



The Kings' Messenger

THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL A Specialist Technology College

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Friends

It is the time of year again when students are undertaking their public examinations. Students in Years 11/12/13 have recently commenced their study leave. The students are working exceptionally hard at the moment in preparing for examinations and we wish them well. Taking examinations can be a very stressful time but we hope that our young people will feel confident and well prepared. Students in Years 9 and 10 have already completed their examinations and we have been particularly impressed with their mature approach and hard work. Parents of Year 9 students will be receiving their children's SAT results in the final week of term.

This half-term has seen the school achieve national awards in Physical Education and the Arts. We were delighted to hear that our application for Sportsmark Gold had been successful. This is the second time the school has achieved this prestigious award in recognition of the quality and range of our Physical Education programme. We have also learnt that we have been successful in achieving Artsmark, an award for achievements in Creative Arts. Artsmark recognises the high quality of our achievement, curriculum, and out-of-school activities. I am sure you will agree with me when I say how proud I am of the achievements of both our staff and students in gaining Sportsmark Gold and Artsmark.

Work in implementing our Technology College Action Plan continues apace. Our new Design & Manufacturing Centre is nearing completion. The builders will have finished by half-term in readiness for the Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing equipment to be installed next half-term. This really is an exciting development which will be available to students studying Technology from the start of the new academic year. The

development of our school INTRANET continues, with an increasing range of content available for students to use. We are also now in a position to provide home access from September, which promises to help students greatly in their learning. We will, of course, be writing to you with more details of this initiative near the time. We are working hard to develop our business links which is involving staff taking part in work placements. One member of staff recently spent a week at the Eden Project in Cornwall and has returned with lots of inspirational ideas for the teaching of Mathematics.

Back to rather mundane issues; can I ask all parents to give us their full support in ensuring that the school uniform is adhered to. We are having a big push on this at the moment and information included in the Kings Messenger' gives details as to how, as parents, you can help.

Finally, it was wonderful to host a visit from Czech students from our partner school in Prague last week. I know that they all enjoyed their stay here at The Kings of Wessex and learnt so much about our country. I am most grateful to Dr. Ellis for all his hard work in helping to make the exchange such a success. I would also like to convey my thanks to all the parents who hosted a visiting Czech student and to thank you for your hospitality.

We will shortly be welcoming students from our partner school in Felsberg, Germany, but at the time of writing we are still looking for five host families. If any parent is willing to host a German student from Friday 21st June to Friday 28th June inclusive, please do give us a call.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Richardson
Headteacher

Work Related Learning

As part of **Technology College** remit departments are being asked to marry up schemes of work within school to the world of work in the '**Real World**'. To achieve this the Mathematics Faculty is planning a '**hands on**' trip to the **Eden Project**. To plan this trip I spent a week at Eden - Paradise! - Assessing their Education facilities and creating projects suitable for Year 9 students at the Key Stage 3 level.



For those of you who have visited the Eden Project you may be aware of the ethical basis on which the project has been founded. The Eden Project not only aims to grow and preserve plants from around the world but they also aim to educate the world of the importance of plants to the eco-systems. An important element of Eden's Education remit is also to inform the western world of the imbalance of people's wealth compared with the 'work done' by them. As part of these concepts the project that I have been working on for our Year 9 students has also been to highlight the lack of 'Fair Trade' in the world.

I was welcomed at the Eden Project by a very professional education team and I must thank them for hosting my visit. I will be sharing my work with them for other schools to use when visiting Eden and shortly I will be planning a Year 9 pilot trip to test my ideas.

To close, I urge you all to visit a very successful Millennium Project of the South West.

Gillian Greenslade

Science News ...

This half-term all students have been working very hard preparing for their exams. Year 9 students should by now have returned their Revision Guides. If not, please bring them in straight after the holiday!

A reminder to Year 11 students that they must return their textbooks AND the Revision Guides they were issued with earlier this year. Please bring them to the Prep Room after the last Science exam.

Several Science trips will be happening in June and July: Year 12 Chemists are off to a brewery; some Year 10 girls will be attending a Physics course at Bristol; some Year 9 students will be going to the Tomorrow's World Roadshow in Cardiff; and Year 12 Biologists will be doing fieldwork; to name a few.

THAT'S HISTORY

On Thursday 18th April, Year 12 visited Bristol to hear four experts speak on aspects of Nazi Germany. Topics under discussion were ***"Hitler : a 'weak' dictator?"***; ***"Propaganda, Terror and Opposition"***; ***"Anti-semitism and the Final Solution"***; and ***"The Nazi Economy"***.

Coming so soon before Year 12's A/S exams, these lectures were a valuable revision aid.

