



Issue 46: December 2002

# The Kings' Messenger

THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL

*A Specialist Technology College*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Friends

Inevitably, perhaps, much of our focus for this half-term has been on preparations for the OFSTED inspection of the school which took place from December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Inspector will not present his full report to Governors until after the Christmas Holiday but he has left us with some key headlines which I can share with you.

You will recall that the Inspection of the Sixth Form was to be intensive, with a short inspection of the main school. In essence the judgement on the Sixth Form is that it is very good, and particular reference was paid to the quality of teaching and learning in subject areas, and to the very positive role which the Sixth Form plays in the school as a whole. In speaking of the major strengths of the whole school the Inspector referred to:

(a) the achievements gained in public examinations; (b) the arrangements for transfer/transition in Years 8/9 and indeed across the Cheddar Valley (described as “exemplary”); (c) the opportunities for students to develop as mature and independent young people within a clearly supportive system; and (d) the sense of clear educational direction in the leadership and management of the school.

It is, of course, very encouraging to receive such favourable and positive comments and I look forward to sharing the report with you in greater detail next term when the OFSTED Inspector’s summary of key points will be circulated to all parents.

Following on from the OFSTED week, we moved directly into Charities Week: from frying pan to fire, perhaps! Charities Week has always been a highlight in the school calendar and this has certainly been the case this year. A sum in excess of £10,000 has been raised for our three nominated worthy causes (the Avalon Camp at Mark for disadvantaged children; Steps which aids children with lower limb abnormalities; Operation Sunshine which ships clothing and medical supplies to areas in desperate need). This in itself is a splendid achievement and during the week a variety of events – autograph auction, leg waxing, Gladiators, the legendary Rock ‘n Roll Years – have involved and entertained students, culminating in a splendid ‘Prom’ for senior students on Friday night.

The work involved in organising such a week is considerable and our thanks and appreciation go to the Senior Team of students whose imagination, hard work and superb leadership ensured that everything went off smoothly. The atmosphere around school during Charities Week is really good with lots of excitement and good fun, without any significant disruption of normal lessons. On a wider level, I would like to thank my teaching colleagues for all their effort to ensure the success of the week and also the students for their whole-hearted involvement, support and co-operation.

On a Charities theme, it’s also interesting to record that I have recently received thank you letters from the Royal British Legion for the proceeds from the Remembrance Poppy Sale and from “Save the Children” for the money raised by students during the sponsored “Wessex Walks”, last summer.

Christmas Cabaret was a real success this year and featured some stunning performances of a variety of dramatic and musical items. A particular highlight was provided by Mr Bailey’s new Gospel Choir who also sang in the Somerset Schools Christmas Concert at Wells Cathedral, and enlivened our own Carol Services in the Church in an exhilarating style. Many thanks to the unfailingly enthusiastic P.T.A. members, who organised such a memorable evening.

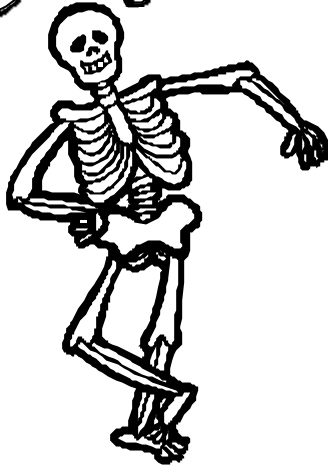
I look forward to meeting those of you with children in Year 11 at the Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>. The new year also sees the opening of our newly extended L.R.C., a splendid facility which will include a much needed and enhanced provision for Sixth Form private study.

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for the support I have received during the last term and wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

David Dams  
**Headteacher**

# Bodyworlds



## BIOLOGY TRIP

On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2002, forty-six Sixth Formers boarded a bus at 7.30 a.m. to travel to London.

Six hours (!! ) later we arrived to visit the controversial *Bodyworlds* Exhibition.

This gave the students the opportunity to observe the physiology and anatomy of the human body.

The donors are preserved and displayed in various poses to expose varying internal features such as muscle structure, nervous system and organs. It was noted that most of the donors were male smokers by the discolouration of the lungs and there was also a pregnant female.

