



# KENT COLLEGE TIMES

CANTERBURY

Day & Boarding for Girls and Boys from 3 – 18 Years

No. 1 • October 2008

## Kent College Choristers are National Champions!



Just after the end of the summer term, Kent College Choristers travelled to Birmingham to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth at Birmingham Symphony Hall. This was the second year running that they had qualified for the National Finals. Twenty two choirs from all over the UK were competing and our choristers were delighted to win the 'Outstanding' award for the best Junior Choir.

They are now preparing for the trip to Liverpool where they will perform at the Philharmonic Hall with the five other children's choirs that have made it through to the final of the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year Competition. This will be recorded and broadcast on Radio 3. Eat your heart out, X Factor; Kent College is on its way!

Mrs J Spencer

## U16 Girls – County Hockey Tournament Winners

23 schools competed on 4 astros in Canterbury for the County Title.

...continued on back page.

## Caitlin Shines at the Marlowe Theatre

Story on page 4.



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## From the Head Master's Desk

### Dear Readers

I have already written to Parents and Guardians to celebrate our examination success this summer but since the Kent College Times is aimed at a broader audience and because the results are so good I am happy to repeat them here:

The overall pass rate at A' Level was 99%, with over 62% of all examination entries achieving A – B grades. The vast majority of pupils seeking entry to university obtained their first choice placement. Particular congratulations for high levels of academic achievement go to the following students:

Zoe Li 5As; John Bell 4As; Laura Crocker 4As; Andriy Lazorenko 4As; Miklos Perenyei 4As; Maria Tkachenko 4As; Claire Beaumont 3As; Chris Lam 3As and 2Bs; Matthew Townsend 3As, Lydia Vogelaar-Kelly 3As, Ivan Wong 3As and 2Bs.

The GCSE overall pass rate was 90% with 77% of all grades achieved at grades A\* - B grades. Almost half of all exams taken (48%) resulted in grades A or A\*. All but one student achieved 5 grades at A\*– C.

We are happy to welcome to the Kent College community a number of new colleagues: Mrs Angela Hencher, Bursar (Malvern St James School); Mrs Nicola Hodge, Teacher of Art-Maternity Cover (Chipping Norton School); Simon James, Teacher of Business Studies (Crypt School); Daniel Knapp, Teacher of Religious Studies (Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys); Daniel Quinn, Teacher of Physical Education (Westcliff High School for Boys); Rachel Watts, Teacher of Reception pupils at the Infant and Junior School (Westbrook House); Ms L Dietrich, German Assistant/ Resident Tutor – Austen House (Christian Aldrechts University); Ms N Fernandez Castro, Resident Tutor – Wesley House (Friedrich – Alexander University of Erlangen Nuremberg); Ms A Vondersvher, French Assistant/ Resident Tutor – Austen House (Sorbonne University).

I am pleased to announce that as from September, the following colleagues were confirmed in new areas of responsibility: Mrs Katie Plumb, Head of International Studies Centre; Graham Letley, Director of Studies; John Burnage, Head of Sixth Form; Steven Gant, Head of Middle School and Mrs Janet Glass, Learning Strategies Co-ordinator.

Paul Bourdillon will be leaving at half term to pursue new business interests. We are grateful to him for his contribution over the last eight years. A gifted conductor and an expert at motivating and training the Orchestra to a high level, his work in rehearsing and supervising ensembles, supporting music students and colleagues is much appreciated.

I am writing this message just after our College Open Morning. We were thrilled to see so many families visiting the school, the highest number of visitors for several years which along with the strong recruitment from last year bodes well for the future of the College. Indeed the College has been buzzing with activity all term. ITN visited Kent College to make a film for the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference to promote British Schools around the world. From 250 member schools, Kent College was one of 25 selected to take part.

The Kent College Choristers are busy rehearsing for their appearance in the finals of the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year competition next month and Caitlin Shaughnessy, a new student in Year 10, gave a most elegant performance of Boccherini's Violin Concerto in the Marlowe Young Musician of the Year Competition to win the prestigious Orchestra Prize. Caitlin was well supported by a large group of musicians and friends from Kent College equipped with fluorescent wands and banners. Sophie Dee has won a place in the finals of the James Mottram International Piano Competition to be held in Manchester next month – earning a place against 77 entries from 23 different countries.

The U16 Girls' Hockey team is keen to continue their success of last year and have already become County Hockey Champions, winning a thrilling final against the King's School.

I trust you will enjoy reading our new style news sheet edited by Mrs Kay McGibney and that there will be something of interest for all parts of the Kent College community.

**Dr David Lamper**  
Head Master



## To Booze or Not to Booze...?

Sixth-form Theatre Studies students Emma Boggia and Aimee Lloyd have a decision to make. How seriously should they take their research work into Teenage Binge-Drinking for their forthcoming Theatre-in-Education project to be performed in November to Years 10 and 11? Should they tart themselves up to the nines and flooze their way around the more dubious Canterbury taverns in their bid for dramatic authenticity? If so, just how many Bacardi Breezers could they claim on production expenses? What if they succumbed to inappropriately lewd behaviour? And what if they bumped into members of KC staff, or worse, tripped over them in a gutter? Stanislavski – the great guru theatre director – would expect them to fully immerse themselves in their roles, whereas Brecht – the other great guru – would advocate *verfremdungseffekt*, keeping a critical distance from their characters.