The Kings of Wessex Cheddar/Prague Exchange

Saturday 18th May saw the students arrive from Prague for the beginning of the 4th annual exchange. The students from the Emy Destinnove School in Prague 6, stepped from the bus very wearily after a 36 hour journey across Germany and France. They did manage a little sightseeing in the rain in London during Saturday. Sunday was a time to get to know your 'partner' and most seemed to get on well after the understandably nervous beginnings as they first met. However, there were two or three students on both sides for whom this would be the second exchange and they got on well from the start. There is a strong partnership between the two schools and to date over 240 children have benefited from the exchange which is organised on the Cheddar side by Dr. David Ellis at The Kings of Wessex.

On Monday morning at The Kings of Wessex School a short informal reception was held for the visiting group. Headteacher, Chris Richardson, welcomed students to the school and said that "it is only through an exchange that we can really get to know each other's cultures.

Our two countries have a rich cultural background and students should make the most of this opportunity to find out as much as they can about each others lives". He thanked children and parents from both countries for their hospitality. Words of welcome were also spoken on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council, by Councillor Mrs Jessica Healey, and on behalf of the Bridgwater Czech-Slovak Friendship Society, by Councillor Mr Brian Smedley. Students of both schools spoke: Natalie Chikvadze from Prague and JJ Chalmers and Nicole Vosper from Cheddar; the English students saying part of their welcome in Czech.

The itinerary for the rest of the week includes visits to Glastonbury and The Tor; Wells; Chepstow and Bristol. Hopefully the weather will stay fine enough for them to enjoy what this beautiful part of the country has to offer.

Finally, to quote Jaroslav Supek, one of the Czech teachers, "If only 2 people are in contact with each other in perhaps 10 or 20 years time, then the exchange will have been worth it".

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Extra-Curricular Update : May 2002

Monday 1.20 p.m. - Music Room

Music Theory/Practical Listening

For all students, but particularly those who want extra input towards their Associated Board Theory exams.

A list of 'topics' is posted on the Music Department foyer noticeboard.

Tuesday 1.20 p.m. - Music Room

Orchestra

For **ALL** instrumentalists. We are currently working towards our Summer Fête performances. The music is directed at Grade 2/3 players but all others are welcome.



Wednesday 1.20 p.m. - Music Room

Keyboard 'Klub'

Intended mainly for Year 9 students who wish to spend some more time on the Year 9 'Keyboard Course' booklet to gain some achievement certificates (all other students are welcome too!)

Thursday/Friday 1.20 p.m. - Music Room

These two lunchtimes are 'open' to all students who wish to pursue their own music. Currently we have some 'rock' players on Friday lunchtime, but students are welcome to use the facilities (under supervision) for other genuine music purpose. *Please see Mr Johnson if you require further guidance.*

Specialist Technology College ... *Supporting the Community*

Through our Specialist Technology College designation and funding, we are able to provide resources to both maintain and initiate ICT training activities in the Cheddar Valley.

Working in partnership with AVE, The Learning & Skills Council, and The Kings of Wessex Adult Learning and Leisure; computers, network connections and trainers are being provided in the villages of the Cheddar valley.

This term, at Axbridge First School on Monday afternoons, a group of parents are enjoying the "IT for the Terrified" recipe of 'tea, sympathy, a little bit of IT, and a giggle/gossip!'. Already they are gaining confidence in their new-found computer skills.



The computers provided to the school through this project are available for staff and children to use throughout the rest of the week.

Similar facilities are in the process of being set up in Shipham and Wedmore First Schools, with more planned for next year.

In addition, our community ICT Consultancy, AVE, is visiting some of the more isolated areas of the Cheddar Valley offering and providing individual ICT tuition on a TC-funded laptop. As a result, we have people in their 90's learning and enjoying using a computer for the first time. Not only that, but these people are seeing how ICT can enrich their lives, whether through e-mailing family around the world, or Internet shopping. Alongside the technology, and as important, is the human interaction, the enrichment of life through the meeting and interest of new people.

We have some very exciting, embryonic plans for the future development of community ICT access and learning. **SO WATCH THIS SPACE!**



News from Modern Languages



Felsberg 2002

On March 16th, 24 students from The Kings of Wessex, accompanied by Miss Rebello, Miss Guest and Mr Williams set off for Felsberg. What follows represents their impressions and opinions of this long-established school exchange.

Over to Year 10 students:

Recently I went on the German Exchange Trip to Felsberg. Despite the 3.am start and subsequent 18 hour coach journey which left many of us wondering if this was really such a good idea, I felt that the trip itself was rewarding and fairly interesting. This trip was primarily organized to improve our knowledge of German and I think, that to some extent, it did because although my partner herself spoke good English, none of her very large family did and I found myself speaking (very bad) German to them quite naturally.

I think that the worst part of the trip, for me, was when we had just arrived at 9.p.m. and we were waiting in their school car park. This was horrible, because I, for one, was very tired after the long journey and worried about meeting my partner and her family for the first time.

The best part was when my partner took me swimming because, although I am not a swimming enthusiast, the German pools are so much better than English ones. I also enjoyed the trips to the many towns and cities, which we visited because we were given the freedom to wander around in small groups and practise our German on the shop assistants when we bought anything.

In conclusion, I found this trip very enjoyable and I would recommend it to anyone who can face the early start. It might even improve your German!

