

December 2007

Dear Parents and Members of the School

1. Examination Results Summer 2007

An outstanding set of A Level results this year set new records for the school. 65% of all the exams taken were passed at the top grades of A and B and the average points per candidate achieved equated to an A and 2 B's for every student.

There were again, of course, some breathtaking results with 18 students achieving more than 3 grade A passes and 2 students achieving 5 grade A's. However, across the board those who worked hard were rewarded and it is very pleasing that nearly all the students went on to the universities of their first choice – we wish them all the best in pursuing their degree studies.

The GCSE results were also very pleasing. The average points score per candidate of 482.9 was a new record for the school; this equated to an average of more than 9 grade A passes per student.

Again there were some exceptional performances with 9 students gaining nearly all their passes at the top grade of A*.

Also, again a number of students received letters from the Examination Board congratulating them on achieving one of the top five marks in the country – 3 students for French GCSE, 2 students for German GCSE and 1 for Italian GCSE.

It is excellent to see the hard work of the students and their teachers rewarded in this way. Congratulations are due to everyone concerned.

2. Staff Farewells and Arrivals

At the end of term we say farewell to a number of staff:

Mr Graham Gayton is retiring having worked part-time in the Games Department for a number of years. In recent times he has been involved in working with local primary schools, whilst his work in school has been performed by Mr Joel Cox. Mr Cox is also leaving as he has made the decision to emigrate to Australia. We wish them both all the best in the future.

Mrs Marlene Azulay has taught part-time in the Mathematics Department this term. We thank her very much for her work.

Mrs Johanna Westwood agreed to come out of retirement for a term to help out in the German Department whilst Ms Paula Scott was away. As anticipated she has done a sterling job and is presently accompanying the students on the annual exchange to Sundern. As Mrs Westwood was instrumental in setting up the exchange ten years ago, it is very apt that she will be there to enjoy the planned celebration to mark the completion of a decade of our partnership. We thank her for all her hard work this term.

Mr Mike Judd is retiring as Deputy Headteacher at the end of term. He came to the school in 1972, his first teaching post, and never left. At different times during his illustrious Manwoodian career he was Head of the History Department, Head of Year 11, Senior Teacher with particular responsibility for estate management and since 1996 Deputy Headteacher. From 1981 to 1995 he was also Housemaster, first in the Grange boarding house, and then in the Lodge. His contributions to life at Sir Roger Manwood's School have, therefore been many and varied. Many students will remember him as an outstanding History teacher, some for the pastoral support he offered them when things were perhaps not going smoothly, and some students of the older generation will have played in his rugby team or acted in one of the school plays he produced. In more recent years he has done a superb job as part of the Senior Management Team, helping to guide the school through many changes and meet many challenges. We wish him a very happy retirement.

In January we look forward to the return of Paula Scott. Also, Ms Christine Buchanan will join the staff as Deputy Headteacher. Mr Ian Tomlinson is to teach part-time in the Games Department. At the end of this term we have been pleased to welcome a new Resident Caretaker, Mr Ricky Collins.

3. Language College Redesignation Achieved and International School Award

In November we heard from the DCSF that our submission for Redesignation as a Language College had been successful. This, therefore, secures the very important additional funding for another cycle. As part of the submission we had to review achievements since we first became a Language College in 2003 and also plan for the next three years.

Much of great merit has certainly happened in the development of Modern Foreign Languages in School since 2003. Also the promotion of the international dimension has been a striking feature of life at Manwood's and this was recognised at the beginning of this term by the DCSF when they bestowed upon the school the coveted International Schools Award.

4. Stop Press – Maths and Computing 2nd Specialism

In the last week of term we have received a letter from the DCSF confirming that as a "High Performing Specialist School" we have been awarded a second specialism of Maths and Computing. The additional funding will be made available from 1st April 2008. Congratulations to all concerned.

5. Student Illness

We understand that parents will want to try to get children into school when suffering from minor ailments including coughs & colds etc and we encourage such attendance when it is reasonable. There are occasions however when we have to phone parents at the start of the school day to ask them to collect a child who has only just arrived at school and is clearly very under the weather and not fit to be in lessons; it is not always possible to contact the parents and difficulties are caused for all concerned. We know it can sometimes be a difficult judgement to make but your awareness and support in cases of more significant symptoms will be appreciated.