It's not an easy decision for two committed, hard-working drama students.

Whatever they finally decide, and however jokey some parts of their devised production may be, there is a serious message to be put across. To be successful, their project aims to balance caricature newsreaders and miniaturised scientists excavating the human liver, with the empty "fun-filled" lives of two teenage friends - sassy, fun-loving Bree, and compassionately bantering Jem - whose story is at the root of the drama.

"We are aiming to explore the social damage and health issues that binge-drinking brings about, as well as the drinks industry's exploitation of young people," says Emma. "To sum up," Aimee adds, "we're not lecturing, but we hope that our production will make people think twice before going out drinking."

Performances are in the Drama Studio on 25 and 26 November.

**Mr Huw Jones**  
Head of Drama



### School Inspection

As you may be aware, we are a member of HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference), the premier association of independent schools, and IAPS (Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools) and as such are inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate a minimum of every six years. Our next inspection will be across the whole College and will take place in February 2009.

As part of the information gathering process for the inspection we shall be sending to all families a questionnaire, which is produced by the ISI. This will need to be returned to the school office in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of the lead inspector. We will not be looking at the replies but the inspectors will use them as part of their evidence base for their findings following their visits to the school. The inspection report will be made available to all parents and put on line on the ISI web site. I am confident that the inspection will identify the many strengths of our school but will also be very important in helping us with continued school improvement. We will keep everyone fully informed about the inspection process throughout the year.

**Dr D J Lamper**

### Chapel Presentations

All the tutor groups become involved in Chapel presentations throughout the year. One of the first this term was from Mr Jones' Year 10. Bearing in mind that Mr Jones is Head of Drama, it was not surprising that his tutor group performed a delightful masque about the Community of the School. The message was clear: we are all different but we all work together to be one whole society.



## Farm Report



The highlight of my Autumn term report would have been the wonderful results from the Kent County Show in July. However, we have other exciting news about our Equine Centre development. The summer holidays were very busy for Ian and me, preparing the farm for the launch of the equine unit. Firstly, Blossom had her new foal, Merlin, who was born on June 28th and is already the same size as Prince! We also bought a new horse, Scout, over the summer, who is big enough to be ridden by most people, once our riding lessons start up. With all these new horses on the farm it was necessary to convert one of our old barns into two stables. These look

really smart and we are now beginning to look like proper riding stables. All those who are interested in riding lessons – watch this space... Riding lessons for members of Kent College are definitely still on the cards and hope to be up and running early next year!

Other areas of the farm are running well at the moment. We have brought the calves in for the winter and have selected some of the older cows to sell. As in previous years, we plan to reduce the stock over the winter to reduce costs and save the ground for the spring. We have already sold some of the pigs and lambs from earlier in the year; however more piglets are due over the next few weeks. All three of the sows are currently down in the woods, but will be brought up shortly to have their piglets in the comfort of the barn – please come over to see them after half term. The sponging of the ewes was so successful last year that we have done it again this year, in the hope that we will have lambs around February half term. We have also re-fenced some areas of the farm, where the livestock were starting to push through, which has helped to improve the appearance of the farm and the safety of the animals.

As ever, we are keen to welcome as many new members as possible. Please feel free to come over and see us at the farm if you get the opportunity and take a look at our new developments.

**Beatrice Boyle**  
Farm Assistant



## Caitlin Shines at the Marlowe Theatre

For the third time in three years, a Kent College student has made a significant impact in the prestigious Marlowe Young Musician of the Year competition. Caitlin Shaughnessy (Year 10) walked off with the Orchestra Prize at the recent competition held on 30th September in the Marlowe Theatre.

Caitlin, a violin student of Ms Faith Whiteley at Junior Guildhall in London, came extremely close to winning the whole competition with her exquisite playing of Boccherini's little known Violin Concerto. The experience of playing with an orchestra in front of a large and excited audience was one that Caitlin will never forget. And neither will the 30 plus students and staff who were there to cheer her on (which they did with some gusto!).

The main adjudicator, Anthony Halstead, a world renowned horn player and conductor, was unstinting in his praise for Caitlin's performance. But she was pipped to the post by Grace Deuchar-Scott (Oboe) who wowed us all with her energetic and sensitive playing. Caitlin won over the orchestra, however, who voted for her overwhelmingly as the recipient of their prize, named in honour of their former conductor Paul Neville.

Kent College is immensely proud of all its musicians and especially Caitlin after this amazing result. Considering that she only arrived at the school in September this year, this has already been a term to remember and it's barely a month old! Congratulations from everyone at KC go to Caitlin. This was quite an achievement!



## A2 Geography Field Trip

The A2 Geography Field Trip to North Yorkshire at the end of last term was very successful. It was pretty wet on the surface but wetter still in the caves. Here are some pictures of the intrepid explorers. It seems that smiles abound.



## Family Fun Day

The first OC's Family Fun Day was held on a balmy sunny afternoon in September. The year group that left exactly 25 years ago was well represented and returned with their own children to enjoy a sumptuous barbeque held near the tuck shop. The competitive nature of this group was much in evidence as they competed with and against their children in several games of human table football. The sixth form students kept the children happy by providing face and nail painting throughout the afternoon. After much reminiscing, in the heat of the day, the family fun drew to a close with afternoon tea. However, the party was just to start as the revellers moved on to a curry house in Canterbury. It was great to meet up with so many people for whom this was their first return to Kent College. I was pleased to say that I could recognise all of them although the girls seemed to have changed less than the boys, I think it might be a hair thing. I hope you won't leave it another 25 years before you return.