Charlotte Laband (Year 10)

During the Felsberg Exchange we went on many trips and practiced GCSE role-play tasks in cafes, post offices, shops and the tourist information offices in each of the towns we visited.

I enjoyed it so much, but my favourite part of the whole trip was meeting new people. It was a brilliant experience. My host family was very friendly and made me feel welcome. I got on really well with Miri, my exchange partner, as we had quite a lot in common, which surprised me. I really enjoyed the experience of going to a German school. There were quite a few differences; they get up at 6.00am to start school at 7.30am. It was really good to finish at such an early time 1.00pm. Most days, after we returned from our excursions, we went to the cinema, met up with friends or met more members of the family. After going on the Felsberg trip, I am really keen to go again. It was brilliant!!

Gemma Clark (Year 10)

I enjoyed the visit to Felsberg. It was a good opportunity to visit lots of towns and meet new people. I liked the Wednesday afternoon best of all because we visited the Wartburg Castle, which is situated on the "Burg" outside the town of Eisenach. I also visited the Bachhaus and bought a T-shirt with one of Bach's compositions printed on it.

The "not-so-good" bit was the seventeen-hour coach journey but our patience was rewarded. I really enjoyed doing activities with my exchange partner. I would love to go and stay with her again. I am looking forward to seeing her when she comes to stay with me in June.

Rebecca Cripps (Year 10)

The German Exchange was really good as it was a great chance to meet new people and learn about different cultures. After visiting Germany and staying with a German family, my perceptions of the Germans as a nation is very different. I've realized that they are just like us and the language is the only difference between us.

I would advise anyone to go on the German exchange. Not only was it great fun but my German has definitely improved. Plus, everything is cheaper over there, so shopping and going out is great!

Jennifer Lewis (Year 10)

The German exchange was good fun. The weather was fairly good throughout, but for some strange reason it was a bit cold when we had to get up at 5:45am, just to go to school! The German schools start at 7:30am and finish at 12:35pm but I'm still not sure whether I would prefer to do a full day here or a half day in Germany and have to get up at 5:45am every morning? Contrary to some people's beliefs, the Germans are really kind and I don't see what the problem is! Except for the language!

Richard Scott (Year 10)

I had a very enjoyable trip to Felsberg, Germany in March earlier this year. I had never been to Germany before and I found it quite different to back home in England. My first impressions were that the Germans ate a lot more than we do – about 5 meals a day! The buildings and houses were also very different. Each day we went to different places and German towns in the area. We went to the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, the Border Museum at Sickenberg, Göttingen and the Gothic Cathedrale in Fulda.

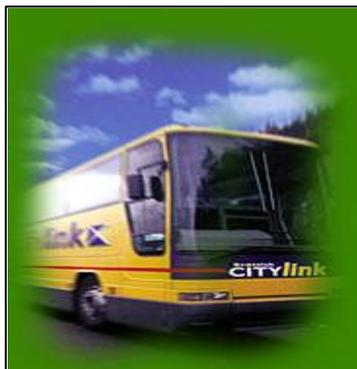
Stephanie Blake (Year 10)

The trip to Felsberg was a good experience because we got to stay with a family who did things differently from us and ate different foods. We went to a church service with our partners, which was interesting because the younger members organized some of it, but I didn't understand anything! It was hard trying to speak German, but throughout the week, I found it easier and I could even understand some of the things our partners were saying. However, the best part of the trip was the shopping! It was so much fun and I had to ask and pay for things in German – I did learn something!! Overall the trip was good fun and we were disappointed to be on the way home. It would be nice to go on another trip like that next year.

Laura Morgan (Year 10)

Andrew Strang and Jamie Major, Year 9 students, clearly gained a terrific amount from the visit, as their account so vividly illustrates:

Felsberg Exchange

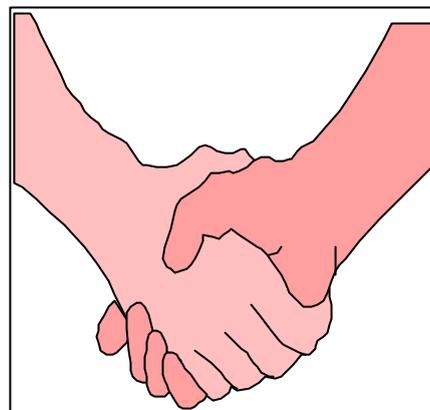


The Journey

The journey to Felsberg was a long one; after setting out at three in the morning we finally reached our destination at about nine in the evening. We passed through five countries: England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and in all of the countries, except England, we could use the new Euro currency which made things a lot easier. The bus journey was made less of a bore through the fact that we could watch movies and listen to music, although the bus driver's choice of music was not the most desirable in the world.

