



# THE KINGS' MESSENGER

Issue 50

July 2003

As the annual examinations season draws to a close, in the early weeks of this half term, there is comparatively more scope for those extra curricular and curriculum linked activities which are so beneficial in enriching our students' experience of school.

Work Experience week is always highly valued by the vast majority of Year 10 students and this year included the usual variety of interesting and exciting placements. A highlight for Year 9 was the Saturday visit to Alton Towers involving approximately 180 students accompanied by the majority of the tutors: an event which I cannot imagine happening on this scale in many schools! Other numerous day visits have taken place for Years 9, 10 and 12 offering a variety of educational and cultural experiences.

In Music and Drama lessons this term Year 9 have concentrated on writing and producing their own musical which will be performed in a workshop production with a large cast on Wednesday July 16. The Art Exhibition of Year 13 work was particularly impressive this year both for the quality of the exhibits and the rich range of creative talent which was displayed.

To mention the above is perhaps invidious for there are many other activities—Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Totleigh Barton creative writing course, visits to the Eden Project and the Tate Gallery, Sports Day, swimming gala and tennis competitions— all taking place during the second half of this term. I would like to thank all staff for their energy and enthusiasm which enable such a wide variety of interesting and stimulating activities to be offered to students.

Returning briefly to the examinations theme congratulations are due to students and staff for the Key Stage 3 results which have just been published. Taking all three subjects together the results are the

best since Key Stage 3 testing began with English, Mathematics and Science all achieving at least 85% of students above level 5.

Naturally at this time of the year we extend our best wishes and thanks to those teachers who are leaving us and moving to pastures new. Mrs Linda Geary (subject co-ordinator for ICT) is retiring after 19 years in which she has successfully led the subject through a time of unparalleled change and development. Jo Stephens (History), Mel Bryan (Drama), and Lucy Workman (Technology) have all made significant contributions to the teaching in their subjects as well as to the extra curricular life of the school. Lisa Merryweather (English), Yvonne Bulman (p/time English), Allison Holland (p/time, Child Development) and Catherine Macadam (p/time French) have all been with us for a year or two and have impressed with their hard work and commitment.

This last "Kings Messenger" of the year also marks the conclusion of my tenure as Acting Headteacher along with my retirement after twenty years, largely as Deputy Head, at "Kings of Wessex". I have been very lucky to teach for so long in such a pleasant school where the achievement of high standards takes place in such a friendly and harmonious community. I would like to thank all those parents, students and Governors of the school who have supported me during the last year. I should also like to thank all the staff - non teaching and teaching - who have worked together to support me. I could not have hoped to have worked with a better, more professional or more committed group of people.

Finally best wishes to you all in the future. I am sure that the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

# Reporting Absence

We would be grateful if parents would telephone the Absence Hot Line on 01934 745304, or send an email to [ABeesley@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ABeesley@educ.somerset.gov.uk) on the morning of any known absence including illness, doctor's appointments, dentist etc. Please leave the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Your child's name and tutor group
- ▶ Reason for absence

**Please note that a phone call or email should be made/sent for each day of your child's absence.**

A note of confirmation of your child's absence should be sent to your child's tutor on return to the school

**THANK YOU** to those parents who use the absence hot line—this year the school has reached an attendance target of 93%

# Mobile phones

May we remind you that if your child is in Year 9,10, or 11, they must have a completed and signed contract in order to bring a mobile phone to school. Failure to complete a contract or the misuse of mobiles will lead to the confiscation and probably a permanent ban for that student.

Thank you for your co-operation with our mobile phone contract. This has really helped to reduce the number of problems whilst supporting those students who use their phones responsibly.

# Tesco Vouchers

Thank you for all your help—we have collected the grand total of 10,523 tokens and have purchased 3 Fuji Finepix Digital Cameras with 8,190 tokens and have banked 2333 tokens for a future collection.

