a small group of able-Germanists in Year 9 to the popular Kilde Study Course in December where they will experience innovative ways of developing their language skills. The German Department is also in the throes of planning for this year's Cheddar-Felsberg Exchange. All students who have embarked on a German course of study are encouraged to take part in this valuable cultural experience. They will not only have the possibility of staying with families and observing the differences between the two educational systems but also have the ideal opportunity to develop their language skills. More details will be announced to students after the half term break.



Herzlich Willkommen bei der Kings of Wessex Schule



"I'm not just here to learn the English language, but also about the people, their thinking and their way of life."



This Academic Year we have had great pleasure in welcoming two students from Berlin who are undertaking a year's study in Year 12 before resuming their education in Germany. It is always a difficult time adjusting to a new

school but they have also had to adjust to a new culture and attend lessons in a language other than their mother tongue. They have thoroughly impressed staff and peers with the ease at which they have adapted to school life and with their mature and positive

attitude to their studies. At the end of the year they will be each be sitting 4 AS Levels and one complete A Level. They are a credit to their parents and their German Schools. Here are Lola Kord and Ngoc Schneeweiss with their impressions of life at the Kings of Wessex.

One year in Cheddar



Imagine you were about to spend one school year in another country. How would you feel...?

I, for one was really nervous... I had no idea what this next year would bring. During my last weeks in Berlin, Germany, (where I actually live), I was just a complete bag of nerves... I didn't know anyone over here, I didn't know the school, I didn't know anything... So since I arrived, I have been greatly impressed by people's kindness here... Without exception, everyone is unbelievably friendly.

As for the Kings of Wessex School, it is really huge...! I have never seen such a big school before. The students here are very lucky – one huge advantage is having access to so many resources in the LRC the really big advantage is the Learning Resource Centre. The students are privileged to have their own common room, use of the Leisure

Centre and many other facilities.

Although many teachers seem to like giving homework, actually time at school is much more relaxing and more fun than in Germany... Sixth Form students in Germany have to study at least 8 different subjects and attend a minimum of 6 or 7 lessons a day. On the other hand German students do not have to sit those big exams set by exam boards at the end of the term. Instead we perform several exams during the course of the year.

All things considered, the time in England has already brought me a lot of experience. I'm not just here to learn the English language, but also about the people, their thinking and their way of life. It really is a unique experience.

*Ngoc Matthias Schneeweiss
(12GR)*





Berlin comes to Cheddar.



This wasn't to be my first time visit to England, therefore I was slightly familiar with the English way of life. When I first arrived, I spent a few days with my aunt in her London home. Then I came to Cheddar – what a shock for a city girl.. Please imagine, you have been living in Berlin for 10 years, make a short séjour in London and then make your final destination a small village in Somerset. But very quickly I started to feel very comfortable and relaxed. It is a lovely and quiet place with lots of families.

On the 4th September I went to my new school which looked quite big at first. I was a few minutes late so I was a little worried about making the wrong impression. But I was immediately brought from one new face to another and introduced to my tutor and her group.

Everything was running smoothly but then we had to walk to

different rooms to complete our timetable. This was really strange for me, because in Germany all students receive their timetable from the school office. But there were many friendly students who helped me with my timetable. The next day I went to my new lessons and everything went well. I was glad I had no problems understanding teachers and the students. All in all, I can say I had a good start.

Kings is much better than my German school. It is so modern and there are so many opportunities for the students. I had a library in my German school but it is no comparison with the LRC which is so well equipped and resourced.

One other fact I've noticed is that the teachers are really friendly. One funny point is that if you are in the Sixth Form you have much more freedom and teachers seem to treat you more with respect in comparison with

the younger ones. Hopefully, when I go back to Germany next year, the teachers will be the same.

In England, students have to study far less subjects than A Level students in Germany but the courses here are more intensive. On the other hand, I like the fact that you don't have to study Maths and Science beyond GCSE. In Germany, Maths and one other Science subject are compulsory in the Sixth Form. In England I spend more time on all my school and homework than I've ever done in Germany.

