



THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# The Kings' Messenger



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Issue 40 : December 2001

Dear Parents and Friends

At the time of writing, our Charities Week is well under way. Students in our Sixth Form have worked incredibly hard to organise the week's events. These range from *Leg Waxing*; *Record Breakers*; *Comedy Pantomime*; *Autograph Auction*; and, of course, the now infamous *Rock 'n Roll Years*. On Friday evening the Senior Students' Prom will be taking place. All the events are designed to raise money for our three chosen charities this year: **Amnesty International, The National Autistic Society, and Broadway Lodge**. I am pleased to say that there is no sign that I am about to be kidnapped this year, however, I am going "back to the floor" each day, doing a variety of jobs around school. These include working as a dinner lady; caretaker; assistant in the LRC; and a student. I am always impressed by the way in which our students rise to the challenge of fund-raising during Charities week, and am most grateful for the support of parents and the community.

I was delighted with the recent success of our 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the County Cup. For the first time in over 20 years, The Kings of Wessex reached the semi-finals where they beat Gordano. Despite an impressive performance in the finals, Millfield managed to retain the Cup. Congratulations to the team.

Talking of successes, this year's Christmas Cabaret again proved to be a great hit. Sat in the audience, I was very impressed by the talent that so many of our young people displayed in their drama, music, dance and reading.

Shortly after half-term, we began running our Homework Club, named *eXtra*. This takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. in the Learning Support Base. All students are welcome and staff are on hand to provide help and advice on completing homework tasks. Students also have access to IT facilities. There are relatively few students taking up this opportunity at the moment but we hope to see more coming along in the New Year.

On a sad note, our Chair of Governors, Nick Matthews, died suddenly in late November. Nick had been a Governor at the school for ten years, during which time he worked tirelessly to support the school in its work. Nick will, I know, be greatly missed by all who worked with him. We have, of course, expressed our deepest condolences to his family. As a memorial to Nick, we will be naming our new Design & Manufacturing Centre after him, along with an award to be presented at our Annual Awards Evening.

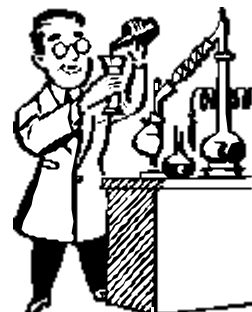
Finally, on behalf of everyone here at The Kings of Wessex, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to 2002 and to another successful year in our work with young people and the community.

Yours sincerely

Chris Richardson  
**Headteacher**

## ***News from the Science Faculty***

It has been a very busy half-term in Science! We have had to survive for a month without a Physics Technician and are extremely grateful to Liz Gruffydd-Jones and Mary Jennings for coming in to help out on their days off. Physics couldn't have functioned without their help. Ron Walker, an experienced Technician, joined Physics at the beginning of December and is settling in well.



We have had Kyrene Lucas, a student from Exeter University, working with us for most of this term and we wish her well as she returns to complete her degree.

Claire Wood is going on maternity leave at the end of term. We wish her well and look forward to her return in the summer. We have been very lucky in being able to appoint Tim Foote, an experienced Physics teacher, to cover for her.

### **‘A’ LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP TO @ BRISTOL**

**Earlier this term, fifteen select Year 12 students travelled to @ Bristol for a conference on plant biotechnology and genetic engineering, called “GOING BANANAS” .**

**They had the morning to gain knowledge on the subject before they had to give a presentation of their views in the afternoon. The lively presentations were given in front of Members of Parliament and high-ranking scientists – a daunting task for anyone! The comments were very encouraging, with the Chair of the meeting saying that**

**the presentations given by The Kings of Wessex students were the best he had seen. High praise indeed!!**

**The view of the students are to be put into a report which will be forwarded to those participating.**

**Overall, a very enjoyable and productive day.**

# ...YOUNG ENTERPRISE ...



This year has seen the formation of three companies from The Kings of Wessex, comprising of students in Year 10.

The companies are: **Eclipse, Clockwork Cactus, and Non-Existent**

All are producing a variety of hand-crafted items such as Calendars, Candles and hand-painted Mugs. They have been hard at work attending local Christmas Fayres – the most recent being a Trade Fayre at Clark's Shopping Village in Street, on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Well done to everyone.