The Arrival and Meeting our Partners

Everyone was a little apprehensive about meeting their partners for the first time. There were a lot of different emotions amongst us all, as the time drew nearer for us to split up from the group and go our separate ways with our host partners. We arrived late at night in the school car park, which lay in the shadow of the extremely dominant castle ruins, which tower over the small town. Some people were slightly daunted by this, in fact one student, who does not wish to be named convinced herself that her partner lived there and that she was going to have to stay at the top of the tower. Jenny Dando was fine when we met up with her after the weekend.

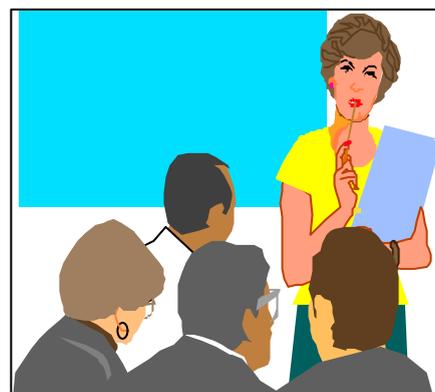


Our Partners

On the whole, our partners and their families were very hospitable towards the exchange students, laying on a vast array of food and drink at every meal time. They made us feel at home straight away and had entertainment planned in detail to the minute for the whole week. Almost all the students from Cheddar, instantly made friends and continued to find common interests and experiences during our stay.

The School

The school day for a German student starts at 07:30 and finishes at 12:30; this then leaves the rest of the day free for whatever they want to do. Although the early mornings came as quite a shock to some people, I and many other students preferred the structure of their day to ours because it leaves a large proportion of the day free. In the German school, more emphasis is given to the core subjects and the students are given the opportunity to drop other less important subjects earlier on in their education. The school looked very attractive, with students' artwork brightening the walls and livening up the surroundings.





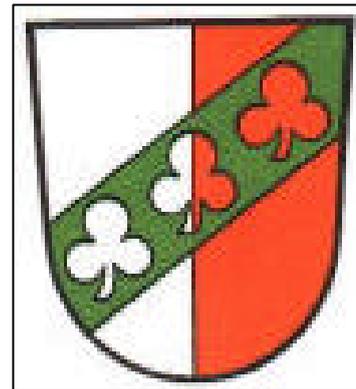
About Felsberg

Felsberg is split in two halves by the river Eder which runs through the middle: one half is named Felsberg, the other half named Felsberg-Gensungen. Overall it is a fairly small and peaceful place, in which to live. As we have already mentioned, an old castle ruin looks over the town of Felsberg from the top of a great hill. Similarly to Cheddar, Felsberg is also surrounded by some lovely countryside, consisting of enormous fields growing all sorts of crops in them. Overall Felsberg is a thoroughly nice place to visit.



Day Excursions

We went out on day excursions every day, Miss Rebello had organised tasks for us to complete to improve our spoken German. These included buying items from a post office, tourist information centre, a cafe and completing a town quiz. We thoroughly enjoyed looking around the German towns, sampling the local culture and the beer. We visited the old border between east and west Germany and heard stories of people trying to escape to the West, before German Reunification. This was interesting and at times saddening. We also went to a castle and a fire engine museum, which was really interesting!



Houses In Felsberg

The houses in Felsberg are as magnificent as the surroundings around you. They are of an enormous size compared to British housing. There are so many different designs of houses all over Felsberg. The Germans like to make their houses very decorative on special occasions. Whilst we were over there, everyone was preparing for the Easter celebrations. All the houses and gardens were decorated with hand made Easter eggs. There were also Easter eggs inside, on mantel shelves and hanging from anywhere possible.

Transport

The most common mode of public transport is the train. By getting on the train in Felsberg you can reach larger destinations such as nearby Kassel from where you can catch trains to places all over Germany. Secondly many of us used the ever punctual public buses to reach the neighbouring villages and the picturesque town of Melsungen. A few of the German exchange students owned scooters, so they could get from place to place a lot faster and easier.



Food and Drink

Most families were very hospitable. A typical German meal would be a salad. The Germans are very fond of their meats, but as we had a week where they managed to go without meat for a week. Drinks in Germany are different from those in England, so that was a nice little surprise when we visited the

And some words from English

The first half of the Summer Term is always busy as exam courses come to a close; and, when working well, students impress themselves (and their teachers!) by producing some excellent work.

Year 9, some of whom had attended our first 'Booster Classes' (taught by Mrs Bulman) seemed well prepared for their SATs, and reported that they had found the papers 'okay'; often a more promising response than 'easy'.

The moderation of Year 11's GCSE coursework, which took place on the recent INSET day, brought together some superb critical and original writing, particularly from our top students Amy Newton, Dan Ashby, Rachel Newton and Louise Wright, but also from those who have found the extended writing demanded by coursework more difficult.

Year 10, too, have been busy producing coursework. We are delighted that 16 of them will be attending the Arvon Foundation's 'Totleigh Barton' Centre in July, for a Creative

Writing Course focusing on Prose and Poetry.