After a short visit we boarded the bus again for the long trip back.

The trip was well worthwhile and gave a really good insight into the "Mammalian Physiology" unit taken in Year 13. The teachers, Mrs Hunter-Clarke, Miss Meldon, and Mr Smith, enjoyed the visit and would like to thank the Sixth Formers for their behaviour and optimism during the day.

### *YEAR 12 BIOLOGY TRIP TO TECHNIQUEST*

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December Miss Meldon and Mr Aung took a group of Year 12 students to Techniquest in Cardiff. The half-day Post-16 Workshop provided the students with hands-on experience of techniques used in genetic research laboratories. This included the Polymerase Chain Reaction which is used to amplify small sections of DNA; a technique used worldwide in forensic science and disease diagnosis. The students were also able to discuss some of the social and ethical issues associated with this area of Biology.

Students thought the Workshop was "interesting, useful and informative".

The students who attended were:

Linda Newman  
Kate Jones  
Luke Chambers  
Davinia Hoggarth  
George May

Hannah Laken  
Lydia Gibson  
Keryl Johnson  
George House

# ICT in Mathematics

The Mathematics Faculty have been very busy since September integrating new ICT resources into the curriculum. In her role as ICT Co-ordinator for Mathematics, Mrs Johnson has introduced the Faculty to new software including DartMaths, OmniGraph and the Geometer's Sketchpad.

**dartmaths** DartMaths can be used either as an audio-visual whole class demonstration package or as an individual learning system. Year 11 students may well find this useful as part of their revision for their GCSEs. OmniGraph and the Geometer's Sketchpad both aid the Faculty in the teaching of graphs and geometry. Students who have used these packages had given very positive feedback.



*The photos show some of Mr White's year 10 students investigating geometry involving circles using*

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GEOMETER'S  
SKETCHPAD®**

A number of staff are using PowerPoint presentations as part of some of their lessons. PowerPoint has proved very useful when teaching topics involving shape and space and has enabled teachers to produce high quality notes and diagrams in advance of the lessons and then project these onto the board for the whole class. PowerPoint was also used to great effect with some year 11 classes in going through the mock examinations.

Earlier in the term both Mrs Johnson and Mr White shared some of the ways in which ICT and the Internet in particular was being used in Mathematics Department with all of the teaching staff in the whole school ICT INSET day. More recently the department were joined for a morning by members of the mathematics departments of Fairlands and Hugh Sexey's who were able to see examples of the work being done and spend some time using the software for themselves.

*It is hoped that all students will make the most of the opportunities available to them to use ICT to improve their learning and understanding of Mathematics throughout their Mathematics course at The Kings of Wessex.*

# ablemath

The Kings of Wessex School has had a long established commitment to promote courses for exceptionally able students. Kilve Court has been the focus for this provision for Gifted and Talented children for many years and is the leading organisation and venue with responsibility for work in this field in the Somerset LEA. Six Year 9 students from Mr White's class attended a course for Gifted and Talented Mathematicians in November. All returned with excellent reports. Here are some of their thoughts:



I arrived at Kilve Court at about ten to eleven. I then checked in and waited until we were told we could go to our rooms and unpack. After we unpacked, we came down to the Common Room for an introduction. We were sorted into groups that we would be working in for the week. We had some lunch and then we went to our 'class rooms'. We got to know each other and started off with some brainteasers. We then had some tea and then back to do more work.

Most days were like this except parts of Tuesday and Thursday when we went for walks through the woods and along the seaside cliffs. In our spare time we played pool and talked.

After our final work sessions in the evenings we had from nine o'clock until half-past ten for free time. We then went to bed to get some 'sleep' before another day's work.

**Paul Wadey (9NK)**

The six students who took up the offer to go on a Maths course at Kilve Court all had a good time. We had to work from 8.45 a.m. to 9.30 p.m., but had lots of free time. Also it wasn't working like in school - it was fun and you were allowed to work lying on the floor or lounging in a chair. The work involved was cirpoly, surds, Pythagoras' theorem, Pascals triangle, fractions and decimals.

