

April 2010

Dear Parents and Members of the School,

1. Communication to and from the School

If you are reading this Newsletter then hopefully it reflects the fact that you visit the school's web-site on occasions because you find it a useful source of information.

Mr Acourt works hard to keep it current and soon, for example, the timetable for this summer's public examinations for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be posted.

On the web-site there is a "Contact Us" page reminding you of our email address: head@srms.kent.sch.uk. This is the general school email address and Mrs R Winstone, the Head's PA, makes sure that all incoming emails are forwarded on to the appropriate member of staff.

We are also, of course, very pleased for parents to make contact with us by letter, telephone or to make an appointment to come into see us personally. There is no right or wrong person to see; it all depends on what the matter in hand concerns. The important point is that the appropriate member of staff will make themselves available, whether that be a form tutor, subject teacher, Head of Year, Head of Department, SENCO, Deputy Head or Headteacher.

2. University Applications and the Road to Success

There has been a lot on the news recently about government cuts in funding for universities and the impact this will have. More students than ever with good A Level grades, it is predicted, will find it hard to gain a place in the coming year.

The need for our students to gain the highest grades in their A Level studies is therefore more paramount than ever.

Miss Peycelon (Head of Sixth Form), Mr Stedman (Assistant Head of Sixth Form) and the Sixth Form Tutors certainly give a great deal of support to the Year 13 students as they complete their university applications. Those students who face rigorous academic interviews as part of the selection process are also given considerable help in their preparations and practice interviews are arranged.

The new A Level Extended Project, which some of our Year 13 students chose to do, also enabled those students to boost their Personal Statements and to talk at interview with some confidence on a topic of relevance to their proposed university studies. The first two students who submitted their Extended Projects before Christmas were both awarded A*. Another nine students are submitting their project this term.

The success this year in our Oxbridge applicants was very pleasing with six students given conditional offers.

Helen Falconer is also to be congratulated for her award of an Entrance Scholarship worth £1,000 and an unconditional offer of a place to read International Politics and Intelligence Studies at Aberystwyth University. Helen sat two exam papers, one in Politics and the other in History, and was given very high marks in both.

3. Manwood Road

Users of Manwood Road will have noticed the instigation of double yellow lines along long stretches of the road. At the St George's end of the road this has been very useful in ensuring that the road is kept clear of parked cars thereby giving the buses sufficient space to park sensibly at the end of the school day.

The road nevertheless remains very congested at peak times and parents are asked to avoid using the road if possible. Most important is not to attempt to turn round on Manwood Road or to come on to the school premises to drop off children and then turn round – such manoeuvres are potentially very dangerous.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

4. Young Enterprise Public Speaking Competition

On Wednesday 3rd February Thomas Newman and Naomi Walker represented their two companies at the Young Enterprise Public Speaking Competition held at the Dover Grammar School for Girls. They faced speakers from Dover Girls Grammar School, Dover Boys Grammar School, Dover College and Castle Community School.

They performed with great credit but on this occasion did not take the prize for first place.

5. National Student Investor Challenge

A number of our Sixth Form Business Studies students entered this competition again. At the close on 26th February our best team was in 118th place out of 2668 teams in the South East of England, not in the top 20, which would have led to an invitation to the South East Regional Finals in London, as previous teams in 2007, 2008 and 2009 had been.

Even so this was a good effort. They were only about £5,000 short of being in the top 20, having their portfolio valued at £111,462 when the competition closed, an increase of 11.46% from November – February. They were still in the top 4% of teams in the South East, and in the top 5% of teams nationally being 393rd out of 7535. So a very good effort.

6. Young Enterprise

This term both companies, Novus and Just Infinity, have worked hard at producing their products. Novus has made key rings, bookmarks and rulers from waste plastic. Just Infinity has produced a CD-Rom resource that is aimed at Primary School children, and it is based on Mathematics quizzes and puzzles.

Both companies attended the FOM Spring Fayre in St Peter's Church, Sandwich, where some sales were made and are now gearing up for the final efforts before the local Area Final next term.

7. Art

Paris Art Trip

The 6th Form Art students visited Paris during February 2010. They travelled to Paris on the Eurostar after a difficult journey in snowy conditions. The students saw a wealth of artwork at the Louvre, Musee D'Orsay, Rodin Museum and the Modern Art collection at the Pompidou Centre. They climbed the Eiffel Tower, took a boat trip along the Seine and visited Sacre Coeur.



Life Drawing Classes

Over the last two terms the 6th form Art students have produced some excellent drawings and paintings from life drawing classes run by the art department.



Post Matters Charity Exhibition (July 2010)

Post Matters is a whole school exhibition in aid of the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust which will be open to a variety of local artists including students, staff and parents. The exhibition will be held during July 2010.

