



VH TELEGRAPH incorporating the Bulletin

Newsletter 19th September 2008

My sincere thanks to all pupils, staff and parents for making the start of term so successful. I am delighted with the way everyone has returned to school with such a positive approach and the atmosphere has been excellent. I have been very impressed with the children's focussed yet enthusiastic approach to lessons. I have been equally as impressed with the dynamic teaching that I am seeing that guides and encourages the children. Personally I am not convinced that Richard III was as bad a person as the Year Fives were describing in their history lesson I watched and that perhaps they were being over influenced by Tudor propaganda five hundred years on! I expect we will never know exactly what happened in the lead up to the Battle of Bosworth but teaching and learning is a journey of discovery that is a partnership between a child, their teachers and their family. It is increasingly difficult for us to predict the world that this generation of children will enter into on reaching adult life but I am convinced that good values, self confidence and an ability to empathise with and care about others will be important skills for our children to have gained. There is also no doubt that exam success at the ages of 16, 18 and early twenties will be hugely influential on a child's future and I am delighted to inform you that Kent College's A level results were the best in the school's history and compared very favourably with other local schools. On a personal note having gone through the 'A' level process as a parent for the first time this year I would like to publicly thank all the staff at Kent College for the time, effort and enthusiasm they showed to ensure that my eldest child achieved the grades he needed.

As you know I am continually looking to develop the school and I also believe that a school is only as good as the people who comprise the school community. I am delighted that Miss Rachel Watts has joined our Infant Department and it has been great to have Mr Colin Knowles visiting on a regular basis. I am very pleased that we have been able to introduce an additional English set in Year Six which now gives us three sets for English and Maths in Year Six. We have three Maths sets in Year Five and I am planning to introduce three sets for Maths and English in Year Four in the near future. These are all exciting developments that will enable us to further improve the academic education that we are offering. Alongside this academic development we have increased the number of after school clubs that we are offering to our Junior children this year and the buzz of activity that exists in the school is wonderful to see right through to six o'clock. Saturdays have been equally as busy with clubs, sports fixtures and our first Saturday morning cross country which now attracts children, staff, parents, visitors and we even now have a regular visitor from our Governing body who can usually be found holding a stopwatch and entertaining everyone with tales from his own athletics career which is now in the veteran stage but still going strong! My apologies to all those Infants and Juniors who are desperately waiting for Saturday morning soccer club to start but such has been the uptake for the Year Five and Six girls and boys sports tours this weekend that we are having to take eight members of staff to accompany them! I can assure you that I am looking out my Stockport County replica shirt and aim to be in attendance next Saturday.

After the great successes of last season on the sports field I wondered if we would be able to repeat them but the early signs are very promising with outstanding performances already in girls hockey, boys football and cross country running. However I have been equally as pleased to see that all boys and girls in Year Five and Six have represented the school. Our policy is clear and wherever possible we will include all pupils to give them the opportunity to represent the school. It does mean that sometimes some of the teams will struggle to gain the victories they desire as most other schools follow a different policy and do not give opportunities to all children. I know that some of you feel that it would not be a Mr Carter newsletter without some reference to cricket and whilst I am already looking forward to the Ashes series next summer this week's reference is simply to inform you that there are spaces available on Friday evening and Saturday morning on the individual cricket coaching programme with two coaches that are highly regarded in the county. If you want any information about this, see Mr Sweet or myself.

Our successes in music seem never ending and these continued successes in foundation areas of the curriculum are a direct result of the commitment that our teachers and children make to them. Having worked hard throughout the day in core and foundation subjects which we treat with equal importance it would be very easy for children and teachers to want to go home at four. As you are all well aware this is not happening so it is no surprise our children are achieving so much. Our 2007/08 choristers, which unfortunately no longer contain pupils with us because they have all moved up to the senior school, have reached the last six in the Radio Three National Children's choir of the year competition and have been invited to perform in the final stage of the competition in Liverpool. The same choir were the outstanding choir in a national competition held at the Birmingham Symphony Hall during the summer holiday. Our Year Six children will be joining this group but unfortunately are not allowed to join them in Liverpool. Their ex headmaster will be but they can rest assured that I will not be singing! The results in our music exams were also outstanding and I enjoyed presenting the children with their certificates.

Monday sees us transporting all our pupils up to the senior school for our whole school photograph. Can I ask parents to ensure that the children are looking smart, it will be winter uniform for the day but I do not mind boys wearing shorts if they want to as that is an option throughout the year, Mrs Carter says it is because I had to wear shorts to school until the age of twelve throughout the year! Mrs Garrett will be making arrangements for the nursery children who will be the last of the 650 children to be put into their places!

This week has seen a number of our Year Six children take the Kent Test now the authority has decided to administer the test at the start of the academic year. The Kent College Entrance Exam will remain in the Spring Term in line with the Independent Schools policy. Should anyone wish for further information about any aspect of school life, don't hesitate to contact me where I will be delighted to help you. I look forward to our happy, positive start to the term continuing throughout the school year, which I hope, will be an interesting and exciting adventure for us all.

☐☐ **THE NEXT TWO WEEKS** ☐☐

Mon 22 Sept	9.00 am Whole School Photo. KC
Wed 24 Sept	2.30 pm U11 Football A, B, C & D v Sutton Valence. Away 1.30 pm U11 Girl's Hockey B & C V St Edmunds. Polo Farm
Thu 25 Sept	8.45 am Coffee Morning, Reception and Nursery Parents. Garden House
Fri 26 Sept	2.00 pm Rawlinson Cup Cross Country at Dulwich Prep. Away
Sat 27 Sept	2.00 pm U11 Football A, B, C & D v Kings, Rochester. Home
Tue 30 Sept	Individual School Photographs 8.30 am Suzuki Play Together
Wed 1 Oct	1.00 pm U11 Spring Grove Football Tournament. Away 1.30 pm U11 Girl's Hockey A & B v Ashford Friars. Polo Farm
Thu 2 Oct	4.30 pm Nursery and Reception Parent's Evening. Infant Department
Fri 3 Oct	8.45 am Coffee Morning, Year 4 Parents. Garden House Junior Effort and Attainment Marks (core subjects).