As a last word, I can say the students at KOW have many more advantages, much more fun and a good time. I really don't think I will want to leave in the Summer but I've spoken to my German school and they want me back. So I am going to enjoy my time as much as possible.

Lola Kord (12GR)



The Loire Atlantique Mini-Assistant Scheme

This year some of our Year 12 AS Level French students will be participating in the "Mini-Assistant Scheme." They will be spending ten days in primary schools in the Loire Atlantique area where they will be teaching English as a foreign language. The students will stay with teachers and other members of the community, thus giving them the ideal opportunity to practise their spoken French. It is anticipated that this event will take place

before Easter. In November French students will also be staying in the Cheddar Valley on the "Mini Assistant Scheme." They will be based in Draycott First School, Axbridge First School, Cheddar First School and Fairlands Middle School. This is the first time that Somerset will receive French Mini-Assistants and we feel sure that the schools involved will greatly benefit from their visit.



Specialist Technology College Developments

In our first term as a Specialist Technology College we are already enjoying the benefits of this award.

Mr Stephen Lambern has joined us from Strode College as our Network Manager, looking after the computer networks in the school. We are grateful to him for the work completed so far, especially the work done in making printing much more efficient on the networks.

Mr Graham Pugh is working as Intranet Technician, developing on-line learning resources for the school's Intranet. In addition he is working as part of our community programme developing, the "IT for the Terrified" website (IT training in The George Inn, Wedmore) and a website for the schools of the Cheddar Valley (more of which in future newsletters).

Appointments have been made in Science and Mathematics of "Work Related Learning Co-ordinators" whose role it is to develop the business and industrial dimensions of the curriculum.

For the community Information Communications Technology (ICT) developments we have appointed two part-time tutors and a technician. These people are based in the Kings of Wessex Leisure Centre's new ICT suite, but have a responsibility to support ICT programmes in the Cheddar Valley, in particular the "IT for the Terrified" facility in Wedmore, St Michael's Cheshire Home in Axbridge and into the future our first schools.

Simon Williams
Assistant Headteacher
Technology College Manager

The planning process for our major capital works are now well in hand with designs being submitted now to the planning authority for a new classroom to be built in the courtyard area between Science and Design & Technology. The school recognises the need to build into their curriculum up to date subjects, methods and resources, especially in the technological subjects. Designation as a Specialist Technology College has provided the financial resources to deliver these curriculum changes. In addition to government funding we have been successful in attracting sponsorship totalling £53,000 from a variety of sources including national and local engineering companies.

In the audit process of writing their bid, we identified the poor quality of accommodation and resourcing in Design & Technology as a particular weakness. To address this we have proposed an exciting expansion of their facilities to provide a new Manufacturing & Design Centre. In this centre we will teach Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing. The design of this new classroom space covers two thirds of the courtyard space with a high-tech arching, low profile roof structure. The design is inspirational to the students who will use it, demonstrating as it does the use of materials and technology to overcome design problems in an aesthetically pleasing way.

The new classroom space will enable our students to enjoy an up to date curriculum in state of the art facilities, learning and developing skills essential for national success in our technological 21st Century.

Technology College Status-Technology Faculty

Since we received the fantastic news about The Kings of Wessex attaining Technology College Status, all staff involved have been working hard to make this exciting venture a success.

Technology status will give students, staff & the Community the chance to have a wide range of opportunities, the Technology Faculty will benefit greatly, with the most noticeable change occurring this year with the building of the Manufacturing Centre. Plans are being produced by the Architects & myself, to ensure that a versatile space will be created to house CNC (computer numerically controlled) equipment. Without the funding, meeting the new examination specifications would have been impossible.

For the next academic year (2002-2003) the fund will ensure the refurbishment of the old Resistant Materials areas, this will include enlarging the existing space & creating a more conducive environment.

One aspect of Technology College Status, which you can help us with is Links with Industry. If you are involved in a Technological area & can donate time to assist with group discussions, work placements for students or staff & industrial visits please contact me at school.

The timetable will be restructured next year to increase student contact time from 8.3% to 10% in years 9, 10 & 11, allowing students to experience the new technologies which will be available to them.