The exhibition will involve a variety of media and subject matter on the 4X6" postcard size, all of which will be for sale for just £5, or two for £7. All of the proceeds will be donated to the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust.

The exhibition will be open to anybody who wishes to participate. The art department will provide resources and be running a series of workshops in drawing, painting, printing, and digital media for staff and pupils.

8. Design Technology

Congratulations to Jack Murray, Lewis Parsons and James Poulton (The Solar Kings) for winning a place at the South Eastern Regional Final of the Toyota Technology Challenge. The event will take place at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Monday 26th April. They will present their project and race their car against 6 other schools.

Amongst a very good range of A2 Design Projects this year, well done to Ben Chan for exhibiting his dynamic display unit in the Sandwich Book Shop and to Tom Adcock who has designed and made a Solar Charging Unit and toys which will be presented to The Farato School in the Gambia this Easter Holiday. Both students plan to study Industrial/Product Design at top universities this September.

9. Music



Undoubtedly amongst the highlights of the term was the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* which was staged in the first week of February. With previous productions such as *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Les Mis* to follow in the footsteps of, cast and crew under the leadership of Mr Holden and Mr Greenhalgh brought off yet another triumphant performance run. Moje Edeki as Jesus, and Lee Marriott as Judas gave especially strong leading performances, as did the shared role of Mary Magdalene (Vicki Lyden and Kate Spencer), amongst many others. The band drew almost exclusively from current Manwood's students, though it was a

privilege to have Robert Tapsfield playing keyboards, who played in the original West End production of the show back in the 1970s.



Another highlight was the highly successful Choir and Orchestra visit to Seville in Andalucia, Southern Spain for a 6 day tour in mid –March. The party of 44 were based in a backpackers lodge (actually quite a smart townhouse converted to its current role) in the centre of the city. Three official concerts were given in a civic centre and two local schools, as well as an impromptu concert on the Saturday morning to a huge crowd in one of Seville's many plazas. There was also time for cultural activities which included visits to the Real Alcazar, Seville's massive Gothic Cathedral, a walking tour of the city, a demonstration of authentic Flamenco, paella-making as well as an excursion to the coastal city of Cadiz. The tour was an enormous success and an extraordinary feat of organisation. Congratulations and thanks must go to Mrs Cullis and Clare Shaw for all their hard work over many months in putting it together.



The Music Department welcomed Mr Jed Sharpe, a GTP trainee teacher from Marlowe Academy for three weeks in the second half of term during which time he observed teaching across the music department and elsewhere in the school. He also taught some lessons and seemed to be very popular with the pupils. We wish him well with the rest of his training in Ramsgate and with his future career.

Founders Day in St Clement's Church on Friday 19th March saw more musicians than ever involved in various ways. The string and brass groups formed an orchestral accompaniment alongside the organ for the hymns, and the anthem, Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' from *The Messiah* – one of the greatest choral pieces of all time – was sung expertly by a choir of staff and pupils who had practiced hard for most of the term. We were also privileged once again to welcome members of the Manwood Singers who added greatly to the occasion.

The Chamber Choir contributed to the Sandwich Choral Society performance of John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* in St Clement's, Sandwich on Tuesday 23rd March to great acclaim.

The Jazz Band Concert at Woodnesborough unfortunately had to be cancelled on Friday 12th February due to bad weather, but the band did bring more than a bit of musical glitter to the FOM Spring Fayre at St Peter's Church, Sandwich on Saturday 20th March. Led by Music Director Dom Shawcross, the band played an hour set attracting a sizable crowd into St Peter's and receiving enthusiastic and warm applause and helping to make the event a great success.

Rock & Pop took place again on Thursday 18th March, with performances from pupils across the school. It was regrettable that there wasn't a bigger audience, but the bands put on a good show despite that. R&P will be taking a break for the summer term, returning with renewed vigour in the Autumn.

The Spring Concert on March 24th brought what has been a very busy term of music-making to a traditional close. All school ensembles participated alongside solo and small group items to bring a varied and interesting programme including orchestral, choral, folk, jazz and classical repertoire.

Future Music Dates:

Thursday 13th May Charity Soloists Concert 7pm, School Hall

10. Drama

It has been a busy and successful term with many GCSE and A Level students taking part in the school musical. A special mention for Moje Edeki for his portrayal as Christ, ably supported by Vicki Lyden, Kate Spencer and Lee Marriott as Judas.

The GCSE groups also produced their own short plays for their coursework unit. As ever some striking and original work was created; Matthew Hessey in particular should be congratulated for writing most of the script of his group's play, 'The Importance of Being Famous', a satiric look at the negative side of the celebratory culture. Also to Connor Gower who helped to order and write all the contributions from his group as 'The Runts of the Pack' set in Betteshanger as the coal mines are closing down – a challenging and extremely well thought out play. All five groups indeed should be very proud of what they achieved. They also had a spine tingling day in London watching 'The Woman in Black', working in the theatre in the morning and meeting the actors after the show.