Congratulations to Sharon (Matthews) Adley and Ann (Charlesworth) Walters for all the hard work that they put into organising the event.

I hope it will be the first of many.

Mrs Carol Baker



## 10K Fun Run

Jamie Bright, Alice Baker and Jessica Bushell got to meet the Cheeky Girls at the beginning of



July as they ran with 25,000 other people in the annual London 10k run. The three students from Kent College took part in the huge event to raise money for MRDF (the Methodist Relief and Development Fund). Having partied till the early hours at the school's 6th form ball on the previous night, the brave trio were up at 6am the following morning to travel to London. 'They had a fantastic time,' said School Chaplain, Revd Dr Paul Glass, 'and have raised over £600 for some of the world's poorest people. Meeting the Cheeky Girls was the icing on the cake.'

## Year 7s Discover Treasure in the Heart of Canterbury!



This year's busy Activities Week programme included for the first time an Historical Treasure Hunt for all Year 7 pupils. Each team (with its member of staff as expert guide and mentor) used a challenging set of questions to explore famous and also not so famous corners of our splendid City. The answers had to be gleaned from the evidence pupils could see at each location, which included inscriptions, monuments, street names, statues and door knockers. The route took them into secret gardens, medieval chapels, towers and even a bomb shelter! After a sunny morning's exploration within the city walls the group ate lunch in the Cathedral cloisters and answers were shared at a feedback session in the magnificent 14th century Chapter House. The busy day concluded with tours of the Cathedral itself following a presentation in the Education Centre. Thanks to all the members of staff who accompanied the teams and also Dr Colson who liaised with the Dean and Chapter. Finally, congratulations to the winning team the "Mischievous Monkeys" who received their prizes at Final Assembly.

**Mr Julian Waltho**  
Deputy Head Master

## Treejumpers and Brain Training

On Monday, 8th September, the Year 12s travelled to "Treejumpers" near Tonbridge for a team building session. To start with, doubts were very high as to what the teachers had planned for the students to do. It sounded as though the students would have to climb up trees and jump off them. Unfortunately, this was not very far from the truth! After a virtually uneventful journey there, the students caught sight of the apparatus that they would later be climbing on; it was enough to evoke a feeling of vertigo in even the most confident minds. After a few attempts to stay on the bus, all of the students assembled in the meeting area for safety instructions.

However, once they were all fitted into their harnesses and hats, there was a general feeling that they were probably safer suspended 10 metres in the air than they were on solid land. Slowly people started to relax and enjoy the thrill of mild danger as they climbed up "Jacob's Ladder" and attempted rock climbing and abseiling.

In all, the day was a huge success as it allowed the students to become more comfortable with others in their year and were also able to overcome their fears.

On Saturday, 13th September, the Year 12s took part in a Brain Training session in order to understand their learning styles, to find new ways of motivation and to (hopefully) be able to achieve something that they may not have been able to do before: juggling! Through a well planned series of activities such as "Guess the advert" and "Describe, draw and mime", the students found how they see the world, be it through visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learning, and what is the best way for them to learn. By the end of the session, most of the students had surprised themselves by learning to juggle or at least be closer than they were at the start of the session!

**Anna McGibney**  
Year 12



## Filming with ITN



During the second week of this term, a film crew from ITN came to school to make a short documentary about Kent College. We were to have three minutes of film which would take a day to put together. The point of the exercise was to endorse Kent College alongside other HMC schools. Our aim was to promote our ability to provide a personalised learning experience. Three minutes did not seem long enough to squeeze in everything that is special about Kent College but we were determined to try to. Each filming slot was allotted a strict amount of time and careful selection was made of the best vantage points. Several children were interviewed to get their perspective on school life. The end product is a brief but accurate account of how the school is able to fit the curriculum around the needs of the pupil. If you would like to see the end product visit our website at [www.kentcollege.com](http://www.kentcollege.com).

## Farewell Jasper



I am very sad to report the passing of our beautiful family dog, Jasper. He died in the last week of September from liver failure – he went downhill very quickly – on the Sunday he was leaping around playing Frisbee with us in the garden, by Wednesday it was clear that he was seriously ill and on Friday he died without suffering.

Students and parents alike will remember him from our walks around the touch lines at home matches, when Jasper would look disappointed every time that Carolyn and I would stop to chat or cheer. Members of the Junior School may remember Jasper's appearance at Assembly when I told the story of the 'Cake Tree': some stale cake had been left for the birds on the table in one of the old apple trees in our garden. A gust of wind blew the cake to fall 'Newton like' and hit Jasper on the head. He was delighted that this windfall was edible and could be seen to revisit the cake tree daily just to check.

Carolyn, Barnaby, Hugo and I all miss him greatly after 8 years of walking in all weathers, playing in the garden and curling up at our feet on a cold evening.