Links with partner schools will be increased, so that students & staff from other establishments will have the opportunity to experience the new facilities, sharing good practice & knowledge.

The range of subjects available to all students will be broadened & over the first phase this will include the introduction of Control, Textiles, Vocational Manufacturing & AS Food Technology.

Above are the main developments that will happen in relation to the Technology Faculty. The fund also provides additional staff, time for training and availability of resources to students.

Throughout the year I will keep you posted on the developments taking place in the Technology Faculty.

Shireen Pascoe
Head of Technology Faculty

***Extra!** After half term, there will be the opportunity for students to complete their homework immediately after school in Learning Support on two nights a week: Tuesday 4-5 pm and Thursday 4-5 pm. All students are welcome. We can offer a friendly, quiet place to work, with help if needed, plus the opportunity to use computers*



Technology Faculty Resources

To help students understand how products are designed, made & constructed we require items that students can analyse.

If you have any suitable items that are cluttering up your attic space or under your stairs that you no longer require, the Technology Faculty will be able to give them a new home.

Appropriate objects such as telephones (including mobiles), hair dryers, lamps, kitchen gadgets, irons etc, would be suitable.

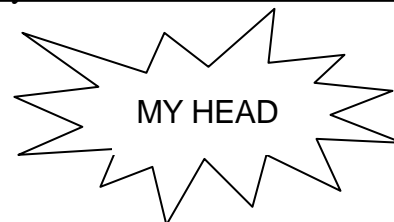
These items should be non-returnable as they might be disassembled, so that the internal workings can be viewed.

If you can assist us with this matter, please ask your son or daughter to bring them to the Technology Faculty.

Thank you
Shireen Pascoe
Head of Technology Faculty

English Trip 2001

- Llangorse Rope Centre
Llangorse Primary School
Presentations
- Brecon Town
Lunch by the park
Abergavenny Church – Gravestone analysis
Major Workload
Supper, Football match
Work till 12
- Tired, Go-home



In September 2001, the Year 12 English Language went on the annual residential trip to Wales. We went to the small town of Llangorse in the Brecon Beacons for a three day, action-packed English course.

Much excitement. We left at 9.30 Monday morning, all crammed into the minibus with bags precariously positioned in piles in the gaps between the seats.

After a long and cramped journey filled with the entertainment of some of the girls “singing”, we arrive. We unpacked our bags, unloaded the vast collection of cakes, and settled down for our first briefing.

Mid-way through our first afternoon we left for the Llangorse Primary school, to read to the children and record their responses. After many heart melting conversations and being taught a bit of Welsh, we said our goodbyes and headed back to the house. For the next couple of hours we studied the aspects of language used by the children and presented our findings to the rest of the group. After a nice meal and a short reading of ‘Under Milkwood’, we went to bed, suitably amused with Mr Bennett’s ‘Welsh’ accent!

Having got little sleep, we got up at 8am and sat down to eat a delicious fried breakfast. After the expected cake binge and a briefing for our task for the day, we headed out into Brecon and started on our task to compile a tour guide that would take a visitor around the countryside. After compiling our guides, we got back in the minibus and headed over to Abergavenney church. Here our task was to write down captions from gravestones, some of which dated back to the 15th century. We also

found several examples of graffiti from this era. On returning to the hostel we had a game of football, boys versus girls, which the boys won thanks to Mr Bennett’s 35 yard strike. Despite several dodgy tackles from the girls and their claims that they had “won” the game, (I don’t think they understand the scoring system in football very well), we retired back inside the hostel for post match drinks and a well received roast dinner.

After we had another briefing and had talked about what we had found out during the day, we set about compiling our guides to Brecon in both audio and written form. We finished this by about midnight and retired to bed and tried to get some sleep. We got up about 7.30am the next day and immediately had breakfast, followed by a briefing, presentation of the previous day’s work and another cake session. Despite several peoples desperate pleas to stay, we eventually had to go and after two hours, several toilet stops and a couple of renditions of the Lion King from the girls, we arrived home.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs Dourneen, Miss Anderson and Mr Bennett.

