



The Kings' Messenger

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Friends

As the Easter holiday draws near, we can look back on another very successful term. Both staff and students have been working extremely hard.

Work is now under way in the construction of our new manufacturing centre. Contractors have been on site for two weeks and the foundations are now in place. This weekend, large beams will be craned into position to form the super structure for the building. All being well, the building should be complete by May half term which will allow the fitting out of the centre with the latest Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing equipment in readiness for courses commencing in the new academic year. Staff and students, I know, are excited about this development. I am also pleased to say that plans have now been submitted for the extension of our Learning Resource Centre. The extension will provide much needed accommodation for the Sixth Form private study, as well as a space for new IT facilities.

Talking of IT, one of the great changes that have taken place in the school over the past twelve months, is the increasing use of Information Technology. IT is in daily use around the school and is having a significant impact on students' learning. On a recent tour around school, students could be found making use of IT in their English, Science, Technology, Languages, Mathematics and Business Studies lessons. Students in learning support were also involved in the interactive Success Maker programme. Those visiting the school cannot fail to be impressed by the scale and quality of work involving IT.

At the time of writing, a party of our students are visiting our partner school in Felsberg, Germany.

They are spending a week staying with families seeing the school at work and visiting places of interest. As someone who has been on the exchange before, I was impressed with the hospitality of our partner school and the welcome received. Our students will, I know, benefit immensely from the experience.

For students preparing for examinations, it is important that full use is made of the Easter holiday for revision. Many students have been issued with revision guides and given advice on how they may best revise. It is vitally important that students are encouraged to undertake revision on a daily basis throughout the holidays and the build up to the public examinations. Here in school, we are also working hard to support young people with lunch time revision clinics, and Easter revision days. The LRC will also be open late for revision on two evenings a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays from the 9th April to the 16th May from 4-6pm) to help children with revision.

One final point. We have been experiencing problems lately with students who have failed to attend school wearing the correct uniform. Enclosed within this Kings Messenger is a list of the uniform requirements. I am asking all parents to support the school by ensuring that their child comes dressed correctly. I look forward to receiving full support from everyone.

Finally, on behalf of us all at The Kings of Wessex, I hope you and your family have an enjoyable Easter.

Yours sincerely

Chris Richardson
Headteacher

SCIENCE NEWS

We are delighted that Technology College funding has allowed us to provide Revision Guides and workbooks for all students in Year 9. All Year 11 students have Guides and some with help students with their months but would like to take that all the Revision Guides must be returned after the exams.



workbooks for all students in Year 9. All Year 11 students have Guides and some with help students with their months but would like to take that all the Revision Guides must be returned after the exams.

MATHS NEWS

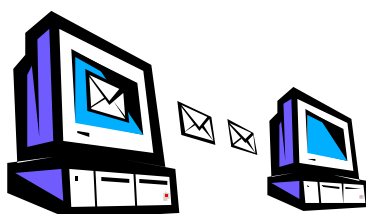
Technology College status has allowed the Maths Faculty to address several issues. We have had time to work with our Middle School colleagues on the Key Stage 3 Curriculum. Liaison has always been a strength in the Cheddar Valley, and we hope to make the transition from Middle to Upper School in Maths even smoother.

ICT AND OTHER RESOURCES

We have also been able to develop ICT provision. In terms of hardware, there is now an ICT room dedicated to Maths and English. We have also needed to look at the software we use. We have tried out an ILS system and investigated various Internet resources this year, with a view to integrating them into our work next year. We are developing work related study in the same way. This term has been one of preparation for the future. Resources such as revision books for the main school will be available after Easter, and will help with exam revision.

E-MENTORING

We are in the process of setting up some of our 6th Form students with an e-mentor from a University or Industry. The role of the mentor would be to provide support and encouragement to the students, especially at difficult times during exam preparation and project completion.



Professional Development Placements

CAREER NEWS



We have a Mathematics Teacher working with the Eden Project in Cornwall and a Chemistry Teacher with Airbus in Filton, Bristol.

There are two further placements to be confirmed and they are in Biology and Physics.

SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Technology College funding has provided staffing and materials to run some new Adult numeracy sessions at the Kings of Wessex Leisure Centre. These informal sessions draw on the BBC's numeracy resources and the TUC's CD-ROM. Anyone is welcome to come and develop their skills in using numbers.

At Axbridge First School parents are being given the chance to find out about computers and develop their IT skills through a Technology College funded program running on Monday afternoons. We are planning the expansion of this concept to other first schools in the Cheddar Valley. Community ICT Champion Angela Vivian is working hard on developing these projects, along the lines of her successful "IT for the Terrified" model, in a role part-funded by the Technology College program.



We continue to support the Wedmore-based "IT for the Terrified project". Have a look at their website at www.itfortheterrified.co.uk.