## A personal view of Young Enterprise from 'ECLIPSE'

*What is Young Enterprise? It's where a group of friends get together to form a company, produce a product or service, and sell it.*

*We are one of three Year 10 groups participating this year from The Kings of Wessex, and our company name is 'ECLIPSE'. The company comprises Paul Archer (Managing Director); Sam Nicholls (Company Secretary); Becky Thorne (Finance); Jamie Haining (I.T.); David Knott (Marketing); and Hannah Homes (Company PA).*

*Having decided upon our products we needed sponsorship and shareholders to finance our manufacturing. A big thank-you to Somerset 4 x 4 and Wyvern Waste Disposal for sponsoring us and also thanks to all our shareholders.*

*At our first fair on 10<sup>th</sup> November in Cheddar, we were selling wind chimes, pictures, candle-holders and our best-selling product, the Cheddar Valley Views Calendar 2002. If you would like to buy any of these products, please speak to a company member, or alternatively, you can find our stand at one of the numerous Christmas Fairs held locally.*

*The Company is now running smoothly and our thanks go to Miss Taschimowitz and Ms Lombard (the link teachers), and our advisers, Derek Evans and John Morse, for their help and support during this project.*

**Paul Archer (10LL)**

## DT FOOD STUDY DAYS

It's Halloween. The 31<sup>st</sup> October, and instead of spending the day getting ready to go out, we are going into school to catch up on our Design Technology Food coursework.

To some this may seem more terrifying than any Halloween ghoulish fest. But when we arrived, we found to our surprise, the classroom full of smiling faces and an abundance of warm drinks. Of course the glee in our fellow students may have been caused by the chocolate biscuits Mrs Ross was kind enough to supply.

The classroom was open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. which was great because it gave us all a chance to get to grips with our coursework at a time that was suitable for us.

No-one **had** to attend the 'catch-up session' but it was a good idea to go because Mrs Ross was on hand to help with anything we didn't understand. And, as we've said ... she brought chocolate biscuits!

At 3 p.m. we were part of a group of a few students left and we had both got up-to-date with our coursework, meaning we wouldn't fall behind later on.

**Next Study Day**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2002 : 9.a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
***Hot drinks and biscuits in unlimited supply!***

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### ***Volunteers Needed!***

Home-Start Sedgemoor is looking for people with parenting experience who can spare 3-4 hours a week to support and befriend a family experiencing difficulties.

- Training and support will be given
- Expenses paid
- Further training available

To find out more about this worthwhile voluntary work, please telephone **(01278) 445022**

# WORK-RELATED LEARNING/CAREERS

## *WORK EXPERIENCE*

Many students in Year 10 are well underway with organising their work experience. For those students who still need to approach employers, the Christmas holidays will be a good time to write your letters. Students who are still unsure of what to do and where to go should ask for help at the Careers Office in school.

Just another reminder that for students organising work experience in agriculture, horticulture, or work with animals, it is essential to have up-to-date protection for tetanus and also to have had a BCG. It is only then that these type of placements can be approved.

