



THE KINGS OF WESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL
A Specialist Technology College

THE KINGS' MESSENGER

Issue 49

May 2003

Dear Parents and Friends

This has been a short but exceptionally busy half term with the emphasis being very much on the preparation for and taking of examinations. All years of the school find themselves caught up in the examination process at this stage of the year, commencing with the Key Stage 3 SATs for Year 9 and the internal examinations for Year 10. Students in Years 11,12 and 13 have recently commenced their study leave and most will have sat their first examinations before half term. Obviously this can be a very stressful time for students but we hope that they feel confident and well prepared. Good luck to them all.

In the run up to examination leave we hold several key events for students in Years 11 and 13 who are reaching the end of their statutory period of education or their overall time at school. For Year 11 the Records of Achievement Ceremony is a real highlight and one which emphasises the cohesive strength of the Cheddar Valley system as teachers of the first and middle schools join us to reminisce on their former students and to celebrate their achievements.

For Year 13, the annual Ascension Day Service followed by the climbing of the Church Tower and singing the traditional hymn provides a distinctive Kings of Wessex memory. The final leavers service for Year 13 and the Year 11 Ceremony both featured some beautiful musical moments and amusing reminiscences from both students and staff.

Thankfully it is not all examinations, however. The term commenced with a wonderfully entertaining Spring Concert which featured an amazing variety of musical pieces. The audience was truly enthralled by the quality and vitality of the performances: congratulations to Mr Bailey and to the impressively large number of students who took part.

Congratulations also to those dauntless staff and students who undertook the annual Wessex Walk from Bleadon to Wells, to raise money for "Save the Children".

And, finally, a welcome to the Czech students from our partner school in Prague who this week have been exploring the delights of the West Country and enjoying the hospitality of the host families with whom they are staying.

We have all been saddened recently by the sudden, unexpected death of one of our students—Peter Tomes in Year 10. Peter will be very fondly remembered by the many students and staff who knew him. In school Year 10 will be holding a service in memory of Peter: any donations can be made via the school office to Afasic (the Association for all speech impaired children). Our deepest condolences go to Peter's parents and family at this sad time.

In conclusion may I remind parents of Year 9 students of the changes to school uniform which are outlined again in the pages of the Kings' Messenger.

Yours sincerely

David Dams
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24 May
Sunday 1 June

HALF TERM

June

Mon	2	TERM STARTS
Tues	3	PTA Meeting 7.30 pm
Mon	9	Yr 10 Work Experience commences
Fri	13	Yr 10 Work Experience finishes
Mon	16	Y12 return to start A2 studies
Wed	18	New Parents Evening 7 pm
Fri	27	GCSE exams finish

July

Tues	1	Transfer Day
Wed	2	Sports Day Part I 9 am -1 pm
Thurs	3	Sports Day Part II 2-3.50 p.m.
Mon	7	STAFF TRAINING DAY
Wed	9	New Parents Tutor Evening 5-8 pm Swimming Gala 9.30-1.00 pm
Fri	11	Year 10 Reports issued
Fri	18	Yr9 SATS results issued

Thurs 24 **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**
COMMENCE

New Eco-Schools Group

Eco-Schools, what's that?

This is a new group that has been founded out of concerns for the environment raised by members of the school council. The group intends to promote sustainability and improve the school environment. This ties in neatly with the school values.

On the 1st May a group of eight pupils and two members of staff visited Crispin School, Street, who are a fully-fledged eco-school, in order to be inspired and generate ideas. The trip was hugely successful with many ideas exchanged and proved highly motivating to the group to see what could be achieved. Crispin has been an eco-school for many years and has created themed gardens, sculptures and dedicated landscapes using many cross-curricular links, especially Art and Science. They operate many recycling and renewable energy schemes from a dedicated 'Green Room' (an unused mobile classroom). They promote healthy eating and run a Fair Trade cafe once a week. Our aim for the future is to create a similar sustainable awareness and ethos within The Kings of Wessex School. The new Kings of Wessex Eco-Schools Group has made a start, initially focusing upon:

- ☀ REDUCING waste and litter.
- ☀ RECYCLING paper, cans, ink cartridges and mobile phones.

