Thomas Richard

DECEMBER 2006

VewsREEL





I thought the six-term year was supposed to even out the work-load for schools. Six terms each of six or seven weeks' duration, that was the plan. In practice it has merely resulted in a slightly <u>longer</u> Autumn Term! Those summer days when we started back to school are a long time ago. I am sure that staff and pupils alike are in need of some rest and recuperation. I wish all a Happy Christmas and New Year and an enjoyable holiday.

OFSTED

Under the new inspection arrangements schools are given 48 hours' notice of the arrival of an Ofsted inspection team. Schools will be inspected every three years. Typically the team comprises four inspectors who are in school for two days. They normally ask the school to send a brief questionnaire to parents prior to their visit. Our last inspection was in October 2001 so we are overdue a visit, we anticipate that we are likely to be inspected next term. This is simply to advise parents who may be familiar with the previous Ofsted arrangements, whereby schools received several months' notice. detailed questionnaires were issued, a parents' meeting was held - all that has gone.

SCHOOL COUNCILS

We hold School Council meetings each term with Form Representatives suggesting ideas or improvements. Separate meetings are held for Year 7, Years 8 & 9, Years 10 & 11 and the Sixth Form. Complaints and suggestions are discussed, if they cannot be resolved they are taken up by senior staff and, if practical and affordable, we try to pursue them. For example, following this term's Councils: we shall improve the bike sheds; a meeting was held between Form Reps and our catering contractors; we tried to find a way of overcoming the problem of single P.E. periods; £1,500 was allocated to improve library provision; toilet refurbishment has been made a top priority for the next financial year.

SIXTH FORM ACHIEVEMENTS

Additional appointments have been made to senior positions of responsibility in the Sixth Form. The following have been appointed Prefects: Richard Dwight, Thomas Keevill, Stacie Morgan, Laura Rawson, James Hewlett, Michael Grocott, Daniel Rees and Simon Yeung. And we have also appointed three new Observators: Susannah Champion, Luke Harris and Andrew Sagar.

Further congratulations go to:

Jonathan Eaton (U6R) on gaining a gold Duke of Edinburgh award and a prestigious Queen's Scout Award;

Matthew McGrigor (U6H) who has gained a silver Duke of Edinburgh award. Matthew's options were karate teaching, break dancing, driving, physical training and he completed the 3-day expedition in the Forest of Dean;

Justin Bramwell (L6S) who received an Arkwright Scholarship during a ceremony at the Institution of Engineering & Technology in London. This followed a rigorous selection process which involved application, aptitude paper and interview.

Peter Stanley (L6H) on being awarded a full Army Sixth Form Scholarship. These scholarships are heavily oversubscribed, they are only awarded to a few outstanding individuals who are deemed to have exceptional leadership qualities.





VISIT BY CHINESE HEADTEACHERS

On Wednesday 7th November Sir Thomas Rich's acted as hosts to a group of Headteachers from Foshan City in the Shunde district of China. It was a marvellous opportunity for them to observe lessons in an English school and discuss with Mr Kellie and Mr Seales the differences between the school systems in England and in China. A typical class in China would consist of between forty and fifty pupils and I wondered how teachers managed to achieve a calm and purposeful learning environment. This appears not to be a problem in China where teachers are highly respected.

Last summer Miss Adamson and Mr Birchall accompanied 6 pupils to Xiamen for a Mandarin Chinese immersion course. They were able to discuss with the Chinese Headteachers their experiences and impressions. The Headteachers appreciated our interest in China and were surprised to learn that Chinese was offered to pupils in the Sixth Form General Studies programme. They were able to attend this lesson in the afternoon.

Our visitors were impressed with the school and we very much enjoyed their visit. Their politeness and interest in the school ensured a successful day.

J Hewett

AACHEN WORK PLACEMENT EXCHANGE 2006/7

In the second week of November our Sixth Form students of German welcomed 13 exchange students from Aachen to Gloucester. For the fifth year running, this exchange is providing the perfect opportunity for our AS/A level students to put what they have learned into practice. The feedback from our parents, pupils and the German guests was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to Mr Lloyd and Mrs Young's hard work, the Germans thoroughly enjoyed their work experience places in and



around Cheltenham and Gloucester and our pupils and parents were the perfect hosts, keeping the German students entertained when they were not at their work placements. Everybody was very sad to say goodbye to the guests, but at the same time they are looking forward to their trip to Aachen in January.