The AS and A2 groups are busily preparing for their examined performances on 29th April, this will be an evening event open to anyone who is interested in seeing some fine acting.

11. UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

Year 10 students took part in this very challenging national competition and the results were very pleasing: 7 Gold, 12 Silver and 18 Bronze Awards were achieved. 3 students, Andrew Carlotti, Alex Dixon and Jeremy Lee have been invited to participate in the next round.

Andrew Carlotti followed on from his success in the British Maths Olympiad with selection to represent the UK at the International Maths Olympiad. He came 7th individually in the competition. Andrew also recently represented the UK at the Romanian Masters of Mathematics Competition which if anything was tougher than the IMO as only 12 strong nations competed, including the USA, Russia and China. He has also been invited to Cambridge to work with the British Senior Team.

12. UK Biology Olympiad 2010

Sixth form students entered this very challenging national competition this year and 3 students were rewarded with excellent results:

Jenny Sales – Gold Medal
Charlotte Swanson – Silver Medal
Helen Kirby – Bronze Medal

13. British Informatics Olympiad 2010

Founded in 1995, the British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) aims to encourage students to take an active interest in information technology, and to allow them to meet and exchange ideas, through a challenging competition in computer programming.

It is an annual competition which tests the ability to solve problems against the clock and is open to all students in the UK under 19. The first round of the Olympiad is a three-hour paper, sat and marked in school, with programming tasks supplemented by short written questions.

Graham Harris (Year 11) sat the examination in December. Whilst he scored full marks for the tasks which he completed he was not able to attempt all the sections of the paper in the time allocated. Graham was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his entry.

14. UK German Connection Success

Abigail Apps (Y12) has been successful in gaining a place on a summer course organized by the UK-German Connection. The place was offered following a competitive entry process. The course is particularly aimed at students studying A Level German and will involve language lessons each day as well as trips, events and joint activities with German peers as part of a very full programme of activities.

15. The International Dimension Continues to Flourish

Earlier this term the Art Department organised a successful visit to Paris for their sixth form students. In the second half of term the Orchestra and Choir travelled to Seville where they performed a number of concerts. Our German exchange partner school also visited us in March whilst a group of Year 10 students stayed in Paris for five days.

At Easter a group of sixth form students will be visiting the Gambia again to support the work of the Gamble Charity there. In advance of their trip the pupils have been very successful in raising funds for the charity. There is also a ski trip to Austria going during the Easter holidays.

Towards the end of the summer term students and staff will again be visiting our partner school in China and teaching in the English Summer School. We will also be hosting the Chinese students and staff here. A Spanish trip to Barcelona for Y10 students and above is also taking place towards the end of June.

Mr Stedman and myself visited our new partner school in India, the Shree Krishna Pranami Public School, Siwani, Haryana Province, at the beginning of January. Good relationships were forged and we are now expecting a visit from a group of their students and staff in June/July. We will then visit them in October. This trip has been advertised to our Y10 and Y11 students – the party will comprise 10 students led by two staff. They will stay at the school for a week and also go on a tour for a week taking in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur.

This snapshot of one aspect of life at Manwood's gives an insight into the opportunities being made available to the students and the commitment of many staff happy to organise and lead these activities.

16. Charitable Fund Raising

The students have responded very well this term to the challenge of raising money for this year's designated charity, The Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust. A lot of efforts were focused in Charity Week, held in the penultimate week of term, which saw a wide range of sponsored activities thought up by different forms. Other events had also taken place earlier in the term, such as the Manwood's Come Dancing event organised by sixth form students as part of their ICT A Level studies.

The school has also during the term raised funds for the Haiti earthquake disaster and for the charity War Child which ex-member of staff, Mrs Shirley Bradberry, is supporting.

The group of students going to the Gambia this Easter, as well as collecting useful things to take out with them to the school, have raised over £2,000 for the GAMBLE charity.

Many thanks to all the students and staff for their efforts in supporting these important causes.

17. Library News

The new year started with some exciting free books for our Library provided by the School Library Association's 'Everyone's Reading' scheme.

World Book Day on March 4th was celebrated with a Book Sale in the Library to raise money for Book Aid International. This charity sends books to countries in sub-Saharan Africa such as Malawi and Namibia. A lot of bargains were snatched up as books were sold for as little as 30p and by the end of the sale we had raised £85.

We also held a 'Get Caught Reading' photographic competition which was won by Hermione Zawislak in 8K.

The following week a lively Kids Lit Quiz was enjoyed by teams from Years 7 & 8. It was a close contest but the Manwoods 'Eggheads' seized victory in the last round and made off with the prize. The Eggheads team comprised Joanna Bramwell, Dominic Wheeler, James McKenna and Shem Sheikh, all from 8TU.

