



HeadLines

And so we approach the Christmas season. Advent is upon us and the school is starting to look full of sparkle and anticipation! There is a Christmas tree in the reception area and the House Christmas Decoration Competition will result in six more trees 'growing' around the school. The Carol Service takes place at St. John's Church next week and the Christmas Concert in our final week. Unfortunately, the Year 11s will have to wait a little while before they join in the festive spirit as their 'mock' GCSEs begin in earnest next week!

I continue to read in the press that various councils have cancelled Christmas and that primary schools are being urged to present secular entertainment not nativity plays. I was recently sharing memories with my friend from primary school days, Marilyn Haxton, who played the Virgin Mary to my Angel Gabriel when we were seven. Despite Mary having a streaming cold, no hanky and a Joseph who found his lines hard to recall [was there room in the inn or not?], it was a magical experience which was much more than an entertainment or a little school play.

We are right to recognise the wealth and diversity of religious experience within our school and we are right to recognise the secular point of view, but as a school of traditional values and given our close links with the local Anglican church, we should not be afraid to reflect upon and proclaim the Christmas message. To hear the carols of yesteryear and the present, to listen to the great literature which permeates the biblical accounts of the nativity is to partake of a significant piece of our culture.

My Christmas message prepared for the Carol Service next week will certainly not be so deficient in Christian references that its meaning is elusive and, as a school, we will continue to respect the spiritual and religious forces which have shaped our communities and our morality.

Sandra Samwell, Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gold Week

- Mon 10th Dec Years 10/12 Clothes Show Trip
- Mon 10th– Thurs 20th Dec Year 11 Mock Exams
- Tues 11th Dec Carol Service at St Johns Church
- Weds 12th Dec Year 10 COPE Trip

Blue Week

- Tues 18th School Concert in School Hall, 7pm
- Thurs 20th Speech Night — school finishes at 1.25pm
- Fri 21st Mistletoe Day— School finishes at 1.20pm

Please see Gold Letter No. 84 for full details of the last two days of term, 20th and 21st December. School will finish early on **both** these days. On 20th December there will be **no** food in the canteen at break and Christmas lunch will be served at lunchtime.

On 21st December the canteen will be open at break but there will be **no** lunch.

Any changes to bus timetables will be published in next week's newsletter.

Film Quiz — Fund raising for South Africa Sports Tour

Copies of this quiz can be obtained from Reception and cost £1. Completed entries can be returned to Student Services in an envelope marked 'Sports Tour Film Quiz' or posted to school. Entries must be received by Monday 14th January 2008 and the winners and answers will be published the week beginning 28th January. Thank you for supporting our Sports Tour. Good Luck!

Miss E Bevan

PTA NEWS

Family Portraits Day

Thank you to Pip Ashburner for organising this very successful day. We raised approximately £200.

Next meeting: Monday 21st January 2008 in the Library.

Judith Stallworthy, Chair HHSA (01442 393266 or mobile 07749 727350), Email: s.stallworthy@sky.com

Asthma

Students who suffer from asthma are advised to carry their inhalers with them at all times.

If you would like an inhaler to be kept in school then please collect a medication form from Matron.

Mrs L Bower, Matron

Equipment for Mgezwa School

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to filling the tea chest and boxes to be sent to Mgezwa School. We have filled three book boxes and one and a half tea chests so far. The money donations from Tuesday came to £111 so more pencils, pens, ruler and calculators have been bought. Mgezwa School break up this week for their end of year and 'summer holiday' break and go back to school in February to start the new school year. The boxes should arrive in time for that.

As their students have to pay for all exercise books and equipment they will be delighted and grateful, so thank you once again.

Mrs M Botha

School answerphone for sickness or absence

Please will all parents contact us **daily** if your child is sick, going to be in late due to a medical appointment, or is absent for any other reason. Please call our school answerphone on **01442 390103 by 9am if possible**

'Reverb' excels

On 25th November our student Dance Company, Reverb, appeared by invitation at the Dance Nation exhibition performance at the Lion Theatre at Longdean School. Despite having an exceptionally long wait to go on stage because of organisational hitches, the students produced three professional and technically complex performances. They coped admirably with discovering that the stage was much smaller than they had been led to believe and worked with commendable co-operation to adapt their dances to fit the space. All of them were outstanding ambassadors for the school.

Thanks must also go to Miss Billinge for her choreography and to her and Mrs Lang for their support in rehearsal and performance.

Key Stage 2 County Dance Company

Auditions were held in PA1 on 25th November for students who wanted to try for a place in the western area KS2 County Dance group, which is about to be formed. From 11am to 4pm hopeful young students turned up with their parents and friends to learn and perform the set choreography.

We are very glad that, once the new company is formed, they will be based here for their practices.

Ms N Darby

London Symphony Orchestra Barbican Trip

On 14th November the A Level Music students went to the Barbican in London to a rehearsal of the world-class London Symphony Orchestra. Firstly, we heard the Bartok viola concerto which was played by Yuri Bashmet who is widely known as one of the best viola players in the world.

The second piece was Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony. This was very useful as we are studying another of his works. We would like to thank Mrs Holling for organising the trip and we all had a really good day.