B Testoni-Ranken

NewsREEL



SIXTH FORM LANGUAGE LECTURES, 29th November 2006



and the University of West of England hosted lectures in French, German and Spanish for local schools. Eight local schools attended.

Whereas the French and Spanish lectures took respectively as their themes, urban violence and immigration, the German lecture explored through the medium of film the changes in youth culture since the Sixties. All the lectures were of an excellent standard and well received by teachers and pupils.

J Hewett

LE CIRQUE MAGIQUE

As part of our outreach work with Primary Schools, STRS organized a visit by the European Theatre Group to Elmbridge Primary School, where pupils are already learning French in Y5 and Y6.

Le cirque magique is a fun and interactive French production which takes early language learners into a magical world and brings to life what they have been learning in the classroom. Audience participation is an integral part of the show as they help a circus clown recover from an accident and perform again in the circus. The music and songs both contributed to a very enjoyable learning experience.





AS/ A2 ECONOMICS CONFERENCE, WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL, LONDON

On Monday 27th November, the AS and A2 economics classes travelled down to London to attend a one-day revision conference where the likes of Evan Davis (BBC TV Economics Editor-also from Dragon's Den) and Kenneth Clarke (Former Chancellor of the Exchequer) gave lectures.

After waking up at 5:30 am, waiting for the coach to turn up, and just under a 4-hour journey we arrived five minutes into Tony Benn's talk with his controversial views of the IMF and 'The free market approach to economic problems'. This was one of the lectures I found more interesting, with his ability to talk at a level which the 3,000+ students understood or maybe it was just because I was still awake!

Evan Davis then was the highlight of the day for most of us (including Mrs Banks!) as he was the person we all knew. His lecture was superb, amazingly all of which I understood, relating to situations we could all familiarize with and understand. One of the things I remember him saying was that the world economy principally relied upon small Japanese/Chinese factories!

At lunch we managed to escape into the centre, making it to Piccadilly Circus in forty minutes on the tube. However we realised upon arriving we had only 5 minutes until we needed to turn back! The lectures then gradually seemed to get more and more complicated especially when Colin Ellis (Economist for The Bank of England) took centre-stage and tried killing us all with hideous graphs depicting unknown situations.

To everybody's relief Kenneth Clark took over and spoke to us about his views on the Euro, taking apart those who dared ask him questions afterwards providing us with some entertainment. We then returned home, heads buzzing with demand and supply graphs. Overall it was a fun and educational trip to London that I'm sure everybody appreciated. Special thanks to Mrs Banks and Mr Lynch for taking us.

Tom Williams











TARGET 2.0-BANK OF ENGLAND INTEREST RATE CHALLENGE

An excuse for a day off school, a trip to a fancy manor house and a free lunch were clearly not the factors motivating 5 members of the upper sixth (Paul Gladwell, Sam Brewer, James Hewlett, Dave Anderton and Tom Hards) to take part in the Bank of England Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge. Rather, the chance to advise the Bank of England as to whether the Interest Rate should be changed (and to what extent) or not. The team had to give a 15 minute presentation justifying their decision before facing a further 15 minutes of tough questions from the judges. As they went first they had little idea of what to expect from these questions, but managed to answer confidently with a degree of knowledge. The advantage of going first is that the team could enjoy the other presentations without a fear of nervousness. This advantage might have been exploited but for the availability of biscuits in the next room. Because of this they missed the presentation of Wellington Independent School, but having eaten their way through the refreshments returned for Dauntsey's School, Sadly, this was the last school before lunch, and due to the team's minds being distracted from the presentation, no comparison to their presentation could be made.

After some members in the team had eaten more than their fair share of the food, the team realised that there is no such thing as a free lunch and had to endure two more presentations on a now familiar theme. The presentations having finished, the judges retreated to make their adjudication. To occupy the time the team worked their way through (yet) another plate of biscuits, unclear as to how strong several of the other schools had been. But by the time the judges returned they had come to the conclusion that our team was the strongest, triumphing over 2nd placed Katherine Lady Berkley's School.