There were 74 pupils on the course and we were split into four classes of 15 and one of 14. Each class had to produce a wall display including all the work we had covered throughout the week. We also had to produce a file each, including all the work we had done as individuals. These were judged and a prize was awarded for the best one.

The course was well worthwhile. Everybody enjoyed themselves and we managed to fit a lot of fun into the Maths-packed week.

**Izzy Higgs (9CG)**

# KILVE COURT RESIDENTIAL

## Mathematics



On November 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> I went to Kilve Court on a Year 9 Mathematics course with five other students from The Kings of Wessex Community School.

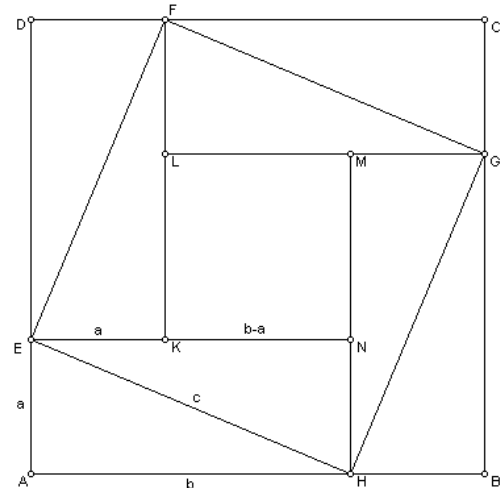
From the moment we arrived, ground rules were enforced on us six, and the 68 children from schools as far away as Birmingham. We got split up into classes for the week and then went to work. The whole of the course was about the method by exhaustion (proof). The Mathematics we did varied from Year 9 topics, e.g. trigonometry, to Lower Sixth topics, e.g. surds. We studied Cirpoly, took an in-depth look into Pascal's triangle and Pythagoras' theorem.

We also studied numbers, polyhedra and quadratics. Between periods of work we had a chance to relax and play pool if we wished to do so.

Overall the work was challenging but it was still a very enjoyable week.

Mark Williams

### Pythagoras' Theorem



*At Kilve we did loads of complex Maths which was really interesting. Things like Pascal's triangle, Pythagoras' Theorem, surds and loads of other weird stuff.*

*It was really good to get away for a week and still learn. The only bad thing was I had to share a room for the week.*

*Overall the whole Maths theme was really good and the relaxed atmosphere was better than at school. When we had free time the facilities were there to do loads of activities.*

**Olly Strawbridge (9EH)**

## Water Aid

Imagine that you had to spend several hours a day walking to find water and then having to carry it back home. On top of that the water is probably dirty and riddled with contagious diseases.

This is the plight of millions of people around the world and with global warming the problem is likely to get worse not better.

Water Aid is a charity fighting to bring clean, safe water to those in need.

## What can you do to help?

Why not donate any loose change that you have to Water Aid? You could get your parents to do the same! There is a collection box in room P1, screwed to the bench! Alternatively give it to Mr Holdsworth or any member of his tutor group 9EH.



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# A Spooky Tale

*As a teacher new to the school and having a tutor and teaching base in room P1, I decided to clean up the room. It had nothing to do with Ofsted, honest! There were lots of old books and work going back years. As I was reaching the end of the task I noticed a large lever-arch file that was full of hand written notes. On closer inspection I saw that they were A level Physics notes. Nothing strange in that you might think seeing as this is a Physics room. As I looked closer I recognised the writing of an ex-colleague of mine with whom I had taught many years ago at Clevedon School. Then I noticed my own hand writing on some marked work. The date was September 1989! This was the work of someone that I had taught A level Physics to over 13 years ago at Clevedon! How had the file ended up at Kings of Wessex in a room in which I have never been before this year? Spooky or what?*

**Mr. Holdsworth**

# spanish club

The *Spanish Club* is new to the school this year and is proving to be a success. There is a core of fifteen students who come along as well as several others who turn up when they can.

Spanish is a beautiful language and it is great to see so many enjoying it, and learning it so well. We often play music in Spanish, mostly from Latin America. We will be continuing next term and it would be nice to have even more students come along.