Article written by Tom Hipwell, Mike Green and Rob Scanlon.

English Trip to Wales (Hannah Latty)

As the wet wind lashed out, the sky murmured and rolled and cried and moaned for the countryside. Its land wept leaving the mist to cling and wrap round the surrounding forests. When vapours rolling down the valleys made a lonely scene more lonesome. The horses, thought unkept and worn stood indefinitely still. The puddles collated together becoming one, provoking screams from the young children. Challenging the depth and murkiness of the water. The clouds brewed and overlooked the green and very much alive trees. For the trees were overgrown, wild and at times even offensive. A duck splashed violently into the lake. The not-so-alone tormented souls clattered and chattered, excited yelps echoed. Countryside disturbed by the conversational habits.

‘Shall we play crystal maze’, or ‘Perhaps we should go to the café; my hair is getting wet’

The reeds bowed their heads dramatically and a wild cot dived from base to base. As if with voluntary power instinct upreared its head. Its white forehead revealing the only vibrant aspect of this thundery day. The curvaceous and rounded edges of the atmospheric views softened moods. The grass wrapped around ankles and twined themselves among the multitude and dampened spirits somewhat. The reflection created by the lake expressed its loss of the summer afternoon and the sun itself. It now had to fight the short day alone and, the long night, it proved defeat.



This Term's Theme : Texture and Form

The GCSE and A-level results were excellent this year, reflecting hard work by both students and staff. The range of work included sculpture, textiles, painting and drawing. The A-level final exhibition gave students an opportunity to show their work to its best. Textiles in particular came in for positive praise from the examiner, who described the work as exceptional.

All A-level students have gained places on foundation courses, and some on to degree

courses. A number this year have chosen Bristol University (Bower Ashton). The GCSE results showed a pass rate of grades A-C at 63%.

Miss Thorogood took a group of students to the Knitting and Stitching Show in London. This is a very popular visit and is beneficial in terms of generating ideas for students own work. It also helps them with their critical and contextual studies.

The Draycott Charities

Educational Grants are available for children who live in "the hamlet of Draycott". They may be given for such things as music lessons, sports activities, trips, books and equipment etc. They are not available to supplement the cost of transport, or for ski

trips. Parents may apply on behalf of their children, although letters from the students themselves are particularly welcome. Letters of application must be received by the Clerk and Treasurer, Mrs H M Dance by NO LATER THAN 19th November 2001.

For those interested, please contact:

Mrs H M Dance, Clerk and Treasurer
The Draycott Charities
Leighurst
The Street
Draycott
Cheddar
Somerset BS27 3TH Tel: 01934 742811

Home-Start Sedgemoor

Volunteer Recruitment Drive

Volunteers with good parenting experience required

Can you spare 3-4 hours a week?

Home-Start Sedgemoor is a voluntary organization that supports families under stress in their own homes. The scheme was set up in 1995 and now has 36 volunteers working for Home-Start. More volunteers in North Sedgemoor especially are needed to

visit families on the waiting list who live in rural areas.

Training and support will be given, as well as expenses paid.

If you are able to help, please contact Penny Stevenson, Home-Start Sedgemoor on 01278 445022

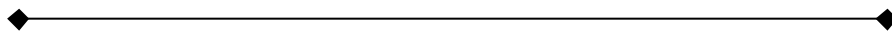


Geography Visit to Exmoor

Year 12 Geography students spent a day on Exmoor on 8th October. They followed a small river, Horner Water, from its source high up on Dunkery Beacon to its mouth at Bossington. Working in small groups students took a number of measurements at several sampling points. These included velocity cross sectional area and bedload characteristics. Analysis of their results will contribute to the 'Fluvial Processes' unit currently being studied and will help prepare them for a practical skills paper in time. Some members of the group returned to the vicinity on Tuesday for a 4-day Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition.

Y10 Students visit Brean Year 10 Geography students were overwhelmed with excitement at the prospect of a field visit to Brean Beach in early October. Well, perhaps the excitement was imagined – it was October rather than July.