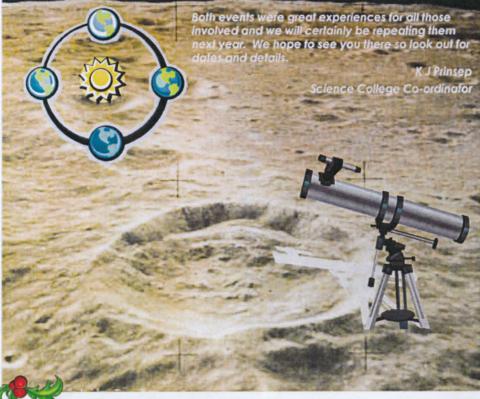




SPACE ODYSSEY AND THE ASTRONOMY EVENING

On Monday 4 December the school hall was filled with keen young astronomers from STRS, Elmbridge Junior School and Longlevens Junior School, accompanied by their parents, for the Astronomy Evening. They were able to experience a trip through the universe in the Space Odyssey planetarium, see some amazing photographs from Callington Space Centre and get their hands on a telescope, and there was a rare opportunity to see some samples of rocks from the Moon! Despite the fact that we were unable to use the telescopes outside, due to the awful weather, the evening was a great success. The Parents' Association supported the event by providing refreshments, including some very seasonal mulled wine.

During the school day on Monday all of Y8 visited the planetarium, along with 45 pupils from Y5 and Y6 from Ashleworth and Hartpury Primary Schools. On Tuesday all of the Y6 pupils from Elmbridge Junior School and all of the Y5 pupils from Longlevens Junior School visited STRS to experience Space Odyssey. There was a real buzz of excitement as the children and their teachers emerged from the darkness into the daylight.



Sir Thomas Rich's, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 OLF. 01452 338400





FEAST YOUR MINCE PIES ON THAT!

As part of their Food Technology course focusing on teamwork and production lines, Y9 boys embraced the festive season and one Thursday in December set to and created a veritable mountain of mince pies, which were sold at ten pence each during morning break with all proceeds donated to charity.

The warm pies, lightly dusted with icing sugar, were an immediate and immense hit and sold, well . . . like hot pies!!

£38.67p was raised with a total sell-out in the first five minutes.

P Brown

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION TRIPS TO OXFORD AND TEWKESBURY

Classics students attended evening performances of Euripides "Oretes" at the Oxford Playhouse and Sophocles' "Oedipus Tyrannus" at the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury as well as four lectures on Greek Tragedy in London.

A group of Upper Sixth English students travelled to Leeds to see John Webster's revenge tragedy "The Duchess of Malfi".

C L Roberts



CHARITIES

The students in the school must be praised for their charitable contributions. This term we collected for Gloucestershire Air Ambulance and Aquabox. The latter helps to provide emergency supplies, including safe drinking water in disaster zones around the world. We are grateful to Peter Nesbitt who spoke to the school in assembly about their work.. We look forward to Annie Newell visiting us from County Air Ambulance next term. Each charity were presented with a cheque for £1,000.



RECYCLING

We will be collecting Christmas cards again for Cancer charities and Woodland Trust.

Please bring used cards to the box in the foyer. We can also recycle used toner and printer cartridges and mobile phones for Winston's Wish. Used postage stamps are collected for 'Guide Dogs For The Blind'

Y11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

All our Y11's once again received a mock interview from representatives of the local business community. The morning was highly successful, with excellent reports from the interviewers and an article published in the Sunday 'Independent' Newspaper.

P D Lloyd



















HOUSE EVENTS

House competitions are now well under way. They always start with House Art which runs up to October half-term. Eastgate showed tremendous improvement this year to win convincingly. They managed many more entries than the other Houses, including 8R who submitted more entries than any other Form. Northgate and Westgate fied for second place. Thanks to Mr. Lockey for organising and marking, and for displaying some of the artwork along the library corridor. In a very closely fought event just before half-term, decided only in the very last game, the Senior House Badminton was won by Eastgate from S, N, W. In the Junior House Badminton Northgate improved during the week's matches to win overall from W. S. E. Thanks to Mr. Brown for organising and overseeing these two competitions.