And the Sixth Form? Years 12 and 13 English Language students attended an AS/A2 revision course at Richard Huish College in Taunton - which they described as 'useful' and 'interesting'. The Media Studies students hosted a film evening on 9th May, entertaining many of their peers with their work in the horror and advertising genres. The technical quality of the film work has been much enhanced by the digital editing facilities of our newly acquired Apple Macs. The AS/A2 print work will be on display in the English corridor shortly. Several of the Literature students have been involved in the production of our annual arts magazine 'Platform', which is just off to the printers as I write - assembled and edited by a small Sixth Form team working under the guidance of Mr Hobhouse, this takes an enormous amount of work from some very determined students. We very much hope you will support them by buying a copy when they go on sale after half-term.

Finally ... a plea! Please could you encourage your offspring to search under beds, in cupboards, on shelves, and bring in any books which belong to the English Faculty. No questions asked!!

We would like to thank you as parents for supporting our plea for high standards of dress by ensuring that your sons and daughters are supplied with the correct uniform.

However, we would like your support in reiterating the need for a high standard of appearance. We feel sure that you share our concerns about some of the individual interpretations of the dress code, many, we guess, which take place after students have left home in the morning. Useful points of clarification include:

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- ***Ties should remain in pristine condition; frayed, tippexed or graffitied ties are forbidden and will need to be replaced.***

N

- ***Shirts need to be tucked in, top buttons and cuffs should be done up to maintain a smart appearance. If a student needs to wear a t-shirt underneath his or her shirt/blouse for extra warmth, this should be plain and white, without logos which are visible through their clothing.***

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- ***Skirts should be of medium length without the inappropriate slits, decorated zips, buckles, studs or pins, which appear to be fashionable at the moment.***

O

- ***Skirts and trousers should be of a black tailored material; heavy canvas, brushed denim or corduroy is not permitted. Despite popular myth, trousers should be hemmed, not frayed. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that trousers and skirts meet in the middle to avoid the revelation of bare flesh!***

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- ***Necklaces, bracelets and bangles should not be worn. Earrings should be limited to one small stud or sleeper in each ear. A small nose stud may be worn, but any other piercing or tattooing is not allowed. We would also ask that if make-up is worn that it is worn discreetly. Nail varnish is not allowed for either gender.***
- ***Black shoes, not boots, should be worn. At this time of year, some of the girls resort to sling-backs, Scholls, or other types of sandals. These are not permitted under health and safety grounds. With a large number of people moving around busy corridors and stairs, we find that anything less than a solid shoe proves to be a recipe for disaster. Trainers are only permitted with a medical certificate.***
- ***Whilst we do not prescribe as to hairstyles, we would ask that during term time extremes of fashion are avoided; this includes the rather 'loud' colours popular today. If in doubt, the responsible student asks before making that expensive appointment.***

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Thank you in anticipation of your support in this area. Our students, your children, can look very smart. We do feel strongly about our dress code, not only in terms of representing The Kings of Wessex positively, but in preparation for the world of work whereupon there will be an important emphasis on appearance.

The Cheddar Young People's Millennium Trust

Do you live in Cheddar and want to have a go at something?

Then pick up an application form for cash support

Young people under the age of 25 who have lived in the Civil Parish of Cheddar for at least one year on 3rd September 2002, are invited to apply for a grant from this new charity, which aims:

- *To encourage their involvement in service in the community either in Cheddar, in our own country or abroad*
- *To develop their skills and talents through education and training*
- *To support initiative and the development of clubs, organisations and activities for young people*
- *To help where real need can be demonstrated*

The Sara Comer Charity

Young people between the ages of 16 and 25 by 3rd September 2002, from within the Ancient Ecclesiastical Parish * of Cheddar, are invited to apply for financial assistance:

- *To assist them in their education or training for books, equipment, courses, travel etc.*
- *To support them where real need can be demonstrated*

*all of Cheddar and a small part of West Draycott and East Axbridge

Application forms for both Trusts can be obtained from Mr Gareth Reynolds, Clerk to the Trustees, Burrough & Co. Solicitors, Burrough House, 4 Union Street, Cheddar, BS27 3NA, (please enclose an s.a.e. if requesting one by post) or from the School Office. Application forms for the CYPMT can also be down-loaded from the website:

www.cheddar2000trust.org.uk, along with other details of the trust.

Closing date for applications for both Trusts is 31st July 2002

The Trustees will meet in early September to make their decisions on the applications received.

**WE WANT TO SEE WHAT YOUR IDEAS ARE
TRY BOTH TRUSTS**

YOUNG ENTERPRISE PIECE

STUDY SUPPORT

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE STUDY SUPPORT SESSIONS THAT OPERATE ON A TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL IN LEARNING SUPPORT WILL STOP AFTER HALF-TERM.



THESE USEFUL SESSIONS WILL START AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER/

BUSINESS STUDIES PIECE

An additional date for your diary!

**Please note that we will be taking an additional
Staff Training Day on THURSDAY 27TH JUNE**

School will be closed to students on that day

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Working with children at a **Scolarest** school isn't just a job, it's a rewarding way of life. Their energy and enthusiasm is infectious. Just being around them is an education in itself. At **Scolarest**, we feed 200,000 school children every day. And now, we'd like to offer you the chance to join us.