***Feliz Navidad para todos!***

Senior Amigo

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**IT FOR THE TERRIFIED** is a community enterprise supported by The Kings of Wessex Specialist Technology College Programme.

# LRC News



After a term of upheaval, work on the extension and refurbishment of the LRC is almost completed, and we are looking forward to re-opening to students and staff in January

## *New facilities include:*

- *30 new computers connected to the school Intranet and Internet*
- *seats for 120 students*
- *facilities for photocopying, laminating and binding*



LRC staffing has been increased  
Valerie Jones & Elaine Reynolds have been joined by  
Ros Fielder

**Barbara Taschimowitz:** *Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator*

**Terry Clark:** *Year 9 Co-ordinator* and  
**Connexions** staff now have offices within the building

## *We are open all day as follows:*

*Monday: 9 a.m. – 3.50 p.m.*  
*Tuesday-Friday: 9.20 a.m. – 3.50 p.m.*



# Sports News

## SENIOR RUGBY

Since half-term, rugby at senior level has quite simply 'taken-off' with some outstanding performances and superb results. After a disappointing defeat at Churchill just before the holidays, a players' meeting was held and a call for more commitment, passion and focus at training sessions was agreed upon by all present. Since then the 1<sup>st</sup> XV have not looked back.

First to suffer at the hands of a revitalised team were West Somerset College (Minehead) who were thumped 40-5, with skipper Mike Denbee leading by example with a remarkable four tries. He would be first to admit that this feat would not have been possible without the efforts of his team mates!

This result was an excellent platform for our next match, our annual trip to Millfield. Despite the best efforts of our near neighbours from the sporting school of excellence, Millfield failed to score a single point and an elated, rain-soaked squad of players and hardened supporters celebrated a 13-0 success. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV saved their best performance for the return match versus Churchill. The balance of power was more than redressed with a resounding 28-0 victory. James Smith's late try was the pick of the bunch, as a sweeping move from our own try-line saw at least 10 players involved in sending Smith diving in under the posts. A big 33-5 win against Ridings School (Bristol) has set the team up perfectly for the finale to a great season, the annual fixture with the 'Old Boys' (Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December). This promises to be a classic with a very strong 'Old Boys' side expected. Win or lose, I am sure the Senior Rugby Dinner, which follows the match, will be a night to celebrate a fine season.



Congratulations must also go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, ably led by Gavin Foster who bounced back from defeat at Millfield this half-term with a resounding win at Sidcot to cap a very good term which suggests much promise and potential for next year.

## YEAR 10 RUGBY

It was great to see 28 boys at pre-season trials and training in September. Everyone returned to school after the long summer break fresh, fit, enthusiastic and looking forward to the season ahead. Training went really well and we were well prepared for our opening games.

However, all our plans went up in smoke, when, in the space of a week, it seemed that at least half the squad were out injured. Most notably, Joe Sims (No 8), who fractured his arm in our final practice game. Joe was ruled out for the entire season which was a great loss as he is one of our most promising players. Thankfully he is now well on the way to recovery.

A narrow opening defeat to Backwell (34-36) was particularly disappointing as, having trailed 31-5 at half-time, Kings found their game in the second half and produced some outstanding rugby. It would have been agonising enough to lose by just 2 points but was made more frustrating by the constant infringing and time-wasting by the worried opposition.

This was followed by a first round Cup exit to Beechen Cliff who were more or less the Bath RFU junior team. However, with a side severely depleted by injury, Kings gave a strong performance, making Beechen Cliff work very hard for their 28-14 victory.

A midweek thrashing by local rivals Wells Blue was the low point of the year. Lacking confidence and missing key players, Kings gave a woeful performance against a team they had beaten the previous year.

After a long team meeting, sleeves were rolled up, and with ever-increasing numbers returning to fitness, the team showed its metal and went on a four match

winning run. Excellent victories against Churchill, Chew Valley, St Gregory's and Sidcot followed.