Our 6th Form Reading Group has continued to meet regularly for some lively discussion. We have recently read 'Stuart – A Life Backwards' by Alexander Masters and 'The Sound and the Fury' by William Faulkner.

And finally ... a reminder :- The Library opens at 8.30 everyday; it closes at 4.30 Mon – Thurs, & 4pm Friday. Books can be borrowed for 2 weeks at a time (with or without a Library card) and may be renewed, if not requested by another student.

18. Duke of Edinburgh Award

This term students have been busy preparing for their practice expedition by attending a range of training sessions on expedition skills, including map reading, camp craft, route planning, food and cooking. During the summer term, participants throughout the award are expected to follow the guidance given during training sessions and come appropriately equipped for their expeditions.

The dates of the expeditions for the 2010 season are as follows:

Expedition	Date	Area
Silver Practice (year 11 and 12)	Saturday 24th April to Monday 26th April	Elham Valley
Silver Practice (year 10)	Saturday 1st May – Monday 3rd May	High Weald of Kent
Bronze Practice	Saturday 15th May – Sunday 16th May	North Downs
Bronze Qualifying	Wednesday 16th June – Friday 18th June	Alkham Valley
Gold Practice	Monday 5th July – Friday 9th July	Brecon Beacons
Silver Qualifying (all years)	Monday 19th July to Thursday 22nd July	Ashdown Forest

19. CCF

The winter term is normally quiet for the CCF because with the darker and colder evenings much of the Wednesday afternoon training is indoors. With the financial cutbacks imposed by the MOD on the Cadet Branch a number of our planned activities for this period were cancelled. We expect to receive full financial support from the MOD once again in the next financial year. During this term we have gained eight new cadets.

On Wednesday evening parades cadets have received training in skill at arms (weapon training), map and compass, fieldcraft and drill. On Wednesday lunchtimes most cadets have had the opportunity to shoot our .22 rifles on our school range. A good number of cadets have shot successfully and been awarded shooting badges.

Our newly promoted Cadet Lance Corporals have successfully completed a Method Of Instruction course which has run on Wednesday evenings since October. The course is provided by the army instructors from our dedicated Cadet Training Team. Because of a change of instructors the course took longer to complete than anticipated. Next year we plan to run the course over two weekends instead.

Ski Training Camp in Bavaria - Cadet Sergeant Jamie Woodruff, Cadet Corporal Matt Bishop and Cadet Corporal Lydia Fuller joined one of the adventurous training ski camps organised by the Army for cadets. They thoroughly enjoyed the trip, improved their skiing and were highly commended for their efforts by the training staff.

Founder's Day - The Cadet Band led the Contingent, marching from the school to church for the Founder's Day service. The salute was taken at the Bell Hotel by the Headmaster and guests as the Contingent marched past. The Band performed extremely well again and are set for another busy summer of events ahead. The Parade Commander was 2i/c The Reverend Captain Howard T Pashley.

The Band continues to practice at lunch times and occasionally after School supervised by Ray Harlow and Mr Tom Lawton, ex Royal Marine Drum Major. Our drummers have improved considerably with Tom's coaching. He has also arranged for the renovation of three side drums, and the provision of 25 sets of Royal Marine trousers and shirts. The Bass Drummer's leopard skin has been refurbished to an almost new condition. The Old Manwoodian Association has generously funded these renovations.

Signals Competition - Cadets came into school on Saturday 20th March for a national signals competition using our High Frequency radios. The team was successful in contacting a number of other schools and Air Training Corps units. We scored highly and the results of the competition are eagerly awaited. Our Signals Officer is Mr Ed Ferris, an Old Manwoodian who works in the oil exploration industry and lives in Kingsdown. He is soon to be commissioned as a CCF Officer.

Shooting Team Country Life Competition - On the 27th March the cadet shooting team competed with the Old Manwoodian shooting team on our rifle range. Cadet Company Sergeant Major Chris Stowell, Cadet Colour Sergeant James Ferguson, Cadet Sergeant Jamie Woodruff, Cadet Sergeant Max Pulgar-Frame and Cadet Corporal Lydia Fuller represented the school. Ben Worsfold and Ben Bostock left the school last year so swapped teams this year to shoot for the Old Manwoodians. The competition was extremely close until the last shoots when the OMs pulled clear to win. Our School Staff Instructor, Colour Sergeant Julian Money, performed the duty of Range Control Officer. He has proved to be a great asset in the running of the Corps.

Adventure Training Capel Curig, Snowdonia - In April 19 cadets are spending a week in Wales where they will participate in activities including kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking, mountain biking and a high rope obstacle course.