Gap Year Fairs



Gap Year Fairs (in association with Connexions West of England, Learning Partnership West and Somerset Careers) will be holding Fairs as follows next term:

- **Monday 1st July: Bristol Grammar School, University Way, Bristol, 4.30 to 8.30 pm**
- **Tuesday 2nd July: Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Drive, Bath 4.30 to 8.30pm**

Most of the major gap year organisations will be present at the Fairs to talk to pupils and parents, and there will be workshops on the following:

How universities and employers view the gap year experience
Financing a gap year
The experiences of a small group of recently returned gappers

Parents will be particularly welcome at the Fairs.

Rotary Young Musician Competition

The Kings of Wessex Finalists are:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Hannah Morgan | Vocal AND Violin solos |
| ➤ Rachel Johnson | Clarinet solo |
| ➤ Jenny Stringer | Piano solo |
| ➤ Jenny Wainwright | } Vocal Duet |
| ➤ Laura Morgan | } |
| ➤ Rebecca Cripps | Trumpet solo |
| ➤ Laura Morgan | Cello solo |
| ➤ Lucy Mason | Vocal solo |

Even if you have been unsuccessful this time, I hope you will decide to enter this important and popular competition again in the future, and I also hope that you will be able to attend the evening concert on Sunday 21st April at 7pm in The Kings of Wessex main school hall.

Well done again, and Thank You for your support



CONGRATULATIONS!

- To the Boys Under 16 Hockey team who have reached the final of the Somerset State Schools Cup with impressive victories against Frome, Sexey's Bruton and Haygrove. They will play Wells Blue in the final after Easter – GOOD LUCK BOYS.
- To the year 9 Boys Football who have reached the semi – final of the Somerset schools Cup with good victories against East Bridgwater, local rivals King Alfreds and an exciting 4 – 3 win in extra time against Frome with 2 late goals from Andy Edmonds.
- To the 80 plus boys from years 9 - 11 who travelled to play A and B fixtures against Millfield on Wednesday 06 March. It was tremendous to see so many students keen to represent the school and to receive so many positive comments from the Millfield staff about how well they conducted themselves.
- To Paul Clarke who won the Kings of Wessex Junior Squash Tournament.
- To Holly Woszczyk who won the Kings of Wessex Girls Table - Tennis Tournament.
- To Claire Laney who won the Kings of Wessex Girls Badminton Tournament.
- To Claire Laney and Hannah Latty won the Kings of Wessex Girls Doubles Badminton Tournament.

Exams!..Exams!..Exams!

**Revising on your own can be a
chore**



why not

**come to the
LRC revision session?
4pm-6pm**



**Tuesdays & Thursdays
9th April to 16th May**

**Teachers here to help
*(please check timetable)***



**a cup of tea and
biscuit before you start**



Uniform

Students must wear uniform at all times. This is a requirement of the school and we look to parents for your support in ensuring that students are correctly dressed.

Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 are required to wear the following items of clothing:

Jumper/Cardigan	- <u>Bottle green V-necked with school emblem</u>
Shirt/Blouse	- <u>Plain white with collar</u>
Trousers/Skirt/Culottes	- <u>Black [Skirts/Culottes should be on or a round the knee in length</u>
Socks/Tights*	- <u>Black</u>
Shoes	- <u>Plain black shoes</u>
Tie	- <u>School tie - black and green</u>

- It is a requirement that socks/tights are worn by all students from September to April

Please note that we do NOT allow training shoes, open shoes, sweatshirts, jumpers/cardigans other than school type, fashion trousers or skirts, polo shirts, shorts, denims, suede or leather of any type. Students are not permitted to wear hats during the school day.

School jumpers/cardigans and ties are available from our stockists: Deane & Sons, Bath Street, Cheddar.

Students attending school in incorrect uniform will be asked to ensure that they attend wearing the correct uniform on the following day and parents will be informed by letter. Items of clothing may be confiscated and/or students may be placed in detention. In certain cases as students may be withdrawn from lessons until the correct item of uniform is worn.

SENIOR NETBALL

1st V11

This has been a fairly successful season for the senior netball teams. Practices have been well attended by all players throughout the season and the captains: Gemma Filer and Stacey Pagett have worked hard to pull the teams together during matches. The first team have made a hard time of matches they should have won easily mainly due to the slow start of their play! Competition for places at the shooting end has been difficult this year but all shooters – Jo Burkinshaw, Hannah Searle and Catherine Grant have adapted well to the different combinations which have been played. Rosie Steele has been outstanding in all matches playing at Wing Attack and Gemma Filer playing with her usual determination at Goal Defence. Congratulations again to Natalie Trudgian on gaining selection for the Somerset U.18 squad and on playing in all of their matches.

U15 V11

This has been a difficult season for the U.15 team mainly due to the unavailability of players for certain matches which did not allow them to build on the potential which we saw last year. However they won four of their seven matches played and with several positional changes were beginning to look stronger in the centre court. Katie Amos played well at Goal Keeper ,Sarah Brierley and Heather Ham continued to work well together at the attacking end. The team enjoyed successes against Chilton Trinity, Sidcot, Chew Valley and Wells Cathedral.