The forwards began to win more ball in the loose and at set pieces. James Kingsbury, George Hael, new boy Tawas Nyamunda, Charlie Slobart and the inspirational Rhys Bevan, shone particularly. With more ball, the backs grew in confidence and there were excellent performances from Alex Buhagiar, Jamie Major, Dave Philips, Henry Eriksson and Trent Warren, to name a few.

The last game of the season saw Year 10 travel to Millfield, always a difficult encounter. In a torrential rain storm both teams played some excellent rugby. Kings were very unlucky to go down 17-10 and were highly praised by the Millfield staff for their performance and sportsmanship.

However, after a difficult start to the season, Year 10 can take more plus's than minus's from the year. I am sure that in Year 11 they will return more determined and stronger than ever to play the game they all so clearly enjoy.

*Well done boys – it was a pleasure to work with you this year.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

*Trent Warren  
Jon Filer  
Rhys Bevan*

**On their selection for the Somerset Schools Under 15 Rugby Squad. Well done boys – richly deserved for your excellent performances for the school and the District team.**

**Good Luck!**



## YEAR 9 RUGBY

The Year 9 rugby side started off well this year, with a pleasing 35 students turning up for the trials. From this number, about 25 students have represented the school this year. The team has inherited a very difficult fixture list from some very successful year groups in the past. Although the results were not as we would have hoped, Mr Holdsworth and I have been impressed with the attitude of the majority of the players. The team as a whole has made a great deal of progress. They have become a lot more determined and physical, even against sides much bigger than themselves. Most of the players train every week and their hard

work is really paying off. Some individuals have even managed to get themselves into the Sedgemoor District U14 Squad. These are Frazer Gracie, Shane Fear, captain George Wright and Brett Powers. Hugo Cook also got into the North Somerset training camp.

Other players who deserve to be mentioned are Ben Newton, Steven Miller and 'tackle of the season' winner, Joe Kildorf.

I would like to congratulate the whole squad on their efforts all the way to the end, and for the progress that they have made.

**Mr Friend**

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## Senior Volleyball

Sixth Form mixed volleyball has recently started in the Leisure Centre on Friday lunchtimes. There are a regular 14 students who turn up and I am very pleased with their attitude, enthusiasm and the way that they are progressing. In the future there will be more time available and more volleyballs for practice. I hope to see the same people training as well as any other Sixth Formers who would like to come and play. There is a wide range of abilities so every Sixth Former is welcome. I would like to make a special mention of Phil White for his enthusiasm and use of his volleyball, and Tom Merry for helping me coach the others, especially in demonstrations.

**Mr Friend**



# HOCKEY

## 1<sup>st</sup> XI

The first XI have gone from strength to strength as the season has progressed. After a shaky start against an extremely strong Taunton School side, the squad have worked well together. After a couple of positional changes, the team have not looked back and have played better and better with each game.

The team have had some extremely close games especially against an improving Wells Blue side. Their latest game, against Sexeys Bruton, Kings won easily 5-0. The team remain in the U18 County Cup and play the next round after Christmas in January.

Good luck.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won 5, lost 2 and drew 1. Over the season, with new and old members, we pulled together and worked well as a team. Our games seemed to start and end very quickly this year; however, it was a successful season, which we all enjoyed! Captain Helen Stone was able to keep the team in good spirit throughout the games. Amy Denbee had a strong enough hit to scare any other player on the pitch. I was pleased to have Sara Hewish as one of my backs, along with Helen and Jess Walker, as they worked out how they were going to play and stuck to it so as not to confuse the rest of the team. The wings, Jenny Tungate and Laura Morgan, and forward Jo Burkinshaw, played well to produce positive outcomes on short corners. We would like to thank Sara Winter for her support at the practices and in a few game situations. The team would also like to thank all the staff who helped arrange our matches, especially Mrs Roberts.

**“MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> XI’S”**

**Sam Percival**

## U.15

The U.15 have had another successful season and once again have had a good team spirit during practices and matches. Rachel Goddard and Alice Fitton have done a good job captaining the side and making sure everyone is organised.

The team have won the majority of their games and only narrowly lost to a strong Millfield team. Unfortunately, the senior team was short that day which meant two U.15's playing up in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, which obviously left the U.15's short.