We desperately need a female adult to enable us to take the female cadets out of school. We would also benefit considerably from having the assistance from a member of the school. Currently all the adult staff are retired teachers or volunteers from outside the school. If you are able to help us please contact Capt Louis Martin srmsccf@yahoo.co.uk

If you are interested in joining the CCF please look at the web site www.srmsccf.com. If you have any questions please email us at the above address.

20. Friends of Manwood's

As usual this has been a busy term for the Friends in their fund-raising activities for the school. Before half-term there was a very well supported Headmaster's Quiz Evening. The Spring Fayre was held in St Peter's Church, Sandwich on Saturday 20th March and was also a successful event. One Sandwich citizen was prompted as a result to send the following email to school:

"I am moved to write a word or two about the Spring Fair that was held in St. Peter's Church, Sandwich, on Saturday 20th March, by the pupils and Friends of Manwood's.

It was a most excellent event; interesting, innovative, entertaining and well planned. Everyone involved was cheerful, polite and communicative. I was so impressed on my earlier visit I gathered up a few strolling folk in Sandwich to share my good impressions, and they were fortunate enough to hear your most talented Jazz Band, which was obviously enjoyed by all who were there. I do hope we hear a lot more from them in the town for future events and I expressed the hope they will produce a CD.

I hope that your event will be one of many. I think it is such a good representation of the school and integration of pupils in our town, whom we only usually see in passing.

Well, that's it really. I just so wanted to say "Well Done" to all concerned."

In the last week of term there is to be an Easter Egg Tombola. At this event there will also be a further opportunity to purchase a balloon for the Balloon Race which will now happen early in the Summer Term.

21. The Old Manwoodian Association

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at the Bell Hotel in Sandwich on Saturday 27th March. All the four Captains of School attended and two, Tom Carnegie and Kat Connolly, made speeches on behalf of the present student body. Mr Stedman also proposed the good health of the Association and made an entertaining speech, reflecting particularly on his role as Coordinator of the International Dimension in school.

On the Sunday the school played the Old Manwoodians in three hockey matches at Polo Farm. The Girls' 1st XI defeated the OM Ladies 3-0, the Boys' 2nd XI lost 4-5 and the Boys' 1st XI won 8-0 against the two OM teams. The standard of hockey played was excellent and it was good to see so many players who had first learnt the game at school continuing to enjoy the sport.

22. Visit to Number 10 Downing Street

Cheska Rees in Year 12 was recently invited, with her mother and brother, to visit Number 10 Downing Street and provides the following account of her visit:

'On 24th March I was invited to 10 Downing Street along with my Mum and brother Dominic Rees, because of my father's deployment to Afghanistan for a year.

Initially, we met our local Labour MP for Deal and Dover, Gwyn Prosser in the central Lobby of Parliament. He gave us a quick tour, before taking us for tea on the terrace overlooking the Thames. On the way we passed Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and numerous minders, which I found particularly surreal!

We then walked to Number 10 and were allowed through the gates much to the shock of passers by. I found it an amazing experience walking through the famous door and up the staircase passing the portraits of past Prime Ministers. It was incredible to imagine how many of the world's most important people have walked the steps I was taking. After a photo with Gordon Brown and Dom demolishing an entire plate of canapés, we were shown the Cabinet Room. It was much smaller than I had expected but still fascinating.

Most of all, I was very impressed that Gordon Brown has created these receptions to meet primarily ordinary people, especially on pre-election budget day. It was an amazing experience and one which I will always remember and be grateful for.'

23. Goodbye M Reg – Hello 08!



The School has just taken delivery of a 17 Seater minibus to replace the old M Reg vehicle. The new vehicle is just over one year old, but looks as good as new having only covered just over 3000 miles. The School now has three up to date reliable buses to transport students.

We are very grateful to the Manwood Trust and the Friends of Manwood's for help towards the financing of this purchase. Also, to Mr Malcolm Waite, School Governor, who worked tirelessly to find the best bargain for the school.

Happy driving!

24. Hard Play Area Resurfacing

KCC unexpectedly granted the School funding to resurface the hard play area. This was necessary due to the existing surfacing having reached the end of its life. The result of this was that the surface was very slippery and thus a potential safety risk.

A condition of the funding granted, at the beginning of March, was that the work had to be substantially completed by the end of March. Fortunately, the contractor was able to start almost immediately and the new surface was laid in the sunshine. If it had been left until the last week of term it may not have been possible to complete the surfacing due to the rain.



The chainlink fencing is also being replaced as this is damaged and therefore a potential safety risk.

The area will be marked out for the different sports once the surfacing has had time to cure – and the weather is dry again!

After the Easter holidays it should be possible to put the area back in use, but care will still need to be taken as the surface still may not have fully cured.

Please remember that vehicles should never be allowed onto the play area as this will damage it.