The way we work is literally changing the face of school catering. Forget dull school dinners. In over 2,000 schools, college and universities, we serve delicious, nutritious food from all over the world to satisfy today's sophisticated young appetites, in colourful, welcoming surroundings, closer to a café than a dining hall.

We are part of the Compass Group, the world's largest foodservice organisation; employing 265,000 people in more than 90 countries. Our company's brands include *Little Chef*, *Moto*, *Travelodge*, and *Harry Ramsden's*.

Right now, we are looking for two General Kitchen Assistants to work within the catering operation at The Kings of Wessex Community School. Flexible hours, training gladly given, salaries fair ... and prospects are whatever you want them to be. Which means that if you want a job you can really grow in, it is here for you. What is more, if you have a family of your own to look after, we will be pleased to help you get the balance between work and home just right.

So, for details on a part-time or full-time job that caters for your needs, please contact:

Shirley Hobbs on 020 8742 3950

Email: ajobthatworksforme@scolarest.co.uk

P.T.A.

The next meeting of the Parents & Teachers Association will be on Tuesday 11th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Our main topic for the agenda will be fundraising for next year. So, if you are interested, and feel you could spare a little time, do come along.



May I please remind you that if students wish to bring a mobile into school, there is a strict code of conduct as to their usage. In order to comply with school regulations, in the first instance, a contract needs to be completed.

If a student misuses or allows their telephone to be misused, the mobile is confiscated and parents are asked to collect it. Students are given one chance only; any repeated misdemeanours result in a permanent ban for that student.

On the whole, students behave very responsibly with their mobiles. As parents, we know how useful they can be, but to avoid any problems, we ask your assistance in ensuring that a contract is in place.

CONTRACT...

Sports News

HOCKEY **U.15 County Cup Final** *Kings of Wessex 1 vs. West Somerset 0*

Although we are well into summer activities, the U.15 County Hockey Final was delayed until the start of this term. Kings faced West Somerset School who were out for revenge, having lost to our 1st XI in the Senior Cup Semi-Final.

Kings started well and took the lead 12 minutes into the first half. We knew the opposition would be fired up for the second half and they scored early to level the game. From then on, the King's defence found themselves under pressure and saved several chances from West Somerset.

The full-time whistle was blown and we were into extra time and a 'golden goal' to win the competition. A goal did come early in extra time – a corner to Kings which was converted by Abi Fisher to win the Cup.

A fantastic performance from all the players.

Congratulations to the U.14 XI who won the County Cup. They beat Wells Blue 2-1 in a very skilful, competitive Final, held at The Blue School. The girls played exceptionally well in front of a huge crowd of Blue School supporters.

Well done to all who played.

U.14, U.15 TENNIS

At the point of writing, the U.14's and U.15's have not had many games.



The U.14's played against Wells Blue, and Emily Rossiter and Katie Ward played well to eventually beat Wells. A second match against Rossholme also proved victorious.

The U.15's have played one match to date against Sidcot.

Practices have not got fully going yet, but any girl who wishes to play Tennis can attend on Thursday lunchtimes from 1.15 – 2.00 p.m.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

School Tennis Fixtures

Please see noticeboard in P.E. corridor for signing up details

Finals will be held during the penultimate week of term.

U.14 ROUNDERS

An excellent turn-out of Year 9's to play Rounders which was encouraging.

The team have played three games to date, and probably the highlight so far is coming second in a competitive tournament held at Wells Cathedral. Kings played very well to beat a strong Wells Cathedral team.

They also beat King Edwards, and Frome to eventually finish second to a strong Wells Blue team.

YEAR 10 ROUNDERS

The Year 10 team have played 4 fixtures so far this term, losing only one match, narrowly against Rossholme.

Boys Under 16 County Cup Hockey

KINGS AGONISINGLY LOSE OUT ON PENALTY FLICKS!

Kings Of Wessex 3 : Wells Blue 3 (after extra time)

This final was a great advert for school sport – two teams giving their all, showing high levels of skill and played in a great spirit from start to finish.

Kings can consider themselves very unlucky to lose a match they dominated territorially and in terms of possession. However full praise should go to a determined Blue team that defended resolutely and punished Kings repeatedly on the break.

Kings trailed 2 – 1 with time ticking away at the end of normal time before grabbing a last gasp equaliser to take the game to extra time.

Kings trailed 3 – 2 going into the second half of extra time but once again showing true strength of spirit equalised with 5 minutes remaining ! In a frantic last push Kings repeatedly pressurised the

Blue goal even hitting the bar with the last hit of the game.

So to penalty flicks where unfortunately there was to be no more last gasp recoveries. The Wells Blue goal keeper made 3 great saves and the cup slipped from our grasp, 4–2 on penalties.

We hope the England football team has better luck if in a similar position this summer in Japan / S.Korea !!

Well done to all the players and thank you for your efforts.