6. Student Investor Challenge

The school has entered 4 teams of 4 students in this national competition. Currently one of the teams is in 6th place in the South-East of England, and 18th in the country as a whole out of 4731 teams. Let's hope they can maintain their position until 29th February 2008 when the top 20 teams in the South-East go through to the regional final.

7. Traffic Congestion on Manwood Road

We appreciate the efforts which some parents have made to avoid driving along Manwood Road at the start and end of the school day for dropping off & collecting pupils at school. The roads surrounding the School are narrow and often congested at these peak times, especially when school bus and train movements are heaviest, so we encourage where safe and practical for those pupils who need to be dropped off or collected outside the School that it is done further away from the immediate areas of worst congestion - Manwood Road is in reality not a two-way road at

these peak times and cars trying to use it as such only make things worse. The matter has recently been discussed with Kent Highways and a workable alternative solution may not be possible in the short- to medium term but your awareness and cooperation in this way will help. May I also ask for consideration of residents living in the surrounding roads, to avoid blocking driveways and getting in the way of the school buses and other vehicles.

8. Important Dates for your Diary

The government has recently decided that schools should have an extra Training Day during this academic year to help staff prepare for the many curriculum changes being introduced. We have decided to take this on Friday 4th April and the Easter Term will therefore finish a day earlier for the students than originally advertised i.e. Thursday 3rd April.

Also the calendar in the Homework Diaries incorrectly states that the last day of the Summer Term is Wednesday 23rd July; in fact it is Tuesday 22nd July.

9. Newly Refurbished Science Laboratories and Design Technology Workshop

This long anticipated work finally got underway in the second half of this term. Two of the four Science laboratories are now reaching completion and the remainder of the project should be done by the end of February.

There has inevitably been some disruption to lessons but the staff have worked hard to ensure that this has been contained within acceptable bounds. The two new science labs are very impressive and should prove to be an excellent environment for future teaching and learning.

10. Working Groups and Questionnaires

Under the leadership of Mr Thompson a lot of work has been going into the major curriculum review currently being undertaken. The response to the questionnaire sent to all families was thought-provoking and has helped to inform debate in the Working Group comprising staff, students and Governors. Ideas are now being crystallised and final plans will be announced next term.

The curriculum review will also help to inform our vision for the Building Schools for the Future programme in which we are involved. This is moving along and we are presently charged with developing, along with all the other secondary schools in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area, a vision for the whole area. This has to be in place by the end of the academic year.

Another Working Group in school has been looking at School Uniform led by Mr Judd. The recommendations for change coming through are fairly limited in extent, which is interesting.

Nevertheless, there are obviously certain aspects which can be improved upon. Also the review process should help to clarify the uniform rules in everybody's minds so that we can move together consistently next year.

11. Young Enterprise Scheme

Young Enterprise is well subscribed this year and 35 Year 12 students are participating. 3 companies have been formed - "Tempo", "1337", "One One" - and they have already been active in promoting their products to the school.

12. House System

As the House system enters its second year we continue to develop and build upon what has gone before. The first development this year saw the introduction of Miss Cuthbertson as Head of Trappes House. Miss Cuthbertson takes on the role after the departure of Miss Scott and she has led her House with enthusiasm in this first term.

The introduction of House coloured PE kit was also a new development this year and it has been well received. A large percentage of the year 7 intake purchased the new kit and it is pleasing to see the way in which it has helped the year 7 to develop a greater house identity. The house coloured kit is available to all years.

A large proportion of house events this term have been sports based. The first event of the year, the Boys' Badminton was well contested and saw Dorman amass the most house points, 205 in total. The Senior Boys' Football also saw Dorman gain victory. The event itself was very pleasing, showing the positive impact that the house system can have with a huge number of participants competing with commitment and in the right spirit.

The Inter House Cross Country Competition is always an opportunity to amass points. The fact that every participant can gain points for their house shows that high participation levels are vital in the house competitions. The final standings were very close with just 58 points separating the fourth place Dorman from the winners Trappes.

The Girls' Hockey Competition saw Dorman take victory followed closely by Knolles, the victory further reinforced the strong start that Dorman have made.