25. Under 13 & Under 15 Basketball

This term saw the completion of the basketball season at Manwood's. With most of this season's basketball fixtures taking place before Christmas only two matches were played this term. Both matches involved our Under 15 team. Two wins from two matches were required, from the reigning district champions, in order to qualify for the district playoffs which they won last season. Archer's Court were the visitors in the first of these two games. Manwood's missing several key players through injury and illness, faced a very strong Archer's team. Archer's blew Manwood's away winning 46 points to 6 and leaving Manwood's out of playoff contention. Our final game of the season was a tight victory away to Astor. Manwood's signed off the season with a win by 50 points to 48.

Both the Under 13 and Under 15 basketball teams finished the season in 3rd place in their leagues, and both therefore narrowly missed out on the two top places which result in qualification for the district playoffs.

26. Hockey Report Spring 2010

A combination of the harsh winter and unforeseen circumstances led to some cancellations this term. This led to some very congested weeks and some games that just couldn't be played at all, meaning that some leagues were left incomplete. Nonetheless, we still managed to fulfil 53 fixtures and the quality of hockey continues to improve with many individuals looking to join hockey clubs outside of school.

The Under 12's were involved in a series of tight games during the course of their season, winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 3 of their 6 games. Captain Will Pallant provided the experience whilst many others showed potential for the future. Special mention needs to be made of Tom Moxey who made a number of excellent saves in goal whilst David Linton excelled up front demonstrating flair and skills in abundance. Wins against Chatham House (2-1) and Duke of York's (2-0) were the highlights.

A record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 5 defeats doesn't quite do the U13's justice. The majority of these games were extremely close with the team both scoring and conceding 23 goals. Despite excellent early victories against King's Rochester (4-1) and Dover College (9-1) the boys failed to capitalise on excellent periods of open play and lost 3 games by just 1 goal. The league proved disappointing, drawing once in the first 4 games before an outstanding win in the last game of the season against an excellent Simon Langton side. After being 2-0 down in the first half, the boys responded with a fantastic 2nd half display to win 5-2. Another major success for the squad was in the 7 a side John Maylam tournament at Polo Farm. Finishing 3rd in the group, the team then won every game to win the plate competition and earn the school its first trophy of the season.

The U14's were hampered by inconsistency in terms of availability, leaving the core of the side to reflect on what could've been if only the same team had been available game after game. The one victory for the season was a 9-0 victory against St. Edmund's Canterbury. Special mention must be made of Stuart Ewen who excelled all season and of Will Thurgate in goal who had a lot to do and did it very well!

A number of individuals from the U15's will be heavily involved in the senior squad next year so it is difficult to explain the lack of success during the season. However, the commitment and team spirit were excellent making the season a very enjoyable one. Highlights included a 2-0 victory against Duke of York's and an outstanding performance against Tonbridge in the Peter Firminger Trophy.

Jamie Mount led the 2nd XI magnificently all season with a total of 19 players contributing in the 9 games played. Ben Thurgate showed great promise in goal with Rob Kirby and Tom Walton providing strong support in the defence. Chris Thomas and Alex Boddy were excellent in the centre of midfield, linking well with Michael Jones and the outstanding pace of Will French up front. Wins against St. Lawrence College (4-1) and Norton Knatchbull (3-0) and an exciting 3-3 draw against Duke of York's were well deserved and demonstrated the potential of players who will need to step up to the 1st XI next season.

The 1st XI had its most successful season for a number of years, finishing with a record of 9 wins, 2 draws and 1 defeat from 12 games played. Despite losing the entire pre-season to poor weather the team began with a convincing 5-1 victory against Chatham House. This proved an important game as the team developed in terms of strategies and tactics whilst improving the team cohesion. In the first league game against Norton Knatchbull we played some outstanding attacking hockey to score 7 goals and walk away with the belief that we could seriously challenge for the league title this year.

The next game was played on a bitterly cold evening in Rochester against Sir Joseph Williamsonian's in the Kent Cup 1st round. In a game of very high standards we produced the best move of the game in the last minute to win 2-1. After a routine 4-0 victory against a depleted Duke of York's we played our second league game. At half time we were locked 0-0 with Harvey Grammar before another fine display of attacking play saw us run out comfortable 4-1 winners.

The match of the season was the Kent Cup quarter final away at Cranbrook. We flew into a 3 goal lead and were 4-1 up just one minute before half time when Cranbrook scored an excellent second. Whilst we continued to make chances in the second half we somehow found ourselves 5-4 down before Tayo Oyebola equalised with just 5 minutes to play to take the game to extra time. Extra time was one way traffic with two short corners being deflected just wide and an excellent interception from George Phillips resulting in the ball travelling inches past the post. The match went to flicks and finished 4-4 after 5 flicks each. We eventually lost 7-6 in sudden death but the occasion will be remembered by all of us for many years to come.