Team included Adam Fotheringham, Doug Ward, Nick King, Tom Corbett, Martin Davis, Piers Tincknell, Matt Watts, Jim Ellis, Will Higginbottom, Simon Tyson, Luke Gupta, Ted Hincks, Henry Eriksson, Max Wdowski and Dave Phillips.

BOYS' SCHOOL TOURNAMENT RESULTS 2002

TOURNAMENT	WINNER / S	RUNNER/S UP
JUNIOR BOYS TABLE TENNIS	SIMON TYSON	CHRIS LUDLOW
SENIOR BOYS TABLE TENNIS	ROBERT FORTUNE	PETER FOWLER
JUNIOR BOYS BADMINTON SINGLES	SIMON TYSON	TED HINCKS
SENIOR BOYS BADMINTON SINGLES	ROBERT FORTUNE	BEN LATTY
JUNIOR BOYS BADMINTON DOUBLES	SIMON TYSON & TED HINCKS	JOE POWELL & JOE WILKINSON
SENIOR BOYS BADMINTON DOUBLES	ROBERT FORTUNE & BEN GARFITT	BEN LATTY & DAVE HEARD
JUNIOR SQUASH	PAUL CLARK	SIMON TYSON
SENIOR SQUASH	ROBERT FORTUNE	JILLY NEWBERY

- *Thanks to all those players who took part – it was great to see such a positive response*
- *The standard of play was very impressive, especially in the latter rounds*
- *Congratulations to all winners*

Athletics

There has been good support for school athletics so far this term. Year 9/10 girls have had an early fixture against Rossholme. There were good performances from Rachel Parry and Sophie James (Year 9) in the 300m and Long Jump, and Sarah Brierley, Jenna Young and Abi Fisher from Year 10.

Twelve students will be participating in the Area Trials at Millfield on the 22nd May, with a view to selection for the County Schools on the 15th June.

REMINDER: *Fixtures continue after half-term*

SPORTS DAY(S): **WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY**
 THURSDAY 4TH JULY

SCHOOL CLUBS

The following clubs/practices take place every week:

MONDAY: **1.00 p.m. Year 9 Cricket Practice**
 1.00 p.m. Swimming Club

TUESDAY: **1.00 p.m. Athletics Practice**
 1.00 p.m. Year 10 Cricket Practice

WEDNESDAY: **1.00 p.m. Years 9,10 Rounders Practice**

THURSDAY: **1.00 p.m. Tennis Club**

CRICKET FIXTURES 2002

YEAR 9		
DATE	OPPOSITION	TIME & VENUE
TUES 14 MAY	SIDCOT	4PM (A)
WED 16 MAY	MILLFIELD/ CUP	2.30PM (A)
TUES 21 MAY	BACKWELL	4PM (H)
WED 22 MAY	MILLFIELD	2.30PM (A)
THURS 30 MAY	WELLS BLUE	4PM (H)
TUES 18 JUNE	CHEW VALLEY	4PM (H)
TUES 25 JUNE	BRISTOL GRAMMAR	2.30PM (A)

Congratulations ...

**To Rhys Bevan, Trent Warren and Jon Filer who
have made it to the final selection camp for the
Somerset Schools U.15 Rugby squad in August.**

Good luck boys, we wish you all the best

CRICKET FIXTURES 2002

YEAR 10		
DATE	OPPOSITION	TIME & VENUE
WED 24 APRIL	CASTLE	2.30PM (A)
FRI 24 MAY	SOMERVALE	2.30PM (H)
TUES 21 MAY	BACKWELL	4PM (A)
WED 22 MAY	MILLFIELD	2.30PM (A)
THURS 30 MAY	WELLS BLUE	4PM (A)
WED 20 JUNE	CHEW VALLEY	4PM (H)

Congratulations ...

To Simon Tyson and Henry Eriksson who have been selected for an 8 week coaching course at Coombe Dingle, Bristol University, for the West of England region. This ultimately could lead to selection for the England Under 15 squad.

Good luck boys, we wish you all the best

House Events

Most of the House Competitions will be taking place in the final half of the term, when, hopefully, the weather will be kind to us.

However, there are some events to report on at the time of going to press.

Firstly, the boys Senior Football. This tournament was held over from last term due to poor weather. The standard of football was excellent and all matches were played in fine spirit. Lyonesse House ran out as winners in the final by beating Camelot. Sadly, the day was marred by a badly broken leg to goalkeeper Joel Carter during a challenge. Poor Joel will be sitting his GCSE's in full plaster. I am pleased to report he is making steady progress in his recovery and we wish him well.

Lyonesse also claimed the Softball Trophy, whilst the Rounders was won by Avalon.

Next half-term students can look forward to a lot of House Activity. This includes: *Junior Rounders, Tennis, Athletics, the Swimming Gala and hopefully a Golf Competition at Wedmore.*

Incidentally, our Athletics Sports Day this year will take place on **Thursday 4th July at 2.00 p.m.** and parents are more than welcome to spectate.