Dr D J Lamper

## Open Morning

A gentle mist settled upon the school grounds as it was presented to prospective parents and pupils to try and catch a glimpse of the busy lives led by those in the Kent College community. A varied array of activities was on display, ranging from the more typical displays of hockey prowess and academic achievement to the wonderful and unique offerings of the Kent College Farm and some of its livestock. Parents and pupils were encouraged to participate in the activities on offer, with the Science departments going beyond the call of duty to deliver a series of wonderful experiments that were truly unforgettable and the guides from lower years rising to the challenge of leading our guests through the many classrooms and exhibits that teachers and students had worked upon. The morning was punctuated by an uplifting speech delivered by the Head Master that outlined the true value of the school in its ability to treat the child as an individual and to allow all pupils to choose their own direction for the path of their own education. A job well done by all!

Mark McBride  
Senior Prefect



## Sophie Dee Reaches the Finals

Sophie Dee (Piano), from Yr 11, has reached the final stages of an important international piano competition to be held in Manchester in late November.

The RNCM James Mottram International Piano Competition is a biennial event to find the best pianist in two categories: under 18 and between 18 and 25. The competition, in its first year, has attracted 77 entries from 23 countries around the world because of its links with the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The adjudicating panel comes from seven countries with internationally known pianists such as Peter Donohoe, Michel Beroff and Fu Ts'ong amongst the adjudicators.

To reach this stage, Sophie had to send a 20 minute DVD of her playing up to five pieces ranging from the music of Scarlatti to Chopin.

In the competition proper, there are three further rounds leading up to a final performance of a concerto with the orchestra of the Royal Northern School of Music.

Whatever the outcome of the competition, simply to get to the final stages is a major achievement given the strength and quality of the other competitors. Congratulations, Sophie!



## Old Canterburian becomes Senior Director of Sotheby's



A former pupil of Kent College has recently been elected to the position of Senior Director of 19th Century European Painting at Sotheby's in New Bond Street, London.

Claude Piéning entered Kent College as a day-boy in 1984. He soon discovered his interest in languages and took part in the exchange programme to the Lycée Saint François de Sales in Dijon which, he maintains, led to his becoming an ardent Francophile. In the Sixth Form he studied French, German and Geography, gaining both the Modern Languages prize and the S. A. Spicer prize for Geography. He went on to read Modern Languages at Christ Church, Oxford.

During the course he spent a year at Grenoble University, preparing the DEUG (Diplôme d'études universitaires générales), studying history of art, literature, history and culture.

On leaving Oxford, Claude went to the Courtauld Institute, one of the world's leading centres for the study of the history and conservation of art and architecture, and its Gallery houses one of Britain's best-loved collections of paintings, prints and drawings.

In 1996, Claude joined Sotheby's and worked for three years in their headquarters in New York before returning to London. The experience he gained on both sides of the Atlantic gave him an extensive insight into, and knowledge of, 19th Century paintings; he is now Senior Director in the 19th Century European Paintings department in New Bond Street. His work involves him in regular visits to Sotheby's offices across Europe, sourcing material for his twice-yearly auctions in Bond Street. He also regularly returns to New York to support the European Paintings sales there.

Recent Exhibitions include Sotheby's Spring Auction of 19th Century European Paintings in London on 30th May, which realised several new world record prices, including for the Finnish painter Helen Schjerfbeck, whose Dancing Shoes was sold for £3,044,500, and for the Turkish painter Osman Hamdy Bey, whose Lady of Constantinople achieved £3,380,000. Forthcoming exhibitions include Sotheby's Autumn Auction of 19th Century European Paintings in London on 12th November this year.

We look forward to welcoming Claude back to Kent College when he comes to speak to the Sixth Form art students.

**Dr G D Colson**

## Old Canterburians' Wedding



Cora Goddard and Andy Brown met when Cora joined Year 12 at KC in September 1999. They started dating after only a few weeks and celebrated their wedding in March this year, eight and a half years later! In spite of the doubtful weather, it was an incredible day and many Old Canterburians were amongst the guests, including the three bridesmaids, Lois Goddard, Sally Hanson and Sarah Ross-Browne. Charles Everhart very kindly added the final touch to the Service by playing the organ! The guests were also treated to beautiful performances of Schubert's 'Ave Maria', sung by Sally, and of Rachmaninoff's 'Vocalise', played by Lois on the cello. There was much revelry till well into the following day!

**Mrs H Goddard**  
Head of Modern Languages  
(and proud Mum!)

## The Story of 3 OCs and The Missing Chairs

We were pleased to welcome three Old Canterburians, who left in 2005 on a visit to Kent College in September.

James Richardson has been studying at Warwick for three years on a course of Actuarial and Financial Mathematics and will be undertaking a fourth year in order to reduce the number of professional examinations required.

Jonathan Alston is about to start his fourth year in Geography and Tourism at the University of the West of England. He is hoping to join the Special Constabulary in Bristol and is considering joining the Police Force at the end of his studies.

Tom Rutherford has completed his degree in Geography at University College London and having been accepted for officer training at Sandhurst, will begin his career in the army in January.

In a meeting with the Head Master, they were asked to share a particular funny moment from their time at Kent College and they let the Head Master into the secret of the disappearing chairs in the summer of 2005. Chairs, including some favourite teachers' chairs mysteriously vanished from a number of classrooms and it has now been revealed that they were stashed in the loft space in School House. Following this revelation, it is anticipated that the school will be able to reduce its furniture budget for the coming year.