Abigail Spear 12Fg and Lindsay Smith 12Nb

Maths Stars of the Month – November

George Brookes 7N, Rachael Phipps 7A, Francesca Quinn 7A, Sam Mairs 7P, Sarah Worger 7A, Erlina Rees 7P, Luke Harris 7C, Mary Pattinson 7P.

Sophie Barnett 8N, Andrew Coe 8P, Marc Craig 8L, Alice Masterman 8F, Niamh Ginger 8P, James Nicks 8C.

Taylor Robinson 9A, Eve Tompkins Saville 9F, Alex Blake 9F, Philippa Carr 9P, Charlotte Waugh 9A, Paloma Coultate 9C, Freya Martin 9C.

James Brown 10L, Samantha Rees 10P, Danielle Young 10A, Ravena Nagy 10L, Michael Wadlow 10N, Aleck Clifford 10F, Chloe Simpkins 10A.

Amy Howse 11L, Bronte Archer 11L, Charlotte Hill 11L, Hannah Freeman 11P, Fiona Moore 11N, Lucy Goodwin 11A, Zoe Farrell 11C.

November Mathematics Puzzle of the Month

The winners of the November Maths Puzzle of the Month were Adam Nayler 7L and Rebecca Tyne 9F. All the other correct entries have won points towards their House for the House Cup. Well done to all these students. Look out for December's puzzle which is in all maths classrooms and also in the top corridor in south block.

Miss C Bandle

FIXTURES

Saturday 8th December — District Cross Country in Field of Hope, Gadebridge.

Monday 10th December — U18 Basketball v Longdean (A)

U12 County Cup Football v Marriatts (A) 2pm KO

Tuesday 11th December — U14 Basketball v County Upper (H)

RESULTS

Thursday 13th December — U18 County Cup Football v Goffs (A)

U12 Basketball v Bridgewater (H)

Friday 14th December — U16 District Cup Football v Cavendish (A)

Saturday 15th December — Football v Sandringham School, Years 7 and 9 (A), Years 8 and 10 (H)

RESULTS

Basketball— Year 9 v St Martin's walkover, Year 8 v SCC lost 99-24, Year 11 v St George's walkover

This weekend over sixty students from Years 7 to 11 will be representing the School at this year's District Cross Country. All athletes selected should meet at the allotted time at the Field of Hope in Gadebridge. All athletes should come prepared for the weather, wearing boots or spikes to run in where possible.

Miss E Bevan, PE Department

	Meet At	Race At
Year 7 Boys	11.15	11.30
Year 7 Girls	11.00	11.15
Year 8 Boys	10.45	11.00
Year 8 Girls	10.30	10.45
Year 9 Boys	10.15	10.30
Year 9 Girls	10.00	10.15
Year 10/11 Boys	9.45	10.00
Year 10/11 Girls	9.30	9.45

Year 9 Miss E Bevan, PE Department

Headteacher's Commendations:

For organising X Factor Final at School to raise money for Children in Need: Matt Gill 10A.

For appearing in the X Factor Final at School: Stephanie Allen 10F, Danielle Young 10A, Imogen Hudson 9N, Ellena Dobby 9N, Jacinta Goff 9P, Bridget Philpott 9P, Charlie Goodall 7C, Ian Patrick 12Fg, George Gunnell 7P, Ben Kaye 7P, Rosie Hoskins 9C, Fay Breed 9N, Thomas Durrant 9F, Polly Taylor 10P, Sarah Jane Patel 13C, Thea Simpkins 9P.

For excellent work in Dance: Shelbey Joyce 10L, Kelly Egerton 10A, Blair Shun 10N, Kenny Cook 8P, Charles Monk 8F, Jordan Hobbs 8N, Noah Jones 8L, Ryan Howe 8A, Aaron Lloyd 8N, Thomas Cullinan 8F.

For excellent contribution to Form activities: Lois Moore 8N.

For excellent work in History: Sophie Clayson 9L, Dominique Collinge 9P, Jasmine Bond 9P, May Critchfield 9L, Chloe Cavanah 9A, Naomi Messenger 9P, Sophie Wilkinson 9F, Thomas Durrant 9F, Harriet Posner 9L, Chelsea Sturges 9C, Rebecca Armorgie 9A, Paloma Coultate 9C, Louise Hayes 9N, Eryn Bryant 9F, Hannah Gulley 9L, Anna Maduro 9L.

For excellent work in English: Levi Smith, Sarah Worger, Charlotte Bartlett, Grace Masters, Lucy Bridger, Olivia Church, Madeleine Gray, Thomas Butler 7A.

For excellent work in Science: Amy Dowse, Jodie Hardcastle 7C.

For excellent Enterprise work in Mathematics: Abigail Campbell 9A, Eleanor Fox 9C, Gavin Kitchener 9C, Roshana Ramsay 9P, Lauren Sumner 9C, Charlotte Waugh 9A.

Gold Letters

Letter No. 68	School Concert
Letter No. 80	Year 10/11 Electronic Baby
Letter No. 81	BTEC Children's Care Coursework
Letter No. 82	GCSE Textiles Revision
Letter No. 83	Year 13 Interim Report
Letter No. 84	Last day of term arrangements