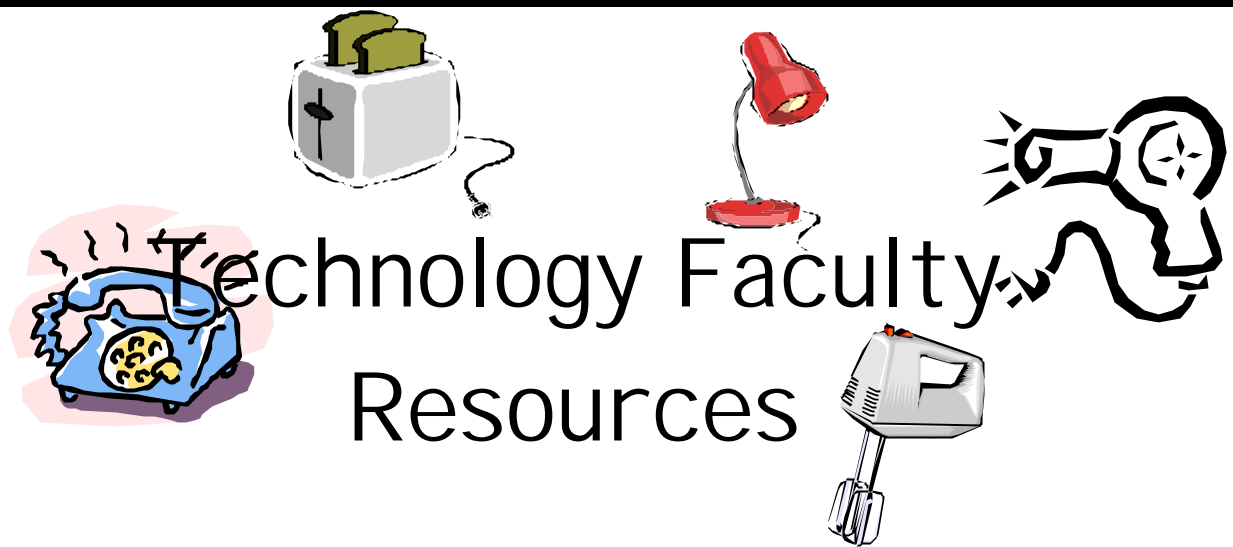
## ***CAREERS SURGERIES***

***There are a few appointments left for the Parent 'Careers Surgeries' on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002.***

## ***Emergency Closure***



**In the unlikely event of a sudden closure, because of weather or other emergency situations, the information will be broadcast by BBC Somerset Sound and Orchard FM**



Thank you for all the items that we have received.

Please continue to donate suitable products to the Faculty as students benefit from the opportunity to analyse existing products. Items such as telephones, hair dryers, lamps, kitchen gadgets, irons etc would be appropriate.

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



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## ***A Logical Week at Kilve***

My name is Ewan Gibb and I'm in Year 9. In November I spent a week at Kilve on a Maths Courts. We did many things, such as:

- **Pythagorus' Theorm:** investigating ways of proving it, e.g. using semi-circles and equilateral triangles instead of squares
- **Pascal's Triangle:** investigating patterns on the triangle, e.g. multiples of 2, 3, 4 etc.
- **Graphs:** We used Omnigraphs (on Windows) to draw graphs using the formula:  $ax^2 + 6x + C$ , changing the letters into numbers
- **And many more things .....**

It was a very good course and I feel more confident about my Maths because of it.

***Come and join in a fun Quiz Night***

**on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.**

**at The Kings of Wessex  
School Hall**

**Teams of 4-6 people**

***QUIZMASTER : MIKE CONROY***

**Tickets £5.00 each  
Available from the School Office**

**Organised by The Kings of Wessex PTA**

This year's **Christmas Cabaret** took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The event was organised by the P. T. A. in conjunction with the Creative Arts Faculty. The evening of music and entertainment was of a very high standard, with some impressive performances.



An audience of over 150 parents and guests were entertained throughout the evening by students and staff. There were performances of music, dance, drama, along with readings and carol singing.

Anybody who was present could not have failed to be impressed by the talent of our young people.

Well done to all those involved.

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## ATTENDANCE

**Parents will be pleased to learn of a new development in school to encourage good attendance. A member of the Support Staff will be telephoning families where a child is absent from school without any communication from the home.**

**We hope that you will find this both reassuring and supportive in the knowledge that you will be informed in all cases where a child is away from school without confirmation from home.**

**Please can parents ensure that where there is a genuine absence, the school is notified on the first day, by telephone, prior to 9.30 a.m. We also ask for a written letter on the child's return to school confirming the reason for absence.**





# Sports News

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## HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Another busy half-term for students involved with House matches. The whole purpose of the House Sporting Programme is to bring students from different social groups and different years together to compete for the various sporting trophies on offer. Captains are elected for each event at specially organised meetings and it is then the responsibility of each captain to select and organise their team and ensure that all team members appear on the correct day, at the right venue, with the appropriate kit – quite a challenge in itself!

For every competition a draw is made with points awarded as follows:

Champions	:	4 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	:	3 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	:	2 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	:	1 point

All points are recorded over the course of the three terms and the Champion House (the one with the most points in July) are presented with the House Trophy.

This half-term we have had Junior (Years 9 and 10) Girls' Hockey. An excellent final between Lyonesse and Tintagel saw Lyonesse come from 2-0 down to record a fine 3-2 victory, with Beth Higginbottom (Year 9) scoring the all important winner.