# BURIAN CLUB

## Old Canterburian Cross Country Challenge 2008 Invitation

Last year the inaugural Old Canterburian Cross Country Challenge took place in Blean Woods over the same course as used for school races, but not seen for many years by the six runners who competed. Even though their ages ranged from 20+ to 60+ they included seasoned runners with a best time on the day by Nick Brawn of 16:30.

Next November, the OCs will be turning out in force and we need to see the best runners the school has in order to beat them and compete for the trophy the OCs have donated for the event. It is called the Robin Saunders Cup, in memory of one of the founding runners who died earlier this year. This race comes at an ideal time in the calendar since it marks the signal for serious athletes to start preparation for the County Championships and regional events that come early next term. As an extra incentive the leading school runner will also receive an invitation to the Old Canterburian Dinner.



Even though the OCs are making this challenge to the school to make a race of it, they would welcome runners of any age, boy or girl, teacher or parent to compete. If the weather is kind it will be as enjoyable as last year and if not, well, that's cross country!

**Peter Kennedy**



## Old Canterburians Dinner

**Saturday 8th November 2008**

### Menu

Chicken and Wild Sorrel Soup

Noisette of Kent College Lamb with chestnut and oyster mushroom jus.

Boulangère potatoes

Trio of green beans

Winter fruit trifle

Coffee and petit fours

## Reunion Weekend Schedule

Saturday 8th November and Sunday 9th November 2008

### SATURDAY

- 10:00 School Hockey Matches
  - 11:00 OCC Committee meeting  
Music Room
  - 12:30 Lunch (Dining Hall)
  - 14:00 OCC Cross-country run Blean Woods
  - 14:15 KC Rugby – U15 XV v King's Rochester School field  
KC U14 XV v King's Rochester at Moat Farm
  - 15:00 Afternoon Tea in Old Library
  - 16:30 AGM (New Music Block)
  - 18:45 OCC Champagne Reception in Old School Library
- Wine orders to be taken
- 19:30 Reunion Dinner
  - 23:00 OCs are requested to leave School Premises.

### SUNDAY

- 10:15 Coffee (Staff Common Room)
- 10:45 OCC Remembrance Service (Chapel)
- 12:00 Sherry Reception (Staff Common Room)
- 12:30 Lunch in Dining Hall

## Not Yet One Foot in the Grave...

Stuart Earl, Partner in London Cost Management, has just finished his first full season in athletics as a veteran (in the 40-44 years age group). At the start of the summer he picked up 3 gold medals in the Southern Counties Vets Championships (in the high jump, triple jump and shot putt) and a silver (in the javelin). In September, he picked up a further three medals in the javelin (gold), long jump (silver) and shot putt (bronze) at the Kent Vets Championships.

Overall his performances this season have included 39.40m for the javelin, 9.44m for the shot, 5.00m for the long jump, 10.22m for the triple jump and 1.45m for the high jump.

While at KC, Stuart set a number of high jump and triple jumps records, some of which still stand today: the U15 high jump (set in 1982) and co-holder of the senior high jump (set in 1986) and triple jump (set in 1985). During his time at the school, he gained both District and County Honours, representing the County both at Triple Jump and Javelin.

After leaving KC and going to Durham University he found himself supporting an up and coming triple jumper by the name of Jonathan Edwards (still the current world record holder)!

More recently he has been coaching athletics at both VH and KC.



In the December issue of the Kent College Times, we will see the return of the OC Message Board – limited space prevents its relaunch in this issue!

## French Exchange 2009

As part of our programme to support and enrich language learning at Kent College, I am delighted to be able to inform you about the French exchange planned for this year.

I have arranged with our partner school, the Collège/ Lycée Guynemer in Compiègne, that the exchange will be open to all pupils learning French in years 8, 9 and 10.

This is a tremendous and exciting opportunity for our pupils to see something of French life from the inside, to see the sights of the Paris region and to start to put into practice the French they have been learning in school. No amount of work in the classroom can compare with speaking the language in an authentic situation.

The French group will come to England in February (the last week before half term). We will return to France from Tuesday 26th May to Tuesday June 2nd (the summer half term).

Compiègne is an attractive and historic city just 45 minutes to the north of Paris. During our stay we will mostly be going on excursions to places of interest, but I hope we will also be able to spend some time in school. In the evenings and at the weekend the pupils will be looked after by their host families.

When the French party comes to Canterbury we will organise a similar programme, with the French group being on excursions or in school during the day, and with you, the host families, in the evenings and at the weekend.

Please contact Ms J van Deelen by email – [jvandeelen@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:jvandeelen@kentcollege.co.uk) for further information.



## New Year Photos



## Reception Farm Visit

Reception began the year with an exciting visit on the minibus to a working farm at Ash. The Laslett family were kind enough to welcome us to see their farm in action. We shivered in the cold store and watched the fork lift arrive with fresh hand cut cauliflowers. The children waded through muddy fields to pick pumpkins and blackberries.

Much fun was had feeding the free range hens with sweetcorn. The eggs were collected and we loved eating dippy eggs and farm fresh bread for snack the next morning.

Farmer Steve helped each child climb into the driver's cab of his big red tractor, fulfilling some childhood dreams. Louis can now tell us why the gear stick has two pictures on it - one of a tortoise and one of a hare. The children also saw a five furrow plough and the vegetables growing in the furrows it had made.