Linda Geary

# Modern Languages Faculty



## *A few words from the Acting Head of Modern Languages, Miss Rebello...*



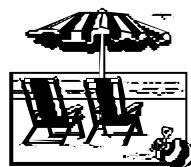
*]This year has been a particularly challenging year for myself, not only having to assume the role of Acting Head of Modern Languages for the second time in three years but even worse in an Academic Year when the school was visited by the dreaded OFSTED inspectors. As many of you may know, Miss Fogarty had the privilege of once again being selected as a member of the Senior Leadership Group, which involved her in planning and decision-making throughout the school. My own experience has made me much more aware of the demands placed upon Heads of Faculty and the enormous amount of paperwork and time spent in organizing, managing and leading a Faculty. There was many a time when I yearned for my simple role as Head of German and being a normal classroom teacher again but the job was made much easier by working in a Faculty where everyone is extremely supportive of one other. Now I find that I shall be continuing in this capacity until December, but will hopefully return a much wiser person in September!!!!*

*This year the French Department had great success with their Year 10 study trip to Fougères with 43 students participating, while a number of Year 12 students took part in the Loire-Atlantique exchange. On the other hand the German Department were very disappointed in having to cancel the Felsberg exchange due to a lack of interest leaving 30 very disappointed German students in Felsberg. We certainly hope that our students will take advantage of this valuable opportunity to experience a different culture and improve their language skills next year. We were however thrilled to hear that Daniel Ashby (Year 12) had been offered a German-Anglo Fellowship with the British Council. Along with 19 other students from all parts of Britain, he undertook a project in Berlin and was invited back to give a presentation at the British Council in London – an enormous achievement for a student who only started learning German in Year 10!!*

*When the Summer Term starts, everyone breathes a sigh of relief as we say goodbye to all exam classes and keep our fingers crossed that everyone performs to the best of their ability. We also secretly hope that we can enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer but no such luck. We are now in the midst of conducting Year 10 oral exams and it is extremely interesting to hear student' responses to questions asking for their favourite teachers/subjects. For some bizarre reason the outstanding favourite teacher is "Miss Greenslade" because "she is mad and intellectually stimulating" (all said in fluent German). We are also in the process of revamping our schemes of work to incorporate the new Key Stage 3 Strategy for Modern Languages. Needless to say the Faculty have been busy creating new resources, which we hope will improve the teaching and learning of Modern Foreign Languages.*

*At the end of term we shall be saying "Au revoir" to Mrs. Macadam who has been with us since September 2002 and has taught French on a part-time basis to the Lower school. We thank her for her contribution and would like to wish her well as she takes up a part-time post at Minehead Middle School. To replace Mrs Macadam we are very fortunate in welcoming Mrs Maria Jones to the Faculty. Although new to teaching, she has considerable experience in working in industry in both France and Italy and we are looking forward to the contribution that we know she will make to our Faculty.*

*Finally we can most definitely say that students and staff alike are looking forward to their long deserved Summer break. So ... "Viel Spaß in den Sommerferien" or "Bonnes Vacances."*



# Wessex Walks

Back in early May, on the bank holiday weekend, 20 students, staff and friends of the school took part in the Wessex Walk raising sponsor money for Save The Children Fund. The walk is 24 miles long from Bleadon Hill near Weston-super-Mare to the Bishops Barn next door to Wells Cathedral and all who started with us, finished! For some it was further than they had ever walked in their life before. For some it was easy but for some especially in Year 9 it was grit and determination that got them through the final few miles. Well done to all.

As mentioned before the money goes totally to Save the Children Fund. This is especially important at this present time with areas of the middle East being torn by the aftermath of war. The hardest part of the walk comes now in collecting in the money. So if you are reading this and you have sponsored someone please get the money to them and if you walked please get your money in because we want to send in as much as possible as soon as possible!

# Czech Exchange

May 17th saw students and staff arriving from Prague for the fifth and as yet most successful start of our annual exchange with The Emy Destinore School. After the usual settling in adjustment to any such exchange, the week went very well in spite of our unseasonably cold weather. The Czech students spent the first school day in school. A short informal reception was followed by a morning in lessons and an afternoon of Sport and games activity in the Sports Hall. In the following days they had visits to Bristol, Chepstow, Wells and Glastonbury. The highlight of the week was a trip to Broadmead with English partners accompanying them.

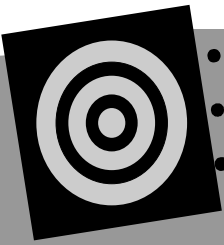
All too soon it was time to say goodbye on Saturday morning.

A testimony to the success of this exchange is that many students on both sides have been twice and one Czech girl, Eva Janorkova has now been 3 times. Also some of our students are meeting up with their Czech partners this summer holiday in Prague.

# HISTORY DAY 2003

35 STUDENTS FROM Kings of Wessex, Fairlands and Hugh Sexey's school took part in the Cheddar Valley Schools history Day for Gifted and Talented Students on Thursday July 10. The theme of the day was "History and the Media". Activities which took place during the day included: a media quiz, a critical look at how the press handles stories in the news; an in-depth look at how each of the media have been important over the last hundred years; and an exercise on how the media methods of today might have covered the Abdication of 1936. Highlights of this last exercise included Edward and Wallis being interviewed by "Richard and Judy" and being interrupted by the surprise arrival of Stanley Baldwin and Queen Mary!

Thanks go to all the students and to the history staff from the three schools whose hard work before and on the day made the events work so successfully.



# UNIFORM

**SCHOOL VALUES** - we try to interpret them in school life—they are there to aspire to, so 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:-

- ***Black Blazer with school badge***
- ***Plain traditional white shirt with collar (no logos or frills)***
- ***Black traditional trousers/skirts (skirts should be plain and around the knee in length. Trousers/skirts should not have fashion zips, buckles or patch pockets. Trousers must not be flares, hipsters, or floor scrapers. Trousers and skirts should be worn around the waist)***
- ***Black socks/tights from September – April***
- ***Plain black shoes – no boots – no high heels or platforms***
- ***School Tie – black/green***

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:

- As from September 2003 year 9 and 10 students must wear black blazers with the gold school crown, the jumper will no longer be worn in years 9 and 10. Some year 11 students have asked to wear school blazers and may wear them if they wish to. Year 11 students should otherwise wear their green school jumpers. As from September 2004, Years 9,10, and 11 will all wear black blazers and the green jumper will be obsolete.

- Ties should remain in pristine condition; frayed, tippexed or graffitied ties are forbidden and will need to be replaced.
- 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 white, without logos which are visible through their clothing.
- Skirts should be of medium length without the inappropriate slits, decorated zips, buckles, studs or pins.
- Skirts and trousers should be of a black tailored material; heavy canvas, brush denim or corduroy is not permitted. Despite popular myth with students, trousers should be hemmed, not frayed or scraping the floor. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that trousers and skirts meet in the middle to avoid the revelation of bare flesh!
- The fashion of wearing trousers substantially below the waist is also prohibited for reasons of decency. Equally girls are requested to wear skirts around their waist.
- Necklaces, bracelets and bangles should not be worn. Earrings should be limited to one small stud or sleeper in each ear. 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 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 not permitted, if worn they will be confiscated and replaced with plimsolls.**
- 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.

**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.**

On Thursday 5 June Mr White led 100 year 9 on a trip to The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham to hear a lecture by the renowned mathematician, author and broadcaster Simon Singh. Part of The Cheltenham Festival of Science and entitled 'Live Dangerously', Simon explored how mathematics can help us live longer and predict the future.



Simon covered topics ranging from medical statistics, the OJ Simpson trial and card games and explained the maths involved, (probability theory) in each case.

**Let's take one of Simon's scenarios.**

A disease is present in 1% of the population. A test for the disease exists. If you have the disease the test will come back positive 99% of the time. If you do not have the disease the test will come back negative 80% of the time. After having the test someone is given a positive result. What does this mean?

You may be surprised to know that only around 5% of those who receive a positive test result are carrying the disease. (See below for further details.) The worrying thing is that in a survey of medical professionals the majority thought that 99% of the people who had received a positive result had the disease. **Which would you rather be: a patient told you had a disease when you did not or a patient who had the disease but was never diagnosed?**



**Scenario 1 – The figures**

Imagine you are looking at a random sample of 10,000 people. If the disease is carried by 1% of the population, 100 people will have the disease (A). As the test is 99% accurate for those who have the disease, 99 of these 100 people will receive a positive test result (B) and 1 will receive a negative test result (C). Out of the 10,000, 9,900 will not have the disease (D). Of these people without the disease 7,920 (80%) will receive a negative result (E). The rest will receive a false positive test result (F).