The Junior Boys' Hockey was won just before half-term by Camelot.

The Senior Boys' Hockey (Years 11, 12 and 13) final between Lyonesse and Camelot looked to be heading for a 0-0 draw before two goals from Lyonesse in the final minute saw Sam Dibb's side as champions.

The Junior Boys' Rugby was another close contest, and a fine game resulted in a 7-7 draw in the final with Camelot edging out Tintagel on account of them scoring their try first. Avalon took the 'wooden spoon' after defeat by Lyonesse.



Both Senior Girls' Hockey and Senior Boys' Rugby will be played in the last weeks of term, after this article has gone to press.

A very popular competition with the girls, is the House Basketball, which has also been played since half-term. Avalon were this year's champions, beating Tintagel 18-14 in the final.

All the victorious captains will be presented with their respective trophies in our Final Assembly before Christmas.

# *Girls' Hockey*

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## **U14 XI**

The U14 XI have had an excellent season and have remained unbeaten throughout. From the very start in September, the squad have worked together with real enthusiasm and determination. As the season progressed, the team has got better and better, and have adapted well to a full 11-a-side game. Many matches were 'one-sided' and often players have had to play out of position to make a game of it.

Kings U14 XI were, however, at full stretch recently against Millfield. Millfield added a few strong players and the team worked hard and fought well to retain a 2-2 score line.

Congratulations to the whole squad for a most impressive season. At the time of writing the team remains in the County Cup.

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## **1<sup>ST</sup> XI**

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI have had a most successful season, winning all but two of their games. Practices have been very well attended and a positive team spirit has been evident since September. Thanks must go to captain Suzie Morgan for helping to create this. The team have played well in most matches, and as the season has progressed, have improved steadily. At times the team have shown real commitment. One such occasion was at Chew Valley when the team were playing below par and after half-time managed to turn the game around and finally won 6-5. The team played exceptionally well against Wells Cathedral earlier on in the season with a resounding 5-1 victory. Congratulations to all players for a successful season. At the time of writing the team remains in the County Cup.

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## **2<sup>ND</sup> XI**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have completed a fairly successful season. They were defeated in only 3 matches and played with different player combinations in most games. Despite the promotion of Mary Bradley and Kirsty Sugg to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI for some matches., the team adapted well. There was inspired play by Esther Parfitt at the back, but the team was never allowed to become complacent. Two players from the U.15 XI have played for the 2nds and coped well in their matches. Well done to all players who have remained committed throughout the year.

## ***Congratulations***

***to NATALIE TRUDGIAN (Year 12) & ABI WOODWARD (Year 9)***

who have been selected to play sport for Somerset. Natalie has been selected to play in the U.18 County Netball team; Abi has gained selection for the U.14 County Hockey team. Both girls played in their first matches last week.

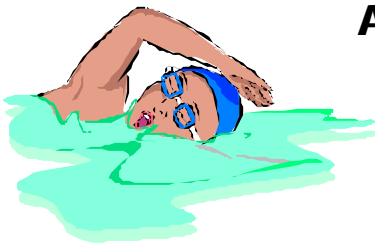
### **U.15 XI**

The U.15's have played extremely well in their cup matches, winning their pool games 9-0 (Bucklers Mead); 3-0 (Wells Blue); and 3-0 (Frome College). They now look forward to the semi-final next term and have the potential to do well in this phase of the competition. The team struggled against the stronger public school sides, particularly Taunton and Millfield School. The forward combination of Becky Walker, Emma Grant and Abi Fisher, have played well throughout the season, along with Sarah Brierley at left half has improved with every game. Although netball practices have started for this age group, hockey practices will continue after Christmas in the build up to the Cup semi-final.

## **Active Sport Netball**

Active Sport Netball courses re-start in January. This has been a very popular activity during the Autumn Term.

There are still a few places available. Forms can be collected from the Leisure Centre Reception.