RUGBY U13's

The 'A' team W/6, L/4 and D/1 of their eleven games this season, scoring an impressive 335 points and conceding 104 points in the process. They played very well in the wins against Cleeve [61-5], Churchdown [41-14], Crypt [24-0] and Beaufort [51-0], and in the last game of the season against a strong St Peter's side showed much character in coming back to draw the match 15-15 having played poorly and been down 5-0 at half time. The defeats have all been close fought affairs such as in the opening game of the season against Monmouth in which we played very well but lost narrowly by 17-14. Throughout the season the side has played with great spirit and developed some good patterns of play, particularly in attack. Their defence has been strong in most games and the forwards have produced good quality first and second phase possession against similar sized packs. In the back row Lewis Norfield - Jones and

Luke Andrew have worked tirelessly in defence and their support play has been a highlight of the season. There is a lot of attacking ability in the backs and they have combined with the forwards very skilfully on a number of occasions to produce some excellent tries; Michael Kosylowicz [full back] and Peter Reed [wing] were the top try scorers with 14 and 11 respectively, both highly commendable achievements.

The 'B' team W/3 L/2 of their five games this term scoring 121 points and conceding 64. They have worked hard in training and developed a very good team spirit. Their season kicked off with a great win against Monmouth [20-12] and they also defeated arch rivals Crypt away impressively 43-0. One of the defeats was against a powerful King's School 'A' team; the score was 25-0 to King's at half time but we played with much greater confidence and skill in the second half , scored 2 very good tries and finally lost the game by 35-12, a highly creditable performance.

C D A Carter

RUGBY U14's (Y9)

P/13 W/4 L/9 D/0 F-266 pts. A-293 pts

A season of mixed results, but from my own personal perspective, one of the most rewarding, despite the defeats. The Y9's have been a real credit to the school. Their commitment, positive attitude and approach to training and the fixtures have been excellent, Despite set—backs, injuries, defeats by larger opposition and other disappointments, the team spirit has been second to none. They haven't moaned, offered excuses or blamed anyone. The team has displayed great fortitude. I am confident that this will set them up well in the coming years. Thanks to all boys for their contributions.





RUGBY U15's

P/17 W/4 L/12 D/1 F-231 pts. A-309 pts

It has been a difficult season for the Colts this year. They have played good rugby and their commitment as a squad has been superb. However, due to a combination of unforced errors and missed tackles, they found themselves on the wrong side of some narrow defeats. They have all worked hard and put in numerous brave performances. Although results have not gone their way, they have shown good improvement throughout the season.

R G Williams

1st XV RUGBY 2006 Season

P/13 W/IO L/3 F- 293 pts. A-180pts.

A highly successful and enjoyable season for the First XV. The squad gelled quickly and played attractive and effective fifteen man rugby. As ever the forward pack were solid and dependable, supplying quality possession to the exciting backs. When the team performed to their potential they were practically unstoppable and produced some excellent rugby. This is well illustrated by the number of points scored. Of the three defeats, two were against the 'pros' of Hartpury (who also contributed 100 of the 'against' points), while the other was by a single point. This is very promising for next season, where the core of the side will still be available, fresh from the Australia tour.

At the time of writing the Mervyn Moody Trophy and player of the season has not been awarded. My thanks and appreciation go to Captain Jo Lowe for his inspirational leadership throughout the season.

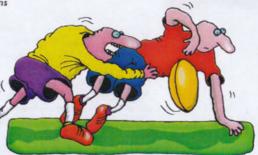
2nd XV

The seconds continued their very successful season with victories over Marling, Kings, Cleeve and Crypt seconds. There was a defeat to Rendcomb firsts, the difference being that Rendcomb managed to convert their two tries whilst Rich's couldn't. The season ended with a superb performance against a strong Hartpury side and a 15-14 victory, the seconds outscoring their opponents by 3 tries to 2. This is Rich's first victory over a Hartpury team and it reflects the character of the side this season. The final record is played eleven, won nine, lost two, the 2 defeats both being down to conversions. Well done to all players!

M R Swann

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SPORTS AWARDS 2006

Congratulations go the Richard de-Camps of L6G who has won the Gloucestershire Junior Volunteer Club Award. Richard was nominated by the Forest of Dean Athletics Club for his services to Junior Club Coaching, as well as volunteering for Junior Soccer refereeing in the Gloucester Youth League. Richard was initially short listed to six and later at the Ceremony Hall, Gloucestershire University, a panel decided he was the top candidate. Hopefully this will inspire other sports mad Richians!