Congratulations ...

To Henry Eriksson in Year 9 who was selected for the West of England under 14 Hockey squad that won the National Finals in the Easter holidays at Loughborough University.



SPORTSMARK GOLD

Sportsmark Gold Success Achievement of a National Award

We are proud to announce that The Kings of Wessex has been awarded a prestigious national award by Sport England, as part of its Active Schools programme.

Sportsmark is a national accreditation programme, which sets a range of challenging targets. Particular areas of focus include the provision of a well-balanced Physical Education programme; an out-of-school-hours programme that offers all students access to a range of opportunities and sporting links with the local community to help students make links from school sport to sport in the community.

We strive to ensure that our students have access to appropriate opportunities in all these areas and achievement of the Sportsmark Gold Award acknowledges the high level of provision we are achieving. Indeed, The Kings of Wessex was one of only 50 schools nationally to achieve the Gold Award.

Achievement of the Gold Award has required the school to complete a thorough application process. We have welcomed this opportunity to review our sporting provision and are delighted to receive recognition for the wide range of opportunities we provide for all our students.

We aim to provide all our students with the opportunity to be active and involved in sport and have an enjoyable and satisfying experience in doing so, whatever their level of ability. In this way, we hope to foster a positive attitude towards sport so that students continue to participate in, and reap the benefits of, a physically active lifestyle.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff, students and parents, who have helped to make the achievement of this award possible.

ATTENDANCE

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 10.00 A.M.

The telephone number is:

01934 745304

Please state:

- Your name
- The child's name and tutor group
- The reason for absence

It is also important that you call in each day of your child's absence.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE	
Saturday 1 st June – Sunday 9 th June inclusive	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 11 th	P.T.A. Meeting 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 12 th	Year 9 Geography visit – Kilve River
Friday 14 th	Year 9 Geography visit – Kilve River
Monday 17 th	Year 12 return to A2 work Year 9 Geography visit – Kilve River
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 19 th	Year 9 Geography visit – Kilve River
Friday 21 st	Felsberg exchange students arrive
Wednesday 26 th	6 th Form Induction Day
Thursday 27 th	STAFF TRAINING DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Friday 28 th	
Friday 28 th	GCSE AS & A2 exams finish Felsberg exchange students depart
JULY	
Monday 1 st - Saturday 6 th	Year 10 Totleigh Barton Creative Writing residential
Tuesday 2 nd	Transfer Day
Wednesday 3 rd	Sports Day Part I
Thursday 4 th	Sports Day Part II
Monday 8 th	Arts Week
Tuesday 9 th	First Schools Music Festival 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 th	History Day Swimming Gala New Parent/Tutor Evening 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday 11 th	First Schools Music Festival 7.30 p.m.???
Friday 12 th	Year 9 SATs results issued
Monday 15 th	Tennis Finals commence
Tuesday 16 th	Year 10 Art visit – Tate Modern
Thursday 18 th	Year 10 Art visit – Tate Modern
Saturday 20 th	SUMMER HOLIDAYS COMMENCE

Duke of Edinburgh Award

First of all, a mention must be made of our students who belatedly received their Bronze Awards at a ceremony at Downside School in January. The following were awarded with certificates at a small informal ceremony:

Hannah Morgan
Rosemary Fenton
Joe Whitmarsh
Catherine Smith

Katie Foster
Ben Hutchinson
Chris Long
William Wills
James Neave

Phillip White
Katie Walker
Charlotte Harris
Rob Millar
Emma Stevenson

Rob Millar did the school proud by being put on the spot to give a short talk on how the group had progressed. This he did very well considering he had no prior warning. Well done all, and especially Rob.

Currently we have a combined group of Year 12 and 13 lining up to complete their Silver assessed expedition in July. That should see most of them achieve the Silver certificate and then move on to start Gold.

In Year 11, thirty students completed their assessed Bronze expedition in March and we await the final assessment on that before they too gain their awards and move on to the next level at Silver. In fact, planning is already taking place for them to go out on a practice expedition on Exmoor after their GCSE exams.

In Year 10, we currently have approximately 60 students and we have had to split them into two groups for expeditions. We have almost completed expedition training and have already gone on a couple of training days. Preparations are now almost finalised for their first practice expedition in June or July in the Quantock Hills.

Year 9 students, some of whom are very eager to get involved already, will be approached through assemblies and meetings before the end of this term so that they can get started with the award as soon as we get back in September.

Wessex Walks May 2002

A huge thanks and congratulations is due to the hardy group of students, parents and friends who completed the 24 miles from Bleadon Hill, near Weston Super Mare, to Wells on Sunday 17th May. The weather, for the first time in 12 years, was **not** kind. There was sunshine but it was interspersed with very windy, sharp, heavy downpours. This tended to damp the elation felt by some on finishing. Nevertheless, the money raised will go to a good cause (**Save The Children Fund**), so please, if you sponsored any of the walkers, they deserve to have their money as soon as possible – this time they earned every penny of it!