**A new club will be starting on 14<sup>th</sup> January.**

**During Monday lunchtimes, there will be an opportunity for swimmers to come along and improve their technique and get fit!**

**Open to all ages and ability.**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> XI CUP FOOTBALL

*What a remarkable Cup run!*

*I'm sure my hair has further receded and gone a lot greyer since the beginning of a most incredible journey in the U.19 Somerset Cup for Football. Gerrard Houllier wouldn't have survived this one. Here's the story .....*



## **Round 1: CHEW VALLEY (2) vs KINGS (3) – after extra time**

Having trailed in this 1<sup>st</sup> Round match, we eventually managed to equalise and take our opponents to extra-time. An astonishing winning goal from full-back

Tim Moody and a frantic ‘backs to the wall’ finish, saw us through to the next round – but this was just a taste of things to come

## **Round 2: KINGS (4) vs. BEECHENCLIFF, Bath (3) – after extra time**

This game was played at Cheddar Football Club and we are most grateful for their hospitality. Lightning couldn't strike twice – surely! With just seconds left, that man Tim Moody popped up again from nowhere to level the scores at 3-3, and take the game into extra time ..... again!

Another nail-biting 20 minutes and some very tired legs, plus some inspirational football from young substitute Joe Branch, saw us clinch the only goal in extra-time, to book a place in the last eight (great management!!).

## **Quarter Finals:**

### **KINGS (1) vs. BACKWELL (1) – Kings won 6-5 on penalties!**

This was a classic match played on a wet and difficult surface at Sharpham Road. You've probably guessed the scenario .... 1-0 down, 2 minutes to go, up pops Tim Moody again, and then the final whistle. This game goes straight to penalties and unbelievably the first 11 penalties are scored, including Mark Fotheringham's

sudden-death effort. The ultimate hero though was goal-keeper, Pete Fowler, who saved the 12<sup>th</sup> kick amid wild scenes of celebration. And so to the semi-final, and the furthest the Senior Football Team has progressed in the past 16 years .....

*Who writes these scripts?*

## Semi Final:

## GORDANO (1) vs. KINGS (2)

Yes, we left it late again. With only 10 minutes to go we trailed Gordano who had totally dominated the first half. The team's previous experiences saw them

'never say die' and two headed goals from Ben Garfitt and Mike Denbee (with 5 minutes left) meant we were through to our first final since the early 1980s.

### THE FINAL ..... !!!!

*Alas, no fairy-tale ending...*

With a coach-load of vocal supporters and a very smart squad of players in their 'designer' suits, we travelled to Portishead Football Club for the final where we would be playing the might of Millfield's best.

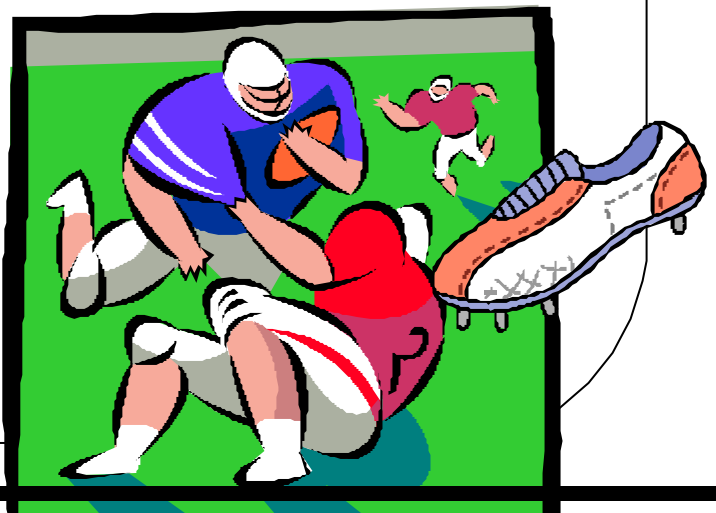
Both teams took a while to settle but it was Millfield who broke the deadlock after about 15 minutes. Kings battled hard to redress the balance and gained a deserved equaliser after a long period of pressure when Adam Kotas stroked the ball home from the edge of the area with deft precision.

Then a moment of real drama and controversy. On the edge of our area, Captain Robbie Branch made a critical challenge against one of the Millfield strikers. To everybody at the ground, he appeared to win his tackle fairly and cleanly, everybody, that is, except the referee, who, to our horror, pointed to the spot. The penalty was scored and so we went in at half-time 2-1 down, despite dominating most of the half.