The children had never seen so many potatoes before going into the potato store. ("The bins are as high as a giant!") Faces were a picture as Steve invited each child to choose their own potato, which the children enjoyed preparing and cooking the following day for their lunch.

The trip concluded with a visit to Mr Laslett's Farm Shop where the children astounded Mrs Laslett with their knowledge of the fruits and vegetables for sale in her store. We each tasted some fresh local strawberries and bought some salad to accompany our potatoes and even local apples and pears to prepare and stew for our dessert the following day.

What a fantastic couple of days exploring our local area and cooking our local produce!

**Mrs Liz Shopland  
and Miss Rachel Watts**



## Friends of Kent College News

In the school calendar you will have noticed that on Tuesday, 4th November at 7.30pm in the Old Library the Friends will hold its AGM. As all parents are Friends of the school you are warmly invited to join us. The formalities take only 15 minutes or so to hear about the year's activities, accounts etc. We try hard to keep this process as up beat, brief and factual as possible. After the official procedure, we will have interesting presentations from school pupils who were awarded grants from the Friends' Educational Awards scheme. This year we will hear how Lauren Tabony benefited from an experience in South Africa undertaking the Gold Duke of Edinburgh, what Eleanor Rouse got up to on a trip to Beijing and Tom Frappart learnt on an engineering course. All pupils are eligible to apply for Educational Grants and we are always impressed how they present their adventures to us parents.

*WINE AND WISDOM EVENING: THE KENT COLLEGE CHALLENGE*

We all hope you have received the recent flyer in the post advertising The Kent College Challenge where we encourage parents to contact other friends in their child's year group or within the school to make up a table of 8 parents or friends. Everyone is encouraged to bring along some nibbles and drink (school will provide the plates, cutlery and glasses). Fun is had meeting up with each other and trying our luck at the quiz questions. The teachers usually have a table or two as do the sixth formers, so don't feel shy as the talent is very varied and adds to the amusement.

Do come along and join this school event on Friday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Dining Hall.

## Poetry Winner

Kerry Wright's poem, 'Senses of Racism' was submitted into 'The Green Poetry Machine', the seventeenth annual Young Writers' Competition. It was chosen for publication out of more than 10,000 entries. These had been sent in from all over the UK and overseas. The poem will appear in 'A World of Difference, Kent'. Well done, Kerry!



### SENSES OF RACISM

Racism feels like never ending pain,

Racism looks like a dark tunnel  
with no light at the end,

Racism smells like rotten fish,  
That could linger forever,

Racism tastes like fear hovering in the air,

If you listen, without racism,  
you would hear laughter,  
Never crying.

By Kerry Wright, age 12

## Activities Week – Charity Walk

The Charity Walk was enjoyed by all students from Years 7 to 10 and some intrepid Year 11s and 12s joined in too. Blean Woods is a fine location for this annual event and as it was dry underfoot, those in fancy dress did not even come away with muddy feet. The total amount collected for the Teenage Cancer Trust was £2045! Yet again, the children displayed their caring natures, for this is the highest amount yet for the Walk. The person who raised the most, as he has done every year, was William Taylor (now in Year 10) and he was publicly congratulated for his efforts. We can see a future for Will working for one of the nation's charities, as he clearly has the gift of encouraging others to give.



## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition



## Happy 50th Birthday Science Block

The most important event of the autumn term 1958 was undoubtedly the official opening of the new Science



building by Professor C A Coulson, FRS, Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics in the University of Oxford and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. The ceremony was preceded by a luncheon at which the guests included Sir Graham Savage, representing the Industrial Fund which provided two-thirds of the cost of the new block, the architect and representatives of local authorities, industry, education and the Church, together with governors and other friends of the School. Built in contemporary style with sweeps of glass giving maximum lighting with a modern decor, the building cost £26,000.

In his address, Professor Coulson stressed that science had a central role in dealing with the problems of modern life – in the provision of power for undeveloped countries, food for hungry people, and the means for stamping out disease. Our educational system, he maintained, would be unfair if it did not help boys to study these problems. But, it was his conviction that science should be seen as part of a wider educational background, one of the ways of entering the rich tradition of a Christian community.

Professor Coulson concluded by hoping that every boy in the school would do a little science, and that none would do nothing but science. The aim was to build a whole person, one who would not be "disjointed". He believed that this would prove to be a red-letter day indeed for the school. Given the number of students who have left Kent College and gone on to continue their scientific studies at university, how prophetic were his words.

Originally, as will be seen from the photograph, the boys kept their cycles in the racks situated between the pillars supporting the block. It was to be another thirty years before the General Science laboratory and later the Wolfson laboratories were added. It is interesting to note that in the 1960s boaters were compulsory for senior boys and that they were worn even when the boys were cycling to and from school.

**Dr G D Colson**

## Harvest Festival



October is always a special time as both the Senior School and Vernon Holme celebrate Harvest Festival in style.

This year the Senior School service was able to benefit from hops and sheaves of corn which the previous week had been used to decorate the Church that was the venue for our Farm Manager Ian's wedding. Pupils brought in lots of tins and packets and the Choristers and Senior School Choir ably led the singing at the two Friday services.