The visit involved observation and sketching a number of coastal features, both on the beach and from the top of Brean Down. The location also gave a great opportunity to examine sea defences and to look at wider coastal management issues, including the efforts of tourism. All Year 10 Geography students were involved in the visits, and they now have available first hand material to support their 'Coastlines' GCSE visit.

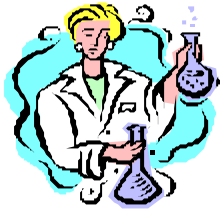


Creative Arts Faculty .. bytes and bits

- Congratulations to all examination students: the results across the Faculty were extremely impressive, and we look forward to building on this firm foundation. Comments received from the moderators of the coursework, particularly in Art, were 'glowing', and they used such phrases as "the work was inspiring" and "the level of commitment of both students and staff was superb". Well done all!!
- Rehearsals for the forthcoming show are well under way. The level of performing and commitment to the work has already impressed the Staff, and we look forward to finishing off Act 1 next week.
- Year 9 students within our Faculty have settled down very well, and are working well overall.
- The Orchestra is growing in numbers by the week, and I should like to publicly thank those regular attenders.

New students are always welcome, as are those in the 6th form (ex GCSE students?). So come along on Tuesday lunchtime and join in the fun. We have a very full programme of extra-curricular events coming up and Mr Johnson needs your support.

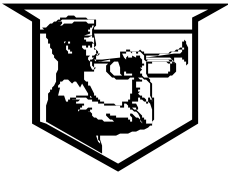
Here's a handy reminder of the plans so far – until the end of term!!!! Please attend rehearsal regularly and catch any updates as they arise.



Science Faculty

Science in September welcomed a whole new Psychology Department in teachers: Margaret Marsland (subject co-ordinator) and Isobel Edwards. Roger Lovell joined us as Physics Technician but unfortunately, he is leaving at half term to go back to Research. If someone reading this has any interest in this post, please get in touch.

It is Science Year this year so we are hoping to arrange several activities in the near future. Watch this space! Please log on to www.scienceyear.com for information on activities occurring outside school.



Remembrance – during the week 5th November (just after half term)

Once again, we will be holding two morning services in the school hall to commemorate those who died in the world wars. Mr Targett (History) leads these, and we play

the hymn 'Abide with me'. And, perhaps another (simple) piece which I'll let you know about in due course.



Christmas : Orchestra Needed!

Usually a busy time!

4th December (Tuesday) ... to play in a joint evening of Christmas celebration at Fairlands School .. 7.30pm.

5th December (Wednesday) ... the PTA organize an evening of Music/Drama/Dance etc. and the orchestra supplies the carols 7.30pm

12th December (Wednesday) ... 9am Church service ... St Andrew's Church
6.30pm Carols round the Christmas tree in Cheddar medical center

13th December (Thursday) ... 9am Church Service ... St Andrew's Church

We also play Carols at Wedmore Church (St Marys) and at Weare Church (for the First School) but dates for these are as yet not fixed.

Please contact the Music Master!

Jen Wainwright (IICG) has won the most prestigious *Simon Elvin Young Poet of the Year Award*. She and the 14 other winners will go on a week's creative writing course at the Arnon Foundation, Lumb Bank. Her winning poem – 'Wanderings' is reproduced here:

'Wanderings'

And next door
At number 30
A pig-tailed six year old
Freckled and "angelic"
Thinks of dolls houses
Chocolate
And a world take over bid

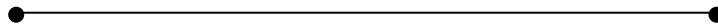
The moon
Hangs in the sky
As you walk
Through the sheeting drizzle
Glinting in the light
Cast from pink streetlights
Suspended down the nameless street

They live
In cardboard-fronted houses

Their heads, filled with candyfloss
dreams
And low-fat mayonnaise
As they lie
Fantasy upon fantasy
Flit

The golden girl
Thoughts full
Of plasticised figures
On a mound of nauseating white
Icing, and chiffon swirl
In a spiraling dream

The flickering street lamps fizz
And die
As you walk through the sheeting
drizzle
Hells click on the polished tarmac



PTA CHRISTMAS Cabaret **Wednesday 5th December 7.30pm**

Join us for a fun packed evening of drama, dance, music, poetry and prose.