Remarkably, there were no further goals in the second half, despite chances at both ends. Millfield hit the cross-bar, but at the other end, Denbee, Francis, Edmonds and Branch all went agonisingly close. The final whistle could not come quick enough for a very relieved Millfield and a very gallant Kings of Wessex side left the field with their legs heavy, but their heads held high.

*Congratulations boys for going so far and coming so close. You've done yourselves and your school proud. (You've also aged me by about 10 years. I'm only 26 really!).*

## JUNIOR RUGBY



Year 9 have continued their pleasing start to the term with fine performances against Mark College and Millfield.

A wonderful display of 15-man Rugby, with some elusive running and slick handling, saw off a spirited Mark team 38-10.

Year 9 were very unlucky and disappointed to narrowly lose 15-12 to a very strong and unbeaten Millfield XV. Indeed, Millfield were very relieved to hear the full-time whistle as they desperately hung on to their slender advantage.

We wish Year 9 good luck in their Somerset Cup quarter-final against St. Gregory's School, Bath, which will be played at the end of term.

Year 10 finished their season with their heads held high after two excellent performances in their final games. Although they narrowly lost 23-19 to Millfield, the psychological victory went to Kings, as, in the corresponding fixture last year, we lost heavily. This excellent team performance went some way to exorcising the ghost of last year and gave the Year 10 boys a lot of confidence for future fixtures.

Special mention should go to a fantastic, length-of-the-pitch, individual try from Dave Cook, involving a strong break, chip

over the top, and out-sprinting the covering defence for an amazing score – not bad for a No.8!

In their final game of the season, Year 10 finished on a high with a strong 31-0 victory against a determined and uncompromising Chew Valley side. This win was not as easy as the score line might suggest – it was a tough battle in the forwards, and Kings had to grind Chew into submission.

Year 11 came agonisingly close to winning their way into the Somerset Cup semi-final but narrowly lost 7-3 to Wyvern.

In a hard, physical match, dominated by outstanding defence from both teams, Kings trailed 7-3 after a good Wyvern try early in the second half. Year 11 rallied strongly and spent the rest of the game camped in the opposition half, pressurising the Wyvern line.

A mixture of missed opportunities, great tackling, and some unlucky decisions prevented a score. However, in the last seconds, after excellent work from the inspirational captain Tom Corbett, Matt Neave drove to the line with half the covering defence on his back to score what appeared to be the winning try – only for the referee

to disallow it for what he felt was a double movement.

Naturally all the players were desperately disappointed after such a big effort in the second half, and having come so agonisingly close to victory.

However, they can hold their heads up high after giving a fine display and handling defeat with good sportsmanship.

This was followed by another tough encounter against Mark College 1<sup>st</sup> XV, where Kings narrowly ran out 14-12 winners, thanks to the trusty boot of Adam Fotheringham and a good try from Andy Comer.

In their final game of the season they will travel to Ridings School in North Bristol. We wish them well.

## **Congratulations**

**Jamie Selwood in Year 9 was selected for the British National Deaf Swimming Team and travelled to Rotterdam in October half-term to compete in an International match.**

**Jamie swam magnificently and came home with four gold medals in the 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 50m and 100m Backcrawl.**

**This is an outstanding achievement as Jamie was competing against swimmers from Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain and Italy.**

**Not only do these regular meetings give Jamie a chance to develop his undoubted talent in swimming, but also the opportunity to meet, sign and make friends with fellow swimmers from around the world.**

**Congratulations Jamie ... and good luck in future meetings.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	New term commences
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	P.T.A. Meeting 7.30 p.m.
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 13 AS re-sits and A2 exams commence Winter GCSE results published
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Sixth Form Subject Fayre for students Final deadline for UCAS applications
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup> January	Sixth Form Opening Evening 7.30 p.m. in the Hall
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Reports issued
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> January	School Council Meeting
Monday Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> January – 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 9 Technology trip to Disneyland
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 11 Parents/Subject Teacher Evening 5.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> January – 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	School Production <i>'The Little Shop of Horrors'</i>
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 11 English GCSE coursework deadline Year 13 AS re-sits and A2 exams end Deadline for Sixth Form applications
Week commencing 4 <sup>th</sup> February		Year 11 Geography visits
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> February	Governors' Meeting
Saturday Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> February – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY