



Happy New Year

I am sorry for the later publishing of our newsletter and would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year.

We have designed this newsletter so that you receive it at our Academic Monitoring Day. I am concerned that our newsletter, which is our main source of communication with parents/carers, does not always get home. Please don't forget a copy of our

latest newsletter can be found on our website www.courtfieldsschool.co.uk.

Newsletters are usual published in the first week of each month. Our next one will be in March.

Dropping Students off at school

Please can I remind parents/carers that for health and safety reasons students should only be dropped off at the Youth Centre. They should not be dropped off in the school

driveway.

Staffing Changes

Mrs Anstice has now commenced her maternity leave and I am pleased to welcome Mrs Thomas who has taken over her classes until she returns in the summer term. We also welcome Mr Payne to our ICT department. We are currently interviewing Learning Support Assistants in order to replace Miss Alford.

Feedback from Parent Survey

Thank you to all those parents who returned their parent survey as part of the last newsletter. We received 102 replies from the 250 parents we sampled.

I was delighted to find 91% of students liking school and making good progress. 91% parents felt teaching was good with 100% of Year 10 parents thinking this. This was a considerable

improvement from our last survey in 2006. Other positive areas were how you felt comfortable in approaching school (91%) and felt the school was well led (92%). A rise from last time was in the interesting activities we provide and how we help students to become responsible and mature (90%).

The three areas which

scored less well was in setting the right amount of homework, behaviour of a minority of students and dealing with bullying. In this case 54% of parents felt we dealt well with bullying and 27% said they did not know as their children had not been bullied.

All of this information will help shape our future planning.

Reminder of Dates – Spring Term

Year 11 Consultation	29th January
Ski Trip	30th Jan – 6th February
Curriculum Enrichment Day	12th February
Half -Term	14th -22nd February
Return Week 2	
Maths modules	3rd March
Science modules	4th March
KS 4 Options Evening for Year 9	4th march

Special points of interest:

- Gifted and Talented Drama report
- Bell-Ringing Opportunities
- Staffing changes for the new term
- Parent Survey Feedback
- Parent Governor Election
- Information on new Diplomas for Year 9
- If you have any further comments on these monthly newsletters or any other school issues please do not hesitate to phone me or e-mail me at sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Model United Nations—End of term Conference

Model United Nations Conferences are an exceptional feature of Court Fields school. The conference involves students from all Years debating as representatives from a particular country as debates would be conducted in the real United Nations. Students who wish to take part in the debate prepare resolutions and research their given countries' views on the resolution. The MUN conferences are an excellent way of developing students' debating skills as well as developing their knowledge of global citizenship. This year over 50 students from across all Year groups squeezed into our Conference room in order to debate a wider range of issues which included the role of women, gun crime and violence. I was particularly pleased that four of our former students, Jennifer Atkinson (Chair), Daniel Culverwell (Chair), Luke Exell (Iran) and Helena Barry (USA), who are now at Richard Huish college were able to join us. The level of debating was very impressive and this year, Year 8s and 9s took a strong lead, particularly Harvey Austin (China), Lauren Sines (Finland), Jack Kelvey (Brazil), Casper Debieux (Morocco), Tom Swain (Zimbabwe), Will Strange (Chile), (Year 8 students) and Joe Brandon, Becky Ham, Lucie Sattler and Ashleigh Waller in Year 9.

Particular thanks go to Mr Jenkins for running the conference and spending time preparing the debate.

The new Diploma for Year 9—26th January

You may have seen in the national media that the government are introducing new diplomas which are vocational in content from this September for Year 9 and Year 11 students.

Two Year 11 students (Gemma Leigh Firbank and Lewis Lilley) attended an introductory session at Heathfield School in Creative and Media.

All students in Year 11 and Year 9 have been given an information pack

about the new diplomas.

Year 9 students have also been given an introductory assembly prior to making their options choices later this term.

From September 2009, diplomas will be available in Business and Finance, Creative and Media, Engineering, Hair and Beauty and Information Technology. By 2013 there will be 17 diplomas on offer.

To find out more about the diplomas and whether it should be an option

for your son or daughter, Somerset College are hosting an Open Evening on 26th January at 7.00 pm

Each diploma is equivalent to 5 or 7 GCSEs and will be delivered over one day a week.

For further information contact Mr Cowling—Careers / Work Experience Co-ordinator or Mrs Lillywhite—Assistant Head.

Please don't bring Aerosols or sprays to school

As part of our aim to become an even healthier school I would like to remind you that we ban aerosols or pressurized sprays from school. By this we mean the use of deodorants or perfume sprays that some students bring in for use after games. Students can use a roll-on deodorant instead.

Reasons for this:-

- When chemicals are aerosolized, the sprayed particles are so small that they can become suspended in the air for an extended period of time, allowing them to be inhaled deeply into the lungs. In proportion to their body size, children breathe more air than adults - so they are absorbing more of the chemical from the aerosol canister.
- Children are also more vulnerable to the pollution because their bodies are still developing. Many chemicals that adults can absorb in small quantities

without major risk can cause serious harm to children's development.

- For children and schools, the other major issue to consider is asthma. Asthma is the leading cause of student absenteeism due to a chronic disease. Aerosols may trigger an asthma attack.

From an environmental perspective, aerosols - even without CFCs - serve as highly inefficient delivery mechanisms for chemicals, leading to unnecessary waste and product transport. When it comes to cost, aerosols are dramatically more expensive and less efficient than their non-aerosol counterparts. Promoting learning about the environment is equally important.

I do hope you will support us in this initiative and ensure no aerosol can of any kind is brought into school by students.

Fun Run Results and Gifted and Talented Sports Players

The annual Fun Run took place at the end of last term. This was a good excuse for many students to organise some great festive fancy dress.



RESULTS:

Year 7

1st Conor Sellick 7NC (8.46)
 Maisie Waygood 7FB(10.47)
 2nd George Green 7NC
 Amber-Starr Palmer-Taylor 7NJ
 3rd Charlie Booker 7DE
 Lauren Wyeth 7RW
 Fancy Dress:
 Emmy Hitchcock—Shepherd
 Winning Tutor Group: 7NC

Year 8

1st Ronnie Wells 8LW(7.52)

Amy Gillard 8RS (10.24)
 2nd Jack Kelly 8RS
 Danielle Hartley 8KB
 3rd Dan Egerton 8GH
 India Gill 8MT

Fancy Dress:
 Joe Jenks 8LW

Winning Tutor Group: 8LW

Year 9

1st Tom Davies 9TK (8.50)
 Genna Snow 9SO (12.40)
 2nd Oli Buckingham 9LM
 Chelsea Vincer 9SK
 3rd Liam McClelland 9JC
 Rhiannon Haskell 9TK

Fancy Dress:
 Ashleigh Waller, Lucie Sattler,
 Becky Ham, Sonya Ackroyd - Xmas
 Presents and Food

Winning Tutor Group: 9JC

Year 10

1st Alex Smith 10NP (8.16)
 Jo Kimber 10MD (10.07)
 2nd Jordan Green 10MD
 Jo Hicks 10AA
 3rd Connor Porter 10AA
 Kirsty John 10AA

Fancy Dress:
 Fern Cosh, Ella Gladstone Smith—
 Flintstones
 Winning Tutor Group: 10KS

Year 11

1st Ben Wells 11PW (8.55)
 Rebecca Turner 11ML (12.19)
 2nd Alex Bartram 11JE
 Leanne Backhouse 11JE
 3rd Harry Armstrong 11DW
 Megan Ellicott 11ML

Fancy Dress:
 Leanne Morgan, Sam Janaway—
 Fire Engine

Winning Tutor Group: 11JE

Congratulations to Gifted and Talented Sports Players

Well done to all our talented sports players who have been selected to have trials with the county, have been selected to play for the county or region.

Year 7

Maisie Waygood—girls football
 Elisha Paige—girls football
 Laurel Cottey—trampolining

Year 8

Dom Hinchcliffe—Basketball for
 South West area

Year 9

Emma Puzey— Badminton
 Nicole Sparks— Cricket
 Mary Macmillan—Netball
 George Hooper—Cricket and Rugby
 Jonathan Atyeo—Rugby
 Ben Hayman - Rugby
 Scott Davey—Rugby
 Daniel Lee—Rugby
 James Bath —Rugby

Year 10

Sam Rogers representing England in
 fishing

Jonathan Gould -target rifle
 shooting
 Jessica Atkins—Netball
 Becky Cottey—trampolining
 Darian Strawford -trampolining
 Ben Gamlin—Rugby
 Ryan Markes—Rugby

We are always keen to hear of any student successes. If you know of other successes please let us know for future newsletters.



Congratulations to Mathew May and Lewis Vincent who were both successful in achieving their 1 Star Performance Award in Canoeing Skills . They are pictured here with their canoeing instructor at Skern Lodge Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Bideford, North Devon.

Want to try your hand at bell ringing ?

Bell ringing. It is not what a lot of people think about on a daily basis, but behind those tall authentic towers is a hobby that could change the way you look and think. Bell ringing is a physical skill that takes stamina and fitness. By pulling the ropes your arms get toned, and by thinking about how to catch the falling rope your brain is getting a good workout - it is fantastic for hand eye coordination and encourages you to think logically.



Some hobbies are only great for people who love sport or for people who are older. Bell ringing can be for anybody, whether they are young or old, fit or unfit, into sports or academic— it doesn't matter.



Once a person has learnt to ring they just don't want to stop; it's such a great achievement to have accomplished, they never want to give it up. There are several competitions that go on all around England; it is a great chance to be in a team, and the tension is sometimes unbearable!

Bell ringing has never existed in any other country, it is something that England has only ever had, this makes the hobby really special and historic – some bells are hundreds of years old and are very expensive!



However, even though bell ringing is a great skill, hobby and interest, some towers are getting short of ringers. This is why there is such great encouragement for young people and teenagers to get involved – bell ringing is great to put on CVs and job applications as it is so unique. It's such a shame to think that there are hardly any people who don't enjoy the wonders of bell ringing...

There are *loads* of teenagers who are bell ringers, they find it really fun and love to ring, especially at weddings. If you ring at a wedding, you get paid... Some churches, such as St Johns, pay every ringer £15 just for ringing for half an hour!

Rose-Anne Kimber 11MM

If any of you - students or parents - are interested in finding out more visit www.cccbr.org.uk or you can contact the Tower Captain of St John The Baptist Church in Wellington, Mr F Morris, on 01823 663862.

Other information

Activities Days

The brochure has now been handed out to all students in Year 7, 8 and 9. Please discuss the activities with your child and return your choices as soon as possible.

If you would like a further copy of the activities booklet please ask at the school office.

Bike Shed—new Arrangements

We have now opened our new bike shed by the sports hall and would

ask all students who bring their bikes to school to use this bike shed rather than the other bike shed by the school office. This new bike shed will mean students will not need to ride their bikes through pedestrians on the school site. The new bike area is covered with facilities to lock bikes securely but we recommend that everyone brings their own bike padlock.

For Health & Safety reasons we would also strongly advise that bike riders wear cycle helmets.

For health and environmental reasons we would urge all students to walk or ride to school rather than being driven in a car.



Year 11s Preparing for Results and beyond

Mock Results Day 22nd January

This afternoon students in Year 11 will have been given a sheet of their results at GCSE and other exams. These results have been based on mock exams and coursework grades so far. Many schools across the country have used this mock results day as an opportunity for students to know what to expect and set targets to work on in the next three months so they can make improvements.

Students will have opportunity to hear from students who left last year and to be mentored by staff

and Connexions advisors who will be available throughout the afternoon. The afternoon will be followed by meetings with parents, students and tutors.

Year 11 Moving On - Don't leave things until the last minute

All Year 11 students should by now be pretty clear about their plans beyond Court Fields. Application forms for colleges (Bridgwater, Somerset College (SCAT), East Devon, Richard Huish) should have been completed and returned to Mr Cowling. Students who have not yet done so, need to do this by the end of January at the latest.

Those students who are hoping to apply for a Modern Apprenticeship need to complete application forms in January/February which are available from Pam Merther (Connexions Advisor). Any student unsure about their next steps should book an appointment to see Pam. The Connexions booklet "Moving On" which all students have been given a copy of, contains lots of information about post 16 options.



Gifted and Talented Drama Students

On Thursday 8th January 2 students from Year 7, Ben Price and Jasmin Hinwood, went to Kilve Court for a Gifted and Talented Drama Residential. There were 35 other students that went from around the county. The activities were brilliant and got us working together in groups. We went to the beach and also put on little plays in front of each other. The food was great and we all got what we wanted.

On the last day, Sunday 11th January, all of the pupils performed a play in front of their parents. It took lots of concentration to put the play all together but in the end it came out really well. The parents enjoyed the play.

Ben Price and Jasmin Hinwood 7JN

A chance to get more involved

From the Parent Survey, a number of parents commented that it was easy to get involved at their primary schools but they found it more difficult to get involved at secondary school. Here is your opportunity—we still have vacancies for Parent Governors on the Governing Body. Please don't be frightened by this. Being a Governor is suitable for ALL parents—all you need is a willingness to support the school and work to make it better for all students. You do not need a degree, you do not need GCSEs, you do not need to be old, you do not need to be young, all you need is an interest and to have a student who is currently at school. We will support with all the rest. For further details please see the attached letter.

Reply Slip

January Newsletter

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

I/We have received the January Newsletter

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

Please sign and return to your child's Form Tutor by Friday 30th January 2009