Active Sport Netball

Active Sport netball has continued this term .Two teams were entered into the Somerset Junior League. The teams played exceptionally well and during the three competitions were successful in over 50% of the matches played. The school will be involved in Active Sport Netball during the Autumn Term 2002 and details will be available at the end of the summer term.

COUNTY CUP HOCKEY

CONGRATULATIONS to the U14, U15 and 1st XI girls hockey teams and the U16 boys hockey team on reaching the final of the county cup competitions. This is a fantastic achievement and the finals will now be played during the first week of the Summer term. Well done to all the players and stay fit during the holidays!

The U14's beat St Dunston's 7-1

The U14's beat Holrood 4-2

The 1st XI beat West Somerset 3-2

The U16 Boys beat Haygrove 4-2

School clubs and practices will continue next term in athletics, rounders, tennis, cricket and swimming. Details of all summer activities will appear on the P.E. notice boards.



NETBALL

U14 VII

An excellent start to the netball was made by the U14's. Practices have been well attended, and training sessions have been highly motivated. There have been enough players to run two teams, an 'A' and a 'B' team which is very encouraging. Both teams have worked hard at lunchtime practices to improve and develop some positional play. The 'B' team played exceptionally well against a strong Wells Cathedral side and won by a considerable margin.

2nd VII

The 2nd VII are beginning to get together as a team as the season progresses. Practices are well attended, and players are keen to improve. The team have played some good opposition since the beginning of the season and have found some matches challenging. The teams are now settling into a pattern, with players getting used to new positions, and are consequently improving their game.

HOCKEY

U14 XI / 1st XI

At the point of writing, the U14 XI and 1st + XI are still in cup games. The U14 play St Dunstan's in the next round, and the 1st XI have to re-play West Somerset school. Good luck to both teams.



Reporting Illness

We would be grateful if parents would telephone the school on the morning of any known absence. If your child is unwell, please ring and leave the following information ***BEFORE 10.00AM***.

The telephone number is: **01934 745304**. Please state:

- your name
- the child's name and tutor group
- reason for absence

Please send a note of confirmation on your child's return to school.

Sainsbury's & Tesco's Schemes

Please return the Sainsbury's Equipment for Schools' slips if you want to register your support. Their scheme runs from January 30th to April 24th. Our school will receive one school point for every £10 spent. You can also register on line at:

www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools

The Tesco scheme runs from January 28th until 7th April. One voucher will be given for every £10 spent as usual. We thank all of you who support these schemes, as the school is able to buy extra equipment, which can be used by all students.

KEY ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING DATES – SUMMER 2002

Friday	26 April	Y10 Exam Briefing
Thursday	30 April	Y9 SATs Briefing
Wednesday	1 May	Y12 and Y13 Exam Briefing
Friday	3 May	Y11 Exam Briefing
Tuesday	7 May	Y9 SATs – English
Wednesday	8 May	Y9 SATs – Maths
Thursday	9 May	Y10 Exams commence
Friday	10 May	Y9 SATs – Science
Monday	13 May	Y9 SATs – Science Extension Paper Y12 Exam Leave commences AS Exams commence
Friday	17 May	Y10 exams end
Monday	20 May	GCSE Exam Leave commences
Tuesday	21 May	GCSE exams commence
Monday	27 May	Y13 Exam Leave commences
	3-7 June	Half term
Monday	10 June	A2 Exams commence
Monday	17 June	Y12 return – A2 teaching commences
Thursday	27 June	Final GCSE examinations
Friday	28 June	Final A2 examination
Friday	5 July	Y10 Reports issued
Friday	12 July	Y9 SAT results issued
Thursday	15 August	Publication of AS and A2 results
Thursday	22 August	Publication of GCSE results

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>Easter Holidays</i> <i>Sat 23rd March to Sun 7th April inclusive</i>	
<i>April</i>	
Mon 8 th	Summer term commences
Tue 9 th	PTA Meeting 7.30 pm
Tue 9 th and Wed 10 th	Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training Days
Mon 15 th	Staff Training Day (<i>School closed for students</i>)
Wed 17 th	Y12 Higher Education Conf. P5-6
	Y12 Higher Education Meeting for Parents 7.30 pm - Hall
Thur 18 th	Y12 History trip
	Y10 Business Studies to Cadburys, Birmingham
<i>May</i>	
Mon 6 th	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tue 7 th	GCSE Drama practical exams week Y9 SATs commence
Thur 9 th	Y10 Exams commence
Fri 17 th	Y10 Exams end Y11 Record of Achievement Presentation
Mon 13 th	Y9 SATs finish Y12 Exam leave commences
Sat 18 th to Sat 25 th	Czech exchange party from Prague
Mon 20 th	GCSE exam leave commences
Mon 27 th	Y13 exam leave commences
<i>June Sat 1st/Sun 9th inclusive</i>	<i>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</i>

YEAR CO-ORDINATORS

Year 9: Mr A Hitt
Year 10: Mrs M Sammonds
Year 11: Mr T Clark
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.