On the Sunday, Vernon Holme held the Infant Harvest service in a packed Sports Hall with over 300 attending the worship. The display was stupendous and music from the Junior Choir and Orchestra and a humorous retelling of the parable of the sower presented by Year 3 topped off a wonderful occasion. The Head Boy and Girl from Senior School took part in the service and over £320 was raised for the work of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

On the Monday, Nursery had their harvest service which included a rousing rendition of 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'. Year 5 and 6 went to St. John's Almshouses in Canterbury - led worship and distributed the Harvest gifts to grateful residents.

**Dr P Glass**  
Chaplain



## Ramblings from the Junior School Head Master...

I am delighted to be invited to write for this first edition of the Kent College Times. Rather like a young child preparing for their first day at Kent College, my initial response



was of huge excitement followed by a certain apprehension. However, so much is done at Vernon Holme to help our children gain the academic skills and self confidence that will enable them to thrive in a senior school environment that actually I intend to let the children and staff tell you about the many opportunities they receive over the year ahead. There will be regular contributions reflecting all aspects of school life from what I feel is an outstanding nursery, infant and junior school with inspirational teaching and a wide variety of educational experiences that take place inside and outside the classroom. It is hard to measure what a ten year old child gains from singing in choir in a major cathedral in Europe; or from standing on a start line with over two hundred children at the start of a cross country race looking at a course heading straight up a hill; or standing in front of an audience of four hundred reciting a poem they have written; or sitting in silence in a room full of children to do an exam to earn a place at Kent College but I do feel they are important to every child's development. Over the next year you will be able to read each half term about our exciting education. For those of you who can't wait the two months between copies of the Kent College Times you can read the Vernon Holme Telegraph on the school web site, [www.kentcollege.com](http://www.kentcollege.com), which contains the ramblings of this headmaster on a fortnightly basis!



**Mr A J Carter**  
Head Master  
of the Nursery, Infant and Junior  
School at Vernon Holme

## Surprise Guests for the Head Master and the Chaplain



You might think we had a wet summer but on the first day of this new term, KC did not see very much water at all. A fault in the College water supply only came to light when hundreds of us, returning from the holidays, began to turn on multiple taps and flush the loos. The new pupils to the school had to eat off disposable tableware, the catering staff manfully cooked with bottled water and the boarders were bussed to the University Sports Centre to shower. When our reserve tanks were completely empty, the boys from Guilford House had to sleep elsewhere for one night: some to the Medical Centre, some to the Chaplain's house and the really lucky ones stayed at the Head Master's home. For a little while, a temporary pipe was set up by our maintenance team, led by Mr Robin Wall. Its design owed much to Heath Robinson as it came from Whitstable Road, over the hedge, through the trees, across Chapel Road, up over the roof of the Science Block, across the Chapel roof and in to School House tank room: a distance of some 40 metres! It was a difficult fault to locate but the problem was speedily solved with not too much inconvenience to anyone.



## Associated Board Music Examination Results Summer 2008

Candidate	Subject	Grade	Result
Carla Barwick	Violin	Preliminary	
Eva Barwick	Piano	3	Pass
Holly Bayly	Flute	1	Pass
Oliver Bloice	Singing	4	Distinction
Molly Cleland	Singing	4	Pass
Olivia Earl	Violin	1	Pass
Stephanie Felton	Flute	1	Merit
Stephanie Felton	Singing	3	Merit
Grace Frearson	Flute	1	Pass
Eloise Gauzan	Singing	2	Merit
Lucille Gauzan	Singing	5	Merit
Grace Greenstreet	Singing	3	Pass
Philippa Griffiths	Singing	1	Merit
Lillie Harris	Flute	6	Merit
William Heywood	Viola	1	Merit
Hamish Kilburn	Singing	4	Distinction
Hugo Lamper	Singing	3	Pass
Charlotte Macdonald	Singing	3	Merit
Jessica Meakin	Piano	3	Merit
Jessica Meakin	Singing	5	Merit
Ailsa Naylor	Violin	Preliminary	
Rebecca Nugent	Singing	5	Pass
Susannah Parker	Singing	5	Merit
Frankie Pickworth	Flute	1	Merit
Anya Sochacka	Violin	2	Pass
Helen Sotillo	Singing	4	Distinction
Georgina Townsend	Singing	3	Pass
Eleanor White	Violin	1	Merit
Rosemary White	Piano	2	Merit
Rosemary White	Flute	2	Merit
Sophie Wilson	Violin	2	Pass

## Trinity Music Examination Results June 2008

Luke Soppitt	Brass	2	Merit
Alex Harris	Brass	2	Pass
Russell Greenhill	Brass	3	Merit
Victoria Sayer	Piano	3	Merit
Katie Roper	Oboe	3	Merit
Henry Wyeth	Oboe	5	Merit
Daniel Wright	Violin	7	Distinction
Chloe Moxam	Piano	3	Merit
David Kuan	Jazz sax	3	Merit
Alfie Goldsmith	Jazz sax	3	Merit
Emily Heywood	Jazz sax	4	Merit
Archie Mitchison	Jazz sax	5	Distinction
Sarah Hyams	Sax	3	Merit
Catherine Parker	Clarinet	6	Merit
Louis Duprez	Clarinet	2	Merit
Iona Thompson	Clarinet	2	Distinction
Alice Baker	Viola	6	Distinction
Emma Boggia	Singing	6	Pass
Francesca Mitchison	Piano	5	Pass
Simone Moxam	Clarinet	2	Distinction
Eloise Gauzan	Clarinet	2	Distinction
Natasha Kuhnen	Clarinet	1	Distinction
Audrey-Anne Guyony	Clarinet	1	Distinction
Philippa Griffiths	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Juliette Packard	Piano	1	Pass
Isra Jalaly	Piano	1	Pass
Simone Moxam	Piano	1	Merit



## Honours for Jessica Smith as she somersaults to victory



The GB Trampoline Championships took place at the Birmingham NEC on 5/6 July 2008 with over 900 competitors taking part in the event. All participants must have achieved a qualifying score during the season (January-June) to earn the right to take part in the two-day final event, and so everybody present is of a very high standard.