	HAVE DISEASE	DO NOT HAVE DISEASE	TOTALS
POSITIVE TEST	99 (B)	1,980 (F)	2,079 (G)
NEGATIVE TEST	1 (C)	7,920 (E)	
TOTALS	100 (A)	9,900 (D)	10,000

In all 2,079 people received positive results (G) but only 99 of these actually had the disease. 99 out of 2,079 equates to just 4.76%. So only about 5% of those who are told that they have the disease actually have it; the remaining 95% have been given false, bad news.



### A second scenario:

A murder has been committed and someone else's blood has been found on a knife next to the body. A DNA sample has been taken and it is established that it matches Mr X. The jurors at the subsequent trial are told that only 1 person in 10,000,000 would have matching DNA and so Mr X must be guilty as a chance of 1 in 10,000,000 is so extreme. Mr X is subsequently found guilty. However, his defence then get in touch with a statistician who prepares the following argument. It's true that the odds of matching DNA are 1 in 10,000,000. As the population of the UK is roughly 60,000,000 there can be expected to be 6 people in the UK with matching DNA. So the chance of Mr X being the murderer is only 1 in 6 not 1 in 10,000,000. Mr X is then exonerated and released.



All of the students who attended the day enjoyed the lecture and some were pleased that they could understand it all when they had been expecting the maths to be really hard. It was an excellent example of how maths can be used to important effect in areas which students do not usually realise.

Simon is passionate about the teaching of maths and science in schools. On the day of our visit Simon Singh had a full-page feature in the Daily Telegraph challenging Derren Brown to admit he was not using science as part of his mind control act. Simon challenged Derren Brown as follows: "I suppose I should put my money where my mouth is. Derren Brown performed two stunts on *This Morning*. If he can repeat them – read my childhood thoughts and replicate a drawing that I make – then I will happily donate £1,000 to charity." Watch this space for future developments.



**Book.** All come the Maths department.

His article about Derren Brown can be found at [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

Simon Singh's website can be found at [www.simonsingh.net](http://www.simonsingh.net) and he can often be seen on the digital TV stations BBC4 presenting **Mind Games** and **Funny You Should Ask** on the Discovery Channel.

He has written two best selling books, **Fermat's Last Theorem** and **The Code** recommended by



# School Reunion

For Pupils who attended between 1986—1989/91

On Saturday 27 September 2003 7.30 pm onwards

At The Bath Arms, Cheddar

Tickets: £5.00 per head (partners welcome)  
available from Excel Signs, Station Road Industrial Estate, Cheddar

## Colossus (a dream)

Seven nights I leapt on your shore, sitting on a moss-drenched line and a brand new moon is born; crying for space and the dust behind the door. Nothing but the shift in sand, and you claim to like your solitude Spiders and flies crawl, eating all the morsels, praying to be important. The Griffins mumble things; marbles, storks and acorns. Tentative eyes and fallen steps breathe in their magnolia breaths.

Sitting in a crowd of millions, the sunshine pours an empty grey, peering between your back and elbow, staring at the speaker. She talks of better things. You laugh and flirt with me, but you still block my view. Thousands of matchstick stairs, with prickly little thorns, sharp tiny teeth lead me to my bed.

Watch your feet for the cracks in the pavement. The winner follows your step and then he leads you back to me. On the hill stands Colossus and your mind is frozen at last open to receive. Rosy wax and lavender walls create tunnels through the charming floor.

Psalms and spells keep away their blue-planet eyes haunting what is dark, like a birthmark. Then they're crushed to dust and rolled out of sight. We parted on a rusty Spanish stair. I can't remember and I can't decide,. But the pressure softly lingers there. Holding onto the rail trying not to be sick again.

**Clemmie Robinson**

Platform 14 is now on sale—get your copy from Mr Hobhouse at the English Office—only £1.00

# Music @ Kings

The term began with a fantastic sell out concert featuring all of the school ensembles, soloists and compositions. Over one hundred students took part and produced an evening of quality music across many different styles. Well done to all who took part.

The chamber choir and year 9 composers provided the music for the Ascension Day Service which was followed by a brass ensemble leading the singing on top of the tower – quite a climb with trombones and music stands in hand!

We sadly say a thankful farewell to a number of leading lights in year 13 who over the years have given so much to the musical life of the school. They exemplified their attitude with two outstanding pieces at the Leavers Service – thank you for your musical passion and expertise – you will be greatly missed.