Congratulations to **George Webb** of 8T.
Last year he entered a competition to mark 200 years since the birth of one of our greatest engineers, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The competition involved designing a new bridge over the Avon gorge where the Clifton suspension bridge currently is. The results were announced recently and George was one of the prizewinners for his age group. Well done!

Ms G Chang



Chan .

NewsREEL



The English, Drama and Music Departments are pleased to announce another successful production was held in school this term which was both well acted and well produced. The audience thrilled to a somewhat wacky version of

Sleeping Beauty

For those who were unable to attend and missed out on what was a spectacular evening's entertainment, an exert from the programme sold on the night follows. It may convince you that the next production should not be missed at any cost. Read on!

This version of the classic tale owes its genesis to Pavel Stepanovich Nakhimov, the Russian Admiral and part-time escapology tap-dancer. He radically reworked the story replacing the original 'Wicked Witch' with a villain based on potato and maize snacks. His villain, the Wotsit Lady, is a folk tale surviving to this day in parts of Tredworth where the coming of the 'Big Cheesy One' is celebrated with a day of feasting and petty car crime.

For many of us (who think deeply about our art) it is clear that Sleeping Beauty is a story full of allegory and symbolism. Oddjob, for example, represents the dispossessed working classes. Here they are shown hated and exploited by the establishment characters who take turns at destroying their dignity and the general sense of humanity.

Nurse Pinchme, on the other hand, has a clear symbolic power as the pre-Bolshevik bourgeoisie concerned only with self-interest and the pursuit of pleasure at all costs. Her constant annoyance at King Rumbletum keenly satirizes her place inside this diastolic Proustian construct. Her cries of 'Kissy Kissy' only go to underline the seriousness of her plight.

Reverence for the so-called magical is (ironically?) both lambasted and applauded by the inclusion of the supernatural Fairy Godmothers. Their interactions with the dueling narratives prompt very deep and personal questions: are they real? What is art? Did I leave the iron on? Questions that only the eternal blackness of the cosmos and Bonnie Langford have answers to.

So, in summary, this is a post-modern story that owes as much to Lenin as it does to Cliff Thornburn the now sadly neglected ballet dancer and World Snooker Champion. Its resonances keep growing as its audiences discover, once more, the power of cross-dressing, speaking in silly voices and fantastical costumes. A bit like living in Stroud I shouldn't wonder!

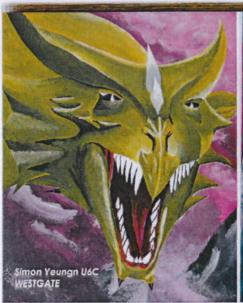
I believe it was at the battle of Sinop, in 1853, that the first all mimed version of the play took place with Letitia Dean and Frank Bruno starring...

Gervaise the Giant (from Pantosea Island)



House Art













44th ESU -17th November 2006 "CHILDREN IN NEED" QUIZ NIGHT

Despite the fact that Pudsey Bear declined our invitation to make a personal appearance the evening was the most successful ever raising more than £800 for 'Children in Need', Quiz Master and 44th Scout Leader Adam Griffiths, who advised the energetic and frenetic competitors that he has now been away from STRS longer than he was here as a pupil, rattled through the ten rounds of tricky, testing, tantalisingly and tough questions at a tortuous pace keeping all the competitors tethered to their task! Once again Rich Young, 44th ESU Chairman, set the questions with all ages, genders and nationalities in mind giving all a chance to excel. The members of the 44th ESU all helped with the organising, scoring and raffle ticket sales. Our thanks go to all involved with the event and especially all the Competitors without whom we could

PMM SCHOOL, JINJA, UGANDA

not have been so successful.

We will be sending some crates over to PMM school next term containing textbooks and equipment that are surplus to requirements. We will need to raise around £500 to cover freight costs. As the boys already fund-raise to sponsor the twenty Ugandan girls, we are looking to alternative ways to raise new funds.

One avenue is a forthcoming Ugandan Supper Evening during the Spring Term, which we hope you would like to support.

If any parent has surplus equipment which you think may be suitable for PMM school, would you please e-mail me with details on:

joanarnold@strs.org.uk



The Headteacher hands over a present to the sister of an excelling student as Ms Nambi Caroline looks on.



SIR THOMAS RICH'S

PA REEL



The PA for the school has been able to pay £39,000 into the school funds from all fundraising efforts, so a very big thank you to all involved.