After half term the season continued with friendly victories against St. Edmund's Canterbury (6-4) and St. Lawrence College (3-1) before the Frank Mason Tournament. Despite high hopes we under-performed in this event losing against both cup finalists and the eventual plate winners during the course of the day.

We got back on track with an 8-2 friendly victory against Dover College. Next was the match that would eventually decide the league title with us needing to avoid defeat to clinch the title. An excellent first half performance from goalkeeper Freddy Atherden against Simon Langton saw us hold a 3-1 lead at half time. As the second half wore on we fatigued dramatically and conceded two further goals. Nonetheless, we held on for a 3-3 draw and as Borden Grammar conceded their fixture to us without playing we clinched the league title for the first time ever.

Games against the Old Manwoodian's (8-0) and Kent College (2-7) saw us finish the season having scored 57 goals in 12 games with Tayo Oyebola scoring 25 of them. The squad were superb all season and deserve tremendous credit for their success. The future is bright with a core of this squad to be combined with some very talented players from years 10 and 11.

We will miss the year 13 leavers: Matt Gwyn, George Phillips, Josh Cole, Charlie Michael and Tayo Oyebola, along with the outstanding Alistair Sitton and inspirational captain Richard Payne who have played their final games and we wish them well for the future and hope that many of them continue to play at clubs and university.

A special thank you to the staff who have worked so hard this term to fulfil as many fixtures as we possibly could, particularly with my own broken thumb causing no end of problems in terms of transport! Thank you to Mrs Preston, Mr Riordan, Mr Laslett and Mr Davidson.

27. Girls' Games Report

This has been a frustrating netball season for the girls' netball teams. Despite having a very healthy fixture list at the beginning of term factors beyond our control resulted in many of the matches being cancelled. The poor weather and late cancellations by other schools halved the number of matches played. However, all the teams played at least 4 fixtures and enjoyed some very satisfying successes.

The U12 team were unbeaten and displayed huge promise for the future. The highlights of which were their wins over Dover Girls' Grammar (10-1) and St Lawrence College (12-9). As a newly formed team this year they showed excellent team spirit and commitment. The District Tournament Trophy would have been well within their grasp but unfortunately this competition was cancelled due to bad weather yet again.

The U13 team had mixed results winning two of their four matches. They had their work cut out against St Lawrence and Dover Girls' Grammar who were very strong indeed. However, there were some good performances from the girls against Sandwich and Walmer and they have a solid base on which to build next year. Well done to Casey Baughan, who captained the team well and is proving herself to be a consistent and effective Goal Attack.

Izzy Drake led the U14 team this season and on balance they performed well winning four of their seven fixtures. The team finished on a high taking the trophy at the District Tournament, which was held at Dover Girls' Grammar. Also, their convincing victories over Walmer (14-6), Castle Community (18-1) and Sandwich (25-1) should give them confidence and the determination to do even better next year.

The U15s' results table ended with a disappointing four losses and only two wins. However, two of the defeats were very closely fought matches resulting in only 1 or 2 goals between them. As the girls progress through into the senior teams competition becomes stronger and they will have the opportunity to play alongside older girls, which will improve their skills and tactical play even further.

The senior squads were badly hit by the cancellations and so their season was quite short. The 2nd V11 managed two wins out of five; only narrowly losing to Dover Girls' Grammar (17-21). Mention should be made of Natasha Ledner (Captain) and Helen Kirby who have played key roles in the team over the last three years and will be sadly missed next year. Stephanie Farrell captained the 1st team. A slow start to the term saw two narrow defeats against St Lawrence College (15-17) and St Edmund's, Canterbury (15-20). But, to their credit, the girls knuckled down to practice and finished with a 23-16 victory over a strong Duke of York side and an impressive 1st place in the St Lawrence Invitation Tournament. This is the first time we have won this tournament since it started in 2002 and is a huge achievement by the team. Girls' netball continues to flourish at Manwood's and this is down to the hard work and commitment of the girls and their coaches. Well done to everyone who played a part.