## ~The Haunted House~

Year 9 have been challenged to write an original musical and then perform it. The results so far have been great and we wait in fearful anticipation of the big night on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets **will** sell out for this so book your place asap.

**An exciting announcement** - we have secured the performing rights for the musical **Les Miserable**. Auditions will be in September with four performances in February. This is a hugely ambitious project for a school but we are confident in the ability of our students.

**Also – Battle of the Bands** – will take place next term to showcase the exceptional bands we have throughout the school. We will have a professional lighting company help us stage the event who have also agreed to sponsor us. More details to follow.

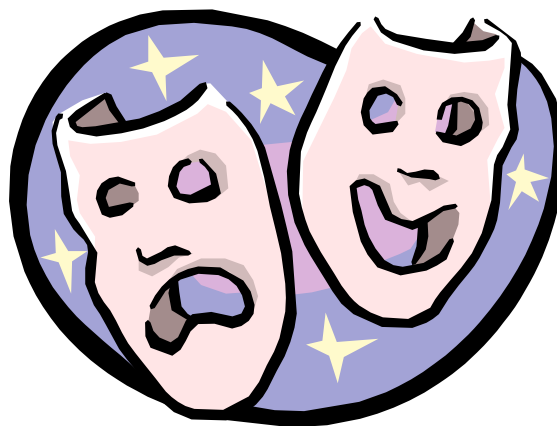
Finally, we look forward to welcoming a very talented year group next year who I am sure will help raise our music making once more.

Thank you for all your tireless efforts this year.

Eiron Bailey



# 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



Shortly after the school's recent production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' the Drama department was invited to represent the South West at this year's Shakespeare for Schools' festival.

The festival is a national event organised by The Royal Shakespeare Company. Now in its fourth year, it aims to showcase the best talent amongst 12-17 year old performers, designers and directors, allowing them not only the chance to present their work at a professional theatre but also to work with actors, designers and directors from the RSC, one of the country's top theatre companies.

As a result, The Kings of Wessex will be presenting a 30 minute version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at The Redgrave Theatre, Bristol on the 13th October. This performance will follow a day's workshop with the RSC that the cast and crew will experience at school in September.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is releasing ticket details shortly but I'm sure that you will join me in congratulating, once again, everyone involved with this year's school play. The invitation to take part is not only a fantastic recognition of their work on a national level but also a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience what life in professional theatre is really like.

Steve Conway



# Sleeping Beauty

Once upon a time, in a castle far, far away.....

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July Castell Coch, an enchanting fairytale castle in a beautiful woodland setting near Cardiff was home to 12 'A' level Drama students who presented their version of the classic fairy tale 'Sleeping Beauty' to pupils from Mark and East Brent first schools.

The 30-minute performance, in the castle courtyard, followed a morning tour where the pupils tried to find the forgetful King Albert, who had disappeared on the day of Princess Aurora's Christening. Two court jesters helped the pupils on their tour and in each room visited they met characters such as the wicked witch, two fairies, the queen and handsome prince, all of whom were getting ready for the big party held to celebrate the birth of the princess.

Cadw (Welsh Heritage) were wonderful and allowed our own students and pupils from the first schools unrestricted access of much of the castle.

Fortunately the king was found and, of course, everyone lived happily ever after.

An excellent time was had by all. Watch this space for a follow-up performance next year.

Steve Conway

# Science Masterclasses

## Chemistry Masterclass

Eight Year 7 students from each of the Middle Schools came to the school in June for a day of Forensic Science.

They spent the day analysing fibres, inks, magnetic stripes, footprints and fingerprints with great enthusiasm as we took part in the National Planet Science Whodunit competition. They also had the opportunity to test their observation skills when a rogue rushed in and removed something from the lab—their descriptions were very interesting: someone aged 17-40, wearing a long skirt and a short skirt with a white shirt and a blue shirt!! The day was a very enjoyable experience for staff and students alike!!



## Physics Masterclass

Spread over 2 days, 8 girls from Fairlands and 8 girls from Hugh Sexey's Year 8 embarked on the Physics Master class. The 2 schools were mixed together and split into 4 groups of 4 to investigate various aspects of supplying energy to a hospital to be built in Kenya. The four groups were set the task of investigating

1. Photovoltaic cells
2. The generation of electricity from wind turbines
3. Solar heating of water
4. Insulation of the building

The two days were "high tech" involving use of data logging equipment, research on the internet, use of digital photography and their research culminated in a Powerpoint presentation before the Headteacher and various other "dignitaries". Fortunately the girls proved extremely adept in the use of Powerpoint!