Just the thing to get you into the festive spirit! Tickets will include dinner. They will be on sale shortly after half term.

Donations for raffle prizes would be appreciated, please leave them at the school office.

SPORTS NEWS

U15 Hockey The team are settling in together as we progress into the term. A disastrous game against an excellent Taunton school side shook the team. However, this has made the team more determined and we have been successful against St. Dunstons, Chew Valley and have enjoyed a 3-1 win against Wells Cathedral school. There has been some excellent play on the forward line with Abby Fisher, Emma Grant and Becky

Walker. A Change of formation at the back is now looking stronger and more confident.

County Cup matches have started and the team faced Buckler Mead from Yeovil in the first round. A shock goal by Buckler Mead in the first 5 minutes pushed Kings into action and by half time we were 2-1 ahead. A flurry of goals half way through the second half saw kings emerge as 9-1 winners. An excellent start for the team hoping to make it through to the semi-finals.

The 2nd 11 this year is captained by Catherine Grant. The team have been successful in the majority of their fixtures so far facing one defeat in the first game of the season against Taunton school. They have been dominant in their other fixtures against Chew Valley, St. Dunstons and an impressive 5-0 win over Sidcot. The fixture against Chew

Valley was very competitive; the King's defence were constantly under pressure but deserved to hold on to their lead. Esther Parfitt has emerged as an excellent back in the team always encouraging her team players. A second fixture against Sidcot saw Kings emerge as 10-0 winners.

Community Sports Leader Awards

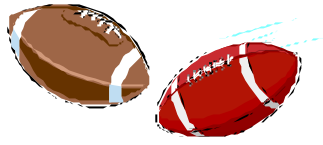
The Sports Leader Awards are designed to encourage people to volunteer to become coaches and organisers of sport in their communities. The scheme is designed to help people of all ages to develop their sporting interests so they are better qualified when volunteering themselves as coaches and organisers. It also makes it possible for participants to develop their own self-confidence and leadership abilities.

Year 12 students participate in this scheme and are helping a variety of clubs and sporting

activities in the Cheddar Valley. For example; Gemma Filer, Esther Parfitt, Natalie Trudgian and Rosie Steele are helping to coach netball players taking part in the Active Sport England programme. Rob Scanlon and Ben Latty are teaching year 4 football at Shipham 1st School. Other students participating in the scheme are Dave Garbett, Katie Madly, Hannah Latty, Claire Laney and Emily Woodward. Once candidates have completed the course they will receive a British Sports Trust certificate.

Trampoline Club

Trampoline club meets every Thursday lunchtime. Around 20 year 9 students are involved and emphasis is on basic moves and building into routines. There will be opportunities to do a BTF proficiency award. The PE department hope to run a House trampoline competition after half-term.



Senior rugby at The Kings of Wessex is once again looking extremely strong and promising much over the coming weeks. The 1st XV led by Adam Kotas, have already displayed excellent commitment to training and have given a fine account of themselves so far.

A resounding victory over Backwell by 7 tries to 1 was followed by a trip to Bristol Grammar School where we were rather surprised to meet a Bristol team containing virtually all 1st Team players. Having easily beaten their 2nds last year, they were obviously taking our challenge very seriously. The match was refereed by International Referee, Ed Morrison which was a wonderful experience for the boys. A last minute converted try gave a rather flattering look to the final score – a 19-7 defeat. The Kings players, however, were commended by both ref and opposition coach at the passion and pace at which we played

the game. There were plenty of positives to take from the game including an outstanding performance from Mike Denbee at No. 8.

Another tough fixture followed in the form of Wells Cathedral with whom we drew last year. Again, a close game, but this time we hung on for a fine 15-10 win with young Tom Corbett grabbing the vital last score.

The 1st XV's next fixtures are against Churchill and Chew Valley, but make a note in your diaries for the 1st XV vs Old Boys game on Monday 17th December at 2.15pm. Parents and ex students are most welcome to attend.