Look out for our logo and put your waste paper in our boxes for recycling.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD INK CARTRIDGES? We are now recycling these, bring them into the LRC and tell your family, friends and neighbours too! We hope that the whole community can support us here. In the near future we hope to have some can bins so that we can crush and recycle aluminium cans.

Future projects include:

- Energy saving/generating.
- Fair Trade sales and cafe.
- Landscaping.

The group has organised a dedicated green Citizenship day on July 18th where members of the environmental group will be holding workshops and presentations. The group hopes that this will generate interest and be a motivating influence to students.

If you are interested or have any ideas and want to join now.

See: Miss Thorogood
Mrs Baker

Mr Holdsworth
Adele Cameron

Or Daisy Nicolaou

Youth Work

This month saw Ian contributing to the school's Ascension Day service at the Parish Church. He read the first story – traditionally a parody of Christ – this time paralleling the work of Christ in a person's soul as that of an electrician bringing light. What was read has been reproduced for you here, though readers may be interested to know that this is only the first part of the story. The second part is available from Ian for all interested.

THE ELECTRICIAN

The room was cold, dark and damp but it had become my friend for I had lived there ever since I remembered. Heavy blankets of isolation, loneliness and fear insulated and protected me from the outside world.

One day there was a knock on the door... my heart froze... yet everything in me told me that 'he' had come. But the darkness swallowed my muffled cries... Once again he knocked..."Oh Lord, Lord, come in!" The door opened and there stood, The Electrician.

He wore radiant white overalls and around his waist was a large leather workman's belt with various tools, wires and light bulbs of different sizes dangling from it. He tipped his hat and with a softness in his eyes came in with a large white ladder into the middle of the dark room. He then proceeded to climb up the ladder and insert a small 25 watt light bulb into the bare socket hanging from the ceiling. He came down and folded up the ladder and left.

I crawled into the middle of the soft warm light and fell asleep.

The healing light began to restore and strengthen me. Hours later I woke and began to walk around the circumference of the light. And then I noticed a shovel lying in the midst of the debris so I went over and picked it up and began to clean the area. It was a tremendous amount of work and took days, but finally it was clean. And then as the days followed I would find

myself just laying on my back staring at the bare light bulb hanging from the ceiling and loving the light.

It had become my friend and comforted me.

Then one day there was a knock once again at my door and I knew it was HIM. I ran to the door and opened it. He smiled at me as he came in and I knew that he was pleased with what he saw. He carried in his ladder and put it in the middle of the room, walked up it, took out the smaller light and put in a larger 75 watt light bulb. Instantly the light in the room increased and for the first time I noticed a chair and couch. As he left I quickly began to discover my new found space.

I loved the light... I loved everything about the room... but then I noticed the piles of garbage and dirt hidden everywhere. And as I began to size up the situation I saw a greasy film over everything and piles of old books, CDs and souvenirs scattered everywhere.

I had had such an insatiable appetite for things, and more and more things, but it had never filled me. Only the light from The Electrician filled that void. I knew that all of this clutter had to go so I rolled up my sleeves and over the next several months began to shovel, sweep and polish. Finally, for the first time in my life, I felt that I had a home that was mine.

How strange it was because I had looked everywhere for it and to have had it inside all along amazed me... but then I had never had The Light before.

DANCE

On Tuesday the 8 March a choreographer called Oscar, who has been an extra on Casualty, visited us from Bristol. He did a dance workshop with Danzatak and PE groups throughout the day to promote Danzatak. He taught us very energetic dances and routines to fast songs. He was laid back and really funny which made the day very enjoyable.

Abby Milsom, Romy Sandy & Abi Woodward

SPORT

ROUNDERS

Year 9 Rounders practice take place every Thursday lunchtime. Excellent attendance so far! A team travelled to Wells Cathedral for a Tournament and were placed 5th. Matches continue next week and after half term.

ATHELETICS

Kings entertained Rossholme school in a closely contested match involving Year 9, 10 girls. There were some good performances from Elainna Teare (javelin), Rachel Parry (800m long jump), Sarah Small 200m) all winning their events.



The final positions went down to the relay which Rossholme won and won the competition by 2 points. Well done to all students who were involved.