The teachers involved, Mr Friend and Mr Holdsworth, were extremely impressed with the skills and enthusiasm demonstrated by the girls and it was an enjoyable 2 days. The girls' work will soon be available for viewing on the Kingsnet website.

Eric Holdsworth & Jonny Friend



## **Aspects of Biotechnology (Master class)**

16 Year 8 boys (8 from each middle school) spent 2 days looking at Aspects of Biotechnology.

The first set of activities traced Yoghurt making from the arrival of milk at the factory to the finished product. Unfortunately hygiene regulations did not allow a mass tasting but the yoghurt races (to compare viscosity) were very entertaining.

Next they extracted DNA from kiwi fruits. Most managed to obtain some of the white mucus like chemical that controls all life.

During the second day groups choose either to investigate washing powder enzymes or to extract juice from Apples. Contrary to 'the book' Golden Delicious produced the most juice.

All the students worked hard and impressed staff with their interest and enthusiasm. Many thanks to all those who helped including Mr D Parfitt, Mrs E Gruffyd-Jones and Mrs M Jennings.

### **Elizabeth Button**

Two members of the Biology Staff went to a Gene Technology Workshop. It afforded them the opportunity to make a DNA necklace out of our own cheek cells, place fluorescent jelly fish genes into bacteria and make them glow under UV light and find the criminal by DNA fingerprinting.

All 3 can be used at various stages during Biology teaching at the Kings of Wessex. Our A-Level students have also been offered the opportunity to work in Bristol University with a Doctor studying sudden-death syndrome.

## **Year 10 Girls' Physics trip to the University of Bristol**

13 Year 10 girls were fortunate enough to attend a course at Bristol University. The journey was smashing, entertainment provided by the one and only Vibe fm and we arrived in full spirit.

We did many activities throughout the day, some were less interesting, and some were smashing. Particular favourites were making ice cream with the crazy penguin man and playing with liquid nitrogen. Some lecturers had a sense of humour, others didn't, quote "I do not have a sense of humour". Another highlight was when we made cornets from Lea and Perrins, dry ice, water, sand and vodka. They didn't taste very nice and left a strange gritty sensation on the tongue. Using liquid crystal we made thermometers, which we were allowed to take home as souvenirs! Luck! They very much resembled 'mood rings' and were fantastic fun.

Biscuits were kindly provided and kindly eaten by Phillippa, who consumed a total of 14 digestives. Rachael fell off a chair, Jo broke a light and Alice chatted up the comet guy. Many fond memories, much joy and celebration was had by all, cheers Mr Friend and Mrs Bradley!

# **YEAR 10**

# **WORK EXPERIENCE**

## **9-13 JUNE**

270 Year 10 students completed a week of work experience in June, the aim of which was to give an insight into working life in an occupational area of their choice. Students certainly took up the challenge of finding a placement of their choice and an excellent range of placements were arranged across a wide range of occupational areas ranging from film studio, veterinary practices, legal practices, law courts, education, police, leisure & tourism, retail, construction and administration to name a few. Some were very local and some as far afield as Scotland.

Students were visited by their teachers during the week and reported that placements were far exceeding student expectations. We were doubtful that they would return to school but all were back in school on the Monday –some rather reluctantly.

Our thanks go to all employers locally and nationally who accommodated the students and gave them a real insight into the world of work – and for many this is their first full week in a work environment.

## **NURSING CADETS**

Congratulations go to Lisa Davies (Year 11) and Nathan Ivens (Year 12), both of whom have been selected for nurse cadet training at Weston-super-Mare Hospital.

Lisa and Nathan attended the University of the West of England in Bristol for the selection process. After written tests, formal interview and discussion groups both were offered places on the 2-year NVQ level 3 course based at the hospital with day release at Bridgwater College.

Well done and good luck to Lisa and Nathan.





**James Major:  
WC Maunders DIY  
Cheddar**

**Sarah Batt:  
Axbridge First School**



**James Harvey  
with Ed the  
office dog –  
Swallow Soft  
Drinks, Brent**

# SPORT AT KINGS



Congratulations to the Boys U.16 XI who are winners of The County Cup. They beat Holyrood school 6-0 in the final at Bridgwater in April

A fantastic team performance  
Well done!

# JUNIOR CRICKET



A combination of the usual inclement summer weather and some disappointing and frustrating late cancellations by opposing teams has meant that this term's cricket has been very disjointed.

Enthusiasm and commitment to training has been very good despite a lack of competitive matches.

Year 10 (under 15'2) began their season with an excellent win in the drizzle at Bridgwater against a useful Haygrove School. This victory was in the E.S.C.A County Cup and unfortunately our next opponents in the draw were Chilton Trinity who have an extremely strong side and proved too good as they progressed to the Semi-Final having reached the Final of this competition last year. In the State Schools Cup the Year 10 boys narrowly lost out to Wellsway from Keynsham. Best performance of the season was a big win over Backwell with the highlight being a six wicket haul for Richard Gould. Along with Richard there have been some very promising individual performances with Dave Phillips particularly impressive with both bat and ball. Tony Puddy deserves special mention for his calm captaining throughout the season.

Year 9 received a walkover in Round 1 of the State Schools' Cup when Ansford pulled out the day before the fixture. This resulted in a first ever match for the school team against St Dunstons from Glastonbury. A close game resulted in a narrow defeat but with a little match experience could so easily have been won. Game of the season followed when the team travelled to Wells Blue for a friendly and needing 9 to win in the last over it was Captain Mike Amos who played a hero's innings of 40 not out who scrambled 2 runs off the final ball with Jake Hall to secure a highly entertaining and improbable TIE. Sadly for a group of highly motivated young cricketers, further games against Backwell, Chew Valley and Churchill were cancelled. However, with the potential of characters like Amos, Hall, Jack Tinton, Martin Slocombe, Mark Williams, Hugo Cook, Brett Powers and others there is much to look forward to next season.



The Year 13 Volleyball team continued to train right up to their exams. They managed to play 2 matches superbly and beat King Alfred's.

Their 2nd game was tougher against Churchill Volleyball Club. After winning the 1st set they were narrowly defeated but put up a great fight. They have all put in a

good deal of work and have improved beyond recognition. I wish them success and long may they continue to play. Year 10 with some Year 12's have now joined the club and are already showing much improvement. Next year we should have a good team once more.

## Volleyball

# HOUSE SPORT

There has been plenty of activity on the House front this summer term.

Before the exam season the senior boys contested the Softball Championship. This was won by Ben Latty's Avalon side who defeated Camelot in the final with Lyonesse picking up the dreaded 'wooden spoon'.

The Junior Boys' Tennis took place over a series of lunch hours with each House playing the other at both singles and doubles. Tintagel, captained by Phil Tromans and Henry Eriksson's Camelot proved the two strongest sides with the crucial match between the two Houses being won by the narrowest of margins by Tintagel. It will therefore be Tromans who picks up the trophy at Final Assembly on behalf of his unbeaten team.



Athletics Sports Day was once again a huge success and was run over two separate days as is now customary due to the vast programme of events. All field events were completed on Day 1 with the major track events and 4 x 100m relays rounding off Day 2 before presentations of cups and trophies were made by Mr Dams. An estimated 160 students from Years 9 & 10 participated and much credit must go to the captains for organising their teams so efficiently. Results for Sports Day are as follows:

House Champion	Avalon	282 points
2nd	Lyonesse	363 points
3rd	Camelot	315 points
4th	Tintagel	250 points



Individual winners:

George Ham Cup for 1500m  
Hynds Shield for 800m  
Jeff Barker Cup—Middle Distance Running  
Lesley Mallin Cup—Field Events  
Mike Wride Cup for 400m

Katie Nicholls (Year 9)  
Rachel Parry (Year 10)  
Tom Bloodworth (Year 10)  
Dan Corney (Year 9)  
Darren Moulton (Year 10)

Year 9 Champions

Matilda Eriksson  
Ed Watts

Year 10 Champions

Trent Warren  
Stacey Dann

Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to all staff and 6th form helpers.

# SWIMMING GALA

The House Swimming Gala took place on Wednesday 9th July and was well attended. A great atmosphere was created in the Leisure Centre Pool with some excellent races and fine individual performances. Results as follows:-

Champion House	Lyonesse	137 points
2nd	Avalon	118 points
3rd	Tintagel	
66 points		
4th	Camelot	
59 points		

Year 9 Champions	Chloe Willis Ashley Vearncombe
Year 10 Champions	Sammy Tanner Cameron Riley
Open Champions	Jo Burkinshaw Dan Harris



Incidentally, out of 37 swimming events a total of 12 records were broken highlighting the quality of competition this year.

Other summer House activities included the Girls' Rounders (Juniors) which was won by Camelot.

With all competitions now complete for the whole year the final points table for the Hugh Sexey Cup (Champion House) can be published

CHAMPIONS	Avalon	52 points
RUNNERS-UP	Lyonesse	45 points
THIRD	Camelot	41 points
FOURTH	Tintagel	41 points

**Congratulations AVALON!!**

## Western Counties Youth Games

Over 25 students from Years 9 and 10 have attended trials for the Western Counties Youth games. Many were successful in Girls Rugby, Netball and Boys and Girls Basketball. They will represent Sedgemoor at the Games during the weekend of the 12/13 July at Millfield School.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

Nick King (Year 12) Who has been selected to play for the Somerset U17 Cricket.  
Richard Fay (Year 9) who has gained selection for Somerset County Tennis  
Ashley Vearncombe (Year 9) who will swim for the West of England at the National Championships  
Jamie Selwood Year 10 selected for Somerset County Deaf Swimmers team

# Girls' Hockey

Congratulations to the school's 1st XI girls hockey team who are joint holders of the County Cup.

## U15 XI

The U15 XI got to the final of the County Cup and eventually played the final against West Somerset School in the middle of July! The weather was extremely hot which made it difficult for both teams. In the first 15 minutes it was a fairly even match but after that Kings got most of the play and managed to score 3 goals before half time. In the second half Kings picked up the pace and eventually scored 10 goals to their none!

Congratulations to all players and a special mention to Elaina Teare who had to play in 'all the gear' and not touch the ball very often!

Well done Girls

## Athletics

There have been some excellent performances from the school's athletes this term. Sam Percival, Stuart Heatley, Trent Warren, Rachel Parry, Elainna Tear, Tom Young, Jack Tinton, Tom Bloodworthy, Daniel Corney and Matilda Eriksson were all selected to represent Mendip at the county School Athletics Championships. Sam Percival was 3rd in the S.G. Discus and Daniel Corney was 1st in the J.B. 100m and L.J. Daniel broke the 9th boys' school record long jump record with a jump of 5m 50. This performance earned him selection for the South West Championships presenting Somerset.

## Trampolining

Stacy Dann took part in the U18 National Synchronised Trampolining Championships and was placed 1st. This is another fantastic achievement for Stacy who is competing at the highest level in her sport. She also took part in The Southwest Championships.

## Year 9 Rounders

This term the turnout at the under 14 practices has been very good. There were enough people to make up two teams—A & B. The A team have played six games so far, they have won two lost three and came 5th in a tournament at Wells Cathedral School, Unfortunately three games were cancelled due to bad weather.

The best win which the A team had was against Wells blue school at home. We won 32-24 and were very pleased with this defeat.. The other schools we played were Rossholme, Crispin, Worle, Chew Valley and Whitstone—who were also played by the 13 team.

There have been some great performances from Matilda Eriksson, Hannah Duckworth and Emily Wilkinson but all players were very dedicated.

We have never played as a team before but over the term we have improved a lot. We look forward to next year when we hope we will be an even stronger team.

**Hannah Duckworth & Hazel Rossiter**

## CALENDAR

The school term dates for students in the academic year 2003/2004 are as follows:

<b>AUTUMN TERM</b>	
Staff Training Day	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2003 (school closed to students)
School starts	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September (Years 9/10/12) Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September (Years 11/13)
Half-term holiday	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November inclusive
Staff Training Day	Friday 7 November (school closed to students)
Staff Training Day	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December (school closed to students)
Last day of Term	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>SPRING TERM</b>	
School starts	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Half-term holiday	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February inclusive
Staff Training Day	Friday 26 March 2003
Last day of Term	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>SUMMER TERM</b>	
School Starts	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Half-term holiday	Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> May Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> June inclusive
Staff Training Day	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July (school closed to students)
Last day of term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July