At 2nd XV level, our strength in depth has been proved with fine wins over Wells Blue and Sidcot 1st team and a 22-7 defeat against Bristol Grammar 2nds.

Congratulations to Mike Denbee, Phil White and Iain Walters on their selection for Somerset. Well done boys!



Junior Rugby Year 9

Year 9 have made an encouraging start to their first season at The Kings of Wessex. It was great to see over 30 boys attending trails at the start of term and to see so many talented performers on display.

They were unlucky to come up against a strong Backwell team in their first match and despite losing 34-24 they gave a good account of themselves.

The sign of a good team is how they respond to defeat and adversity and the year 9 squad bounced back with a vengeance with a 50-0 demolition of local rivals Churchill. This was a display of 15-man attacking rugby with slick passing, elusive running and good support play being the order of the day.

This was followed by an epic encounter with a dogged Wells Blue team that went to the wire. Kings made a promising start and quickly went two tries up only to switch off at the end of

Year 10

Year 10 have had a difficult start to the season with injuries and a group of last year's squad disappointingly deciding not to play this year. However, such is the strength in depth at The Kings of Wessex, that there are still over 20 boys attending training.

Kings gave an encouraging performance in their opening game against Backwell winning a keenly

the half allowing Wells to level the scores.

In the second half Kings struggled to turn their possession and territorial advantage into points where as Wells punished every mistake and took all their scoring opportunities to lead 25-19 with 3 minutes to go!

However, year 9 showed great determination and commitment to battle back with a late try to narrow the gap to 25-24. Then disaster struck as Kings were caught cold from the kick off and Wells went over to increase their lead to 32-24. This startled Kings into action and just when defeat seemed imminent they scored two fantastic late tries to sneak home 36-32 winners.

This was a well deserved victory that showed great character and a never say die spirit that will stand Year 9 in good stead in future matches. Well done boys!!

fought contest 20-0. This was followed by a tough encounter with local rivals Churchill where despite a valiant effort they narrowly lost 24-21 in a match which could have gone either way.

In the first round of the Somerset cup with a team heavily depleted with injuries, year 10 gave an excellent account of themselves against Holyrood, Chard. This was a match

played at a high level of performance and with great passion and commitment by both forwards and backs. Eventually Kings were desperately unlucky to go down 18 – 15 having spent the last 5 minutes camped on the Chard line.

Year 10 followed this with a strong performance against Wells Blue where they dominated in every aspect of the game running out 47-0 winners. This victory was fully deserved and showed their true character bouncing back after their two narrow defeats in their previous games.

Year 11 got their season off to a tremendous start with an excellent win in the opening round of the Somerset Cup against a very strong and dangerous West Somerset side.

Kings got off to a flying start and deservedly scored an early try after sustained pressure and good interplay between the forwards and backs. However West Somerset came back strongly and pressurised the Kings line for long periods only to be frustrated by excellent tackling by a dogged Kings defence.

West Somerset eventually broke through early in the second half and it appeared they would take the upper hand. However, Kings rallied and began to assert themselves once again with powerful driving runs and quickly recycled ball opening gaps in the opposition defence. Year 11 scored 3 tries without reply to send West Somerset back on their long journey home with nothing to show for their efforts.

This was followed by a close defeat at Backwell, a team year 11 have never previously lost to. However, not wishing to make excuses, they were without 5 of their usual starting line up. It was a hard physical encounter and there was some good rugby played by Kings, but they lacked a cutting edge to break the determined Backwell defence.

Kings now look forward to the next round of the County cup when we entertain Chilton Trinity from Bridgwater after half term.

It has been great to see so many year 11's featuring heavily in the Senior teams this season and giving very good accounts of themselves – keep it up!!

Congratulations to Tom Corbett
and Nick King for their selection
for the school 1st XV and Somerset
U16. Well done lads!

Football



Somerset Cup, Round 1

Chew Valley 2, Kings 3, after extra time

Newly appointed Kings first team captain, Rob Branch, helped take his new team past the first round of the Somerset cup in a dramatic game away to Chew Valley. Kings found themselves one nil down after 10 minutes when poor defending let in a Valley striker. But from then on Kings bossed the game with Kotas and Branch dominating the midfield.

Kings were under strength for the opening game of the season when Fotheringham was forced to pull out due to an ankle injury. At half time Kings looked frustrated as they failed to find a reply to Chew's early goal. Kev Francis brought Kings back on level terms early on in the second half. Jon Greenhalgh hobbled off mid way through with an ankle injury which saw the introduction of Will Higginbottom who had helped out with a late call up earlier in the day. Francis then scored again to give Kings a 2-1 lead with 10

minutes to go. But Kings wasted more good chances to kill off the game and ended up paying the price when Chew drew level with 5 minutes remaining.

The game went into injury time and Kings found themselves thanking keeper Pete Fowler for some great saves in the dying minutes, as for the whole of the game, Kings dominated and finally got a third break through with five minutes remaining of extra time before penalties. A superb move from defence to midfield found Kotas with time to pick out Tim Moody running from his right back position towards goal, who then made a sweet left footed strike from the edge of the box putting Kings into the second round. A good all round team performance and a well-deserved victory for the team seeing them in the next round to face Beechen Cliff from Bath.

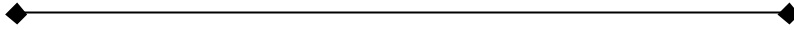
Congratulations to Adam Kotas and Rob Branch who have been selected to play for Somerset Schools Football association U18 this season. Good Luck boys

HOCKEY

House Activities

House captains have now been elected for this term's events which include hockey for boys and girls at both junior and senior level, as well as senior girls basketball and senior and junior rugby.

To date, only the boys senior hockey tournament has been completed with an excellent final played out between Camelot and Lyonesse. Two goals in the last minute saw Lyonesse victorious and it will be captain Sam Dibb who picks up the trophy at final assembly.



The 1st XI have had a really positive start to the hockey season. After a defeat against a strong Taunton school side, the team have pulled together and have worked hard during practices to put things right. The team showed real character during a match against Chew Valley recently when not playing to their usual standard, turned the game around at half

time to eventually win with relative ease. The highest point of the season so far was a 4-1 victory over a strong Wells Cathedral team. This was the team's best performance by far and all players showed excellent commitment and determination. An excellent start and a good team spirit, and the County Cup coming up!

The U14's have had an excellent start to the hockey season winning all games at the point of writing. With so many students attending practices a squad system has been used so that hopefully everybody gets a game at some point.

The Squad has proved to be very skilful and extremely hardworking which has been reflected in many of their score lines. Most noticeable performances to date has been a 7-0 victory over Chew Valley, and a 7-2 victory over St Dunstons.

U16 Girls Soccer vs. Wyvern, Thursday 18th October 2001 : Score 1-1

Although Wyvern Scored early in the first half while The Kings of Wessex girls were settling into their first match, The Kings of Wessex gradually began to dominate the game. Most of the Wyvern attacks were dealt with by efficient marking and solid defensive play from the back of 4, with terminator Kate Williams dealing efficiently with any attempt by Wyvern to penetrate.

Domination of the right wing due to a strong and determined Jess Hambly, together with skilful work in midfield from Hannah Laden and Izzy McCarthy brought the second half to a close with Wyvern struggling to hold back the tide. The injury of Elaina Teare was amply made up for by skilful and thoughtful play from substitute Katie Ward.

The second half was played mostly in Wyvern's half, with any attempts to attack from Wyvern being met by swift, almost frightening breaks from KoW. Katie Rossiter consistently turning any attack attempts by Wyvern into KoW attacks.

KoW pounded a Wyvern team who had now brought back nearly everyone to defence and after a dozen very close misses, KoW scored with a few minutes to go. Although the onslaught continued, the deserved winner did not come. Unfortunately Wyvern won the penalty shoot out.

Woman of the match was deservedly won by Mary Bradley, who dominated in attack with a dazzling array of turns, flicks and strong runs, as well as determined tackling to win the ball.

All in all, a team which may have gone all the way in the cup, but for the fickle twist of fate in a penalty shoot out.