The U.15's remain in the County Cup after a convincing win against Ladymead in probably the worst conditions I have ever seen in my whole teaching career.

Well done girls and keep working hard.

## U.14 XI

This has been a successful season for the U.14 XI who have lost only one match this year against Taunton School. There has been excellent attendance at practices and we have successfully run a 'B' XI who were successful in matches against Chew Valley, Rossholme and Sidcot

School. The U.14's are still in the County Cup and had a convincing win against Minehead School, winning 5-0 in the first round.

County Cup matches will continue next term.



*Practices for Junior and Senior Netball will re-start after half-term. Senior practices take place on Tuesday lunchtimes. Junior practice on Thursday lunchtime. Junior and Senior Netball matches start after Christmas.*

# House Sport

The somewhat inclement weather has meant that two competitions, both hockey, have been postponed until the New Year due to the state of our grass pitches, which have resembled small lakes at times in recent weeks.

The Junior Boys' Hockey final was won at a canter by Camelot who beat Avalon 6-0. Henry Eriksson will be picking up the trophy as winning captain in our Final Presentation Assembly. The same two Houses met in the Final of the Junior Rugby and unfortunately for Avalon the outcome was the same and just as comprehensive, Rhys Bevan's Camelot side running out 36-5 winners. Tintagel beat Lyonesse to finish third.

Senior Girls' Hockey was won by Tintagel, with captain Hannah Laken picking up the Cup. The diminutive Holly Woszczyk proved that height isn't everything in Basketball as she led her Avalon team to victory in the Senior competition held at the Leisure Centre.

Finally, on a bitterly cold Wednesday afternoon, the Senior Rugby competition was played to a very high standard with all matches extremely tense and close affairs. Jim Smith was a relieved winning captain of Avalon as a late try saw his side to a 15-7 defeat of a luckless Tintagel.

*Events next term, including the postponed Hockey competitions, feature Badminton, Football and Netball at Junior and Senior level.*

# FOOTBALL

Year 9 vs. Wadham (A)

Somerset Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

**KINGS OF WESSEX 3 - WADHAM 1**

This was an excellent first match for a very promising Year 9 side. In a biting wind, Kings played some excellent football from start to finish, with slick passing and resolute defending being the order of the day.

Matt Cooper gave a confident display in goal and was well protected by the back four which was calmly led by Ben Male. Shane Fear was particularly solid, winning everything on the floor and in the air. Special praise to Jordan Cook who played out of position at right back and did a great job. Martin Slocombe gave a very accomplished performance at left back where he was always eager to play the ball to fee and cause Wadham headaches with his runs up the flank.

The midfield worked very hard throughout the match with Frazer Gracie winning countless tackles while Tom Young linked up well with the attack. Sam Hughes and Dan Simone gave the team good width and put in some telling crosses which kept the Wadham back four under pressure.

Tom Parsons up front gave the opposition problems all afternoon with strong runs and two great finishes. Josh Picton supported him well with good movement and some lovely lay-offs.

Mark Keane and Rob Gosling both came on in the second half and gave very encouraging performances typifying the team effort.

*Well done Year 9 - a great first match. We look forward to a home draw in the next round.*

## ***Car Parking at the Leisure Centre***

Users of the Leisure Centre are finding it difficult to park around 4 p.m. due to parents collecting their children from school. Would you please be aware of this when using the Leisure Centre Car Park and try to arrange for pick-up to take place after 4 p.m.

*Thank you*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec – Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 03 inclusive	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First Day of Spring Term
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	P.T.A. Meeting – 7.30 p.m. Conference Room
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AS & A2 examinations commence November GCSE results published Sixth Form Subject Fayre Sixth Form Open Evening
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	'A' Level Drama & Theatre Studies visit to London
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 11 Business Studies trip to Manchester departs
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 11 Business Studies trip to Manchester returns
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AS & A2 examinations finish Year 11 Parents' Evening 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Deadline for Sixth Form applications
WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SCHOOL PRODUCTION WEEK
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Year 9 Reports issued
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> March inclusive	HALF TERM HOLIDAY