28. Under 15 Girls Cricket

Manwood's Under 15 girls cricket team, led by Mr Riordan, are county champions after winning the Lady Taverner's 8 a side Indoor Cricket Tournament. The annual tournament was held at Kent County Cricket Club in Canterbury. A strong field saw Manwood's competing against fifteen other schools from across the county. The initial stages of the tournament were fast exciting 3 over per side matches. These games were played in a group format with each school playing three others on a round robin basis. Only the top team from each group would then proceed to the semi finals. Manwood's first opponents were Sittingbourne Community College, the girls got off to a good start and an 18 run victory was the result. Next up were Tonbridge Grammar School. Captain Charlotte Pape tore through the Tonbridge batting line up, with an opening over which included 5 wickets for the loss of just one run. Another victory was the outcome. Manwood's final group game was against King Ethelbert's School. Explosive batting from Emma Marsh (16, retired) and Natasha Roberts (13), set Ethelbert's a tough target. This was made harder still thanks to the bowling of Ellie Borlase who took a hat trick for the loss of 4 runs at the start of the Ethelbert innings. An undefeated Manwood's topped the group and qualified for the semi finals. Both the semi-final and final were extended to six over per side games. Darrick Wood School were very strong semi final opponents. More sensible batting and quick running by Pape (16, retired) and Marsh (15, retired) followed. Additionally some excellent bowling by Gemma Hill, Ellie Borlase and Mary Wilson meant Manwood's had another victory and a place in the final. Manwood's opponents in the final were Highworth Grammar School. Batting first Manwood's set Highworth a total of 63 to win off six overs, following some fine batting by Pape (16, retired) and Wilson (16, retired). The Highworth innings saw Manwood's really excel in the field, Pape, Wilson, Borlase and Hill all bowled well, but it was in the field that the Manwood's team really impressed. Extras and byes were almost non-existent thanks to some tight fielding and in particular the glove work of wicketkeeper Jessica Greaves, who claimed a number of run outs. Winning this

tournament, and becoming Kent Champions, means Manwood's will now represent Kent in the South of England Regional finals to be held on Thursday 22nd April at Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield.

29. Rugby

Rugby continued on this term. The U12's played 3 matches with impressive wins over Charles Dickens School and local rivals Sandwich Technology School. The U13 team, who lacked a few key players, put on impressive displays against The Howard School and Junior King's, and the U14 team continued their winning streak with a 44-0 victory over The Howard School. The Seniors also got involved in a new 7's tournament at Chatham House. It was the first 7's tournament the seniors have taken part in and despite this they showed great form with victories over Simon Langton and Chatham House. Manwood's made the final where they lost in a close match against Duke of Yorks. A big thanks must go to Mr Riordan and Miss Carnt who gave up their Saturday so the seniors could take part.

30. Kent School Games Qualifiers

Boys

With the Kent School Games quickly approaching in the Summer Term there were various qualification games this term. Both Boys U16 and U14 badminton teams made it to the finals of the qualification stages, but due to commitments elsewhere only the U16 boys could attend. Also due to GCSE exams the U16 team had to be filled with U15 boys who showed a lot of determination and grit but unfortunately did not qualify for the Games in the summer and came away with the wooden spoon. In the hockey qualification matches the U15 and U13 Boys teams both cruised through to the Games as they both came 2nd in their groups behind Harvey Grammar School. An U13 Volley Ball team won 4 of their 5 qualifying matches and therefore go through to the Games as runners up.

Girls

There were a number of qualifying rounds held this term in preparation for the finals in June. The girls have done very well indeed going through in the U13 and U15 hockey and the U13 badminton competitions. We wish them good luck and look forward to them doing well in this summer event.

31. Individual Sporting Achievements

Katy Morris in Year 12 is a very keen gymnast who trains and coaches for several hours each week. Representing Deal Gymnastics Club in both Acrobatics and Tumbling she has recently won gold medals in the South East Region Qualifying Competitions in both disciplines. She will now go on to the National Finals to be held in Stoke in May.

Grace Wong in Year 12 is also continuing to excel in her chosen sport of Taekwondo. She recently attended, along with 200 other athletes, an assessment conducted by a team of Olympic coaches and talent identification scientists; the purpose was to identify exceptional athletes with exceptional talent who can convert to Olympic Taekwondo in time for London 2012. Grace has now been notified that she has made the cut and will join a select group of 40 athletes on the next phase of training and assessment. Grace may be representing Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Alex (Year 9) and Bobby Clay (Year 8) represented Kent Schools at the English Schools National Cross-Country in Manchester in March. Both ran very well and helped Kent to 9th place among the 43 competing counties.

Charlotte Nicholas (Year 7) participates in the sport of Modern Pentathlon and is competing at national level. She has been selected to compete in an international competition held in Portugal this coming July.

32. House Competition Results for the Spring Term

Spring Term	Dorman	Knolles	Trappes	Tudor
Year 7 model cells	Grace Potter 5 points	Jack Scatchard 10 points	Jack Swaffer 20 points	Jack Guest 40 points
Girls Netball	240	130	90	190
Girls Badminton	50	140	210	140
Boys Basketball	205	160	75	160
Boys Hockey	150	105	120	235
Girls Cross Country	75	40	130	130
Merits	50	200	300	100
	2nd	3rd	1st	4th
	1953	1829	2307	1781

In spite of the lengthy nature of this newsletter, it does not claim to be an exhaustive account of everything of note that has gone on at Manwood's this term. I apologise for those many worthy activities that failed to get a mention.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their hard work over the term, and wish everyone a very happy holiday.

Yours sincerely

C R L Morgan
Headteacher