The Autumn Ball in October made a profit of over £1,800 with 102 people attending. Thank you to all our helpers and to those who so generously donated such wonderful Raffle prizes. The Ball is a fantastic opportunity to wine and dine in style, meet other parents and dance the night away all in the knowledge that your enjoyment is raising support for the school. It is usually held in October just before the autumn half term break. If we had doubled the numbers this year we would have doubled the profit, so please consider coming next year and bringing your friends, family and neighbours. Don't worry about not knowing that many other parents either, we aim to have a table for the parents of each year so it's a good apportunity to meet the parents of your son's friends.

The Christmas Fayre was a great success taking £1,235 on the day along with an extra figure of nearly £1,500 in Raffle tickets sent in by parents. Altogether it made £150 more than last year's and with a larger band of helpers. Thank you everyone for the hours of dedication you put into making this event so successful. Thank you too for all the fantastic donations particularly the Raffle prizes. First prize of £200 was won by pupil Alexander Petersen of 97. Of course, once again, it would be possible to have a greater variety of stalls and make a bigger profit with more helpers and it would also mean that people didn't have to put in such long hours of Service!



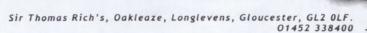
If anyone would like their names and email addresses to be added to the list of willing helpers please contact Sali Gray on sali@business-advancement.co.uk and please remember you don't have to help at every event, just when you are able.



The first ever Astronomy evening on Monday 4th December was a great success with over 100 visitors attending both from the school and from local junior schools. A new Y7 parent has roised the issue of lift sharing with other parents and the possibility of setting up a network whereby postcodes and phone numbers are used as a point of contact. This is a good idea especially for parents of boys living in rural or outlying areas and a good 'green' policy. We would like to gauge the level of interest in this scheme so in the first instance could you please email Carole Walsh, the PA secretary at carole-walsh, the PA secretary at carole-walsh, the new will need a co-ordinator who is happy to run this valuable scheme.

The list of 'thank yous' would not be complete without a very big thank you to the Refreshments Committee whose valiant efforts in providing sustenance to those supporting the various school events make the whole experience a much more pleasant one.

See you all in the New Year!



SPRING TERM 2007

Wednesday 3 January

3 – 12 January Monday 8 January 15 – 19 January Thursday 25 January Thursday 1 February Wednesday 7 February Wednesday 14 February 19 – 23 February

Monday 5 March Tuesday 6 March Monday 12 March Tuesday 13 March 12 – 16 March 19 – 23 March Monday 26 March

Wednesday 4 April 5 – 18 April

Monday 2 April

Term starts, 8:40 am

Trial GCSE examinations (Y11)
Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm
Y11 Work Experience week
6th Form Open Evening, 7:00 pm
Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Careers Fayre, 6:30 pm

Y 9 'Options' Evening, 7:00 pm

Half-term holidays

Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm L6th Parents' Higher Education Evening, 7:00 pm

Founder's Week Trial AS examinations (L6th)

In-Service Day (no school for pupils)

L6th Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm End of term, 12:45 pm

Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2007

Thursday 19 April

19 – 25 April Tuesday 24 April Thursday 26 April

Monday 7 May 8 – 11 May

Monday 14 May Monday 21 May

28 May – 1 June Monday 11 June 20 – Tues 26 June

Wednesday 27 June 2 – 6 July

2 – 6 July Thursday 5 July **Friday 20 July**

Wednesday 5 September

Term starts, 8:40 am

Trial A2 examinations (U6th)

Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm

In-Service Day (no school for pupils)

Bank Holiday SATs (Y9)

AS examinations start (L6th) GCSE examinations start (Y11)

Half-term holidays

A2 examinations start (U6th)

School Examinations

In-Service Day (no school for pupils)

6th Form Induction Week Sports Evening, 6:30 pm End of term, 12:45 pm

2007/08 school year starts for pupils, 8:40 am

Next Sale: MONDAY

8th JANUARY 2007 6:30 - 7:30 pm

THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2007 6:30 - 7:30 pm

(6th Form Open Evening)

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

If you need a particular item but cannot attend on the above date, please ring Bev Hughes on 01242 524344

A BIG thank you to all helpers and to the parents who buy and supply.

Please ensure all items have a sale slip obtainable form the School Secretary's Office.