This is the 4th year running that Jessica Smith (now in Year 12) has taken part in these Championships. The competition included the following disciplines: Individual trampolining, Double Mini Trampolining (called DMT for short) and synchronisation (ie like syncro diving). DMT is a similar to the vault in Gym,

with the exception that you run up and land on a very small trampoline (a little bigger than a traditional trampette) and then undertake 2 separate somersault moves (hence the name Double) after which you land on a floor mat. Jess took part in the Individual and DMT competitions.

In the Individual Trampoline competition Jess finished 4th in the Girls' under 17 Grade 2 event, having been placed 8th after the two initial rounds which were held on the Saturday.

In the Girls' over 15 National C grade DMT competition, Jess finished in the Silver Medal position (for the second year running), having been placed 4th after the first round of competition.

We congratulate Jess on her achievements. The photographs show Jess with her Awards and as she is about to take her final pass.



## U11 Football Tour to Brighton 2008



On Friday 19th September 37 boys from Years 5 and 6, along with Mr Carter, Mr Pearce, Mr. Corrigan and Mr. Sweet, left for their annual football tour to Brighton.

Both Friday and Saturday's matches were played at East Brighton Park, where normally the wind and rain howls down. But luckily for us the weather was magnificent and quality football was seen by many. None more so than the two Brighton Hove Albion Academy squads that played our Albion and United squads on the Saturday.



It was the best football I have seen played by boys of that age. Our boys learnt many a lesson and despite the resounding score lines, we held our heads high.

However, we did have some success. The Albion squad beat Brighton College Junior School 2-0 and the County squad, led by last year's Manager of the Year, Mr Carter, achieved a stunning 5-0 victory.

As well as playing, the boys enjoyed ten pin bowling on the Friday and had the misfortune of watching Brighton Hove Albion lose to nine man, yes nine man, Walsall on the Saturday!

Mr C Sweet



Having been defeated by King's in a tense penalty shoot out competition in the quarter-final of the U18 County Tournament, the team of girls was determined not to end up anywhere but first in the U16 competition. Several players had competed at the older level already and were ready to face the task ahead with real determination.

Grace Balsdon stepped up as team captain and led the girls onto the pitch against five teams of opponents in the morning round. Here we were easily the strongest side and were able to rest the legs of some of the team stalwarts. In the morning we defeated Ashford, Cranbrook, Highworth, Newstead Wood and Sutton Valence. The team played with ferocity in attack and sensibly timed tackling and passing in defence conceding only one goal all day. Progressing to the quarter finals was straight forward and we led out against our sister school Kent College, Pembury whom we beat with a convincing 7-1 victory. The games were getting progressively more challenging and physically demanding. The semi-final was against the well organised side from Tunbridge Wells Grammar School but Kent College stormed through with a 4-0 victory, placing them in the final against local rivals: King's.

King's pulled out their best performance of the day holding Kent College to a 0-0 draw at full time. Ten minutes extra time saw KC forwards dominate the game but the King's keeper did a great job of keeping them out of the goal. At the end of extra time, there was still no score which meant the dreaded penalty stroke lottery! We knew we could score all of our strokes but we needed Laura to make one save to win us the competition. King's stepped up and threw the first stroke well wide of the posts. We scored! King's took their turn and Laura saved it! The rest went to plan: we scored all of ours and beat King's into first place and the well deserved Championship title. This enables the girls to compete in the East of England Hockey Tournament next month. Well done, Kent College!

The team: Grace Balsdon, Shauna Barton, Beth Moore, Sarah Heathfield, Susannah Parker, Rebecca Weston, Lucy Hyams, Ellie Kerly, Devki Dixit, Eleanor Rouse, Lucy Bourne, Katie Warwick, Annabel Carter, Chloe Moxam, Laura Pieters and Anna Alvarez.

Anna Alvarez won five medals at Kent Athletics Championships:



Gold Javelin, Gold High Jump, Silver Discus, Silver Long Jump and Silver Hurdles.

This month, after a gruelling selection process, Chloe Moxam from Year 8, was selected to participate in the England Netball Training programme which will run throughout the year.



As well as training with her school team, Chloe has trained regularly throughout the year, with Pilgrims Netball Club who have their base at Kent College.

## County Hockey Squads

The following students have been selected for County Hockey Squads:

### U15

Annabel Carter  
Jack Balsdon  
Tommy Winding

### U14

Eva Barwick  
Charlie Spight  
William Norman

### U13 – in photo

Harry Roberts  
Louis Duprez  
Harry Fitzgerald



Watch out for the Rugby Feature in the next edition of the Kent College Times