Ongoing throughout this term has also been the David Starkey Debating Competition. A lot of house points are on offer for this and high participation levels means that the competition continues on into next term. We have also had contributions to all Houses this year from the Manwoodian Writing Competition

At the time of writing we are awaiting the results for the first term's Merit Competition and this will change the outlook of the standings, however at the moment the current positions in the House Competition are as follows.

1st – Dorman (659 HP)
2nd – Trappes (627HP)
3rd – Knolles (505HP)
4th – Tudor (494HP)

A busy first term then but there are plenty more competitions coming up next term. Of particular note is the Photography Competition in school next term which will have a high number of house points available to competitors.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in the continued development of the system this term, we continue to make progress. A big thank you is also due to all the pupils who continue to work and contribute to the house system, remember that a large key to success is participation and all of your efforts count, whether it is in gaining merits or taking part in extra curricular activities.

Thank you once again for all your efforts and good luck next term.

13. Music

Music events this term have been as numerous and diverse as ever with an increasing number of pupils from all year groups engaging in activities and ensembles.

The Divertimento (21 September) took place again in the music department and sixth form common room with over 100 performers which included soloists, bands, small ensembles and a significant number of our new year 7 pupils who sang 'Consider Yourself' from Oliver! The Friends of Manwood's provided refreshments and over 250 parents and other supporters came to the event in addition to the pupils to get the performing year off to an energetic start.

The Chamber Choir and the School Choir accompanied by the Brass Group and String Group provided musical items to enhance the Harvest Assembly (5 October) and the Remembrance Assembly (9 November).

Speech Day (19 October) is always a major event and musical contributions from the Orchestra, the cast of *Oliver!* and a group of drummers drawn from the staff and pupils, who visited The Gambia in April, were all well-received.

Mr Williams took a group of 74 GCSE Music students drawn from SRMS, Walmer, Castle and Sandwich Tech to see the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in London on 12 November.

Members of the Elastic Band also joined forces with pupils from the three other schools to provide musical support at Sandwich Tech for the Primary Schools Music Festival (Wed 14th Nov) – an opportunity for over 300 children from various primary schools in the region to get together to sing and perform. We hope to host the next festival in 2008 here at Manwood's.

Manwood's Jazz under their director Dom Shawcross put on an entire concert at Woodnesborough Village Hall on 30th November in aid of Hall Funds. Similarly, *Ska'd 4 Lyf*, a Ska band started by a number of GCSE music pupils in Year 11, performed a gig in Deal in mid November.

Preparations for the production of *Oliver!* are well underway. Tickets for the show (which runs from 7-9 February) will be available early in the New Year.

Christmas festivities always bring a lot of extra work for the music department. Pupils provided music for the Charity Committee's Christmas Lunch in school (12 December). The Christmas Concert (13 December) is always the biggest concert of the year with tickets yet again selling-out well in advance of the event. Year 7 performed en masse again, and the programme included performances from soloists and all of the school ensembles. The two School Carol Services (18 December) involved choirs and orchestra. The Chamber Choir took part in a charity Christmas concert put on by Sandwich Choral Society in St Clements (18 Dec).

Thus a very busy term. Thanks go to all our student musicians, the peripatetic staff and the Music Department for their continued commitment and enthusiasm.

14. Rugby

Miss Carnt joined the school in September and made an immediate impact on school rugby. Not only did she introduce rugby as a lunchtime club for girls, but she also took on the role of U12 coach. Interest in the U12 rugby team was greater than ever with over thirty students being involved at some point during the term. Their season began straight after half term with the Developing Schools Rugby Festival in Canterbury which they won convincingly. It was apparent that we had a great deal of talent at this level. Despite narrow losses to Chatham House at A and B level and to Sutton Valence, the team continued to develop whilst producing some excellent performances. Of the five victories, 53-0 (St. Lawrence), 55-0 (Wellesley House) and 71-0 (Dover Grammar) were particularly impressive. Additional thanks must go to sixth former Brendan Egan who gave his support at practices and matches.

The U13's also had a very good season under the expertise of Mr Stevens. Only losing twice (including a 35-36 loss to Kent College) the team showed a lot of flair and determination in some excellent matches. Wins came against Chatham House (41-5), Norton Knatchbull (24-19), St. Lawrence College (38-5) and Wellesley House (10-7). An excellent mix of ability, speed and size at this level is very exciting for the future of the team.

The U14's suffered through a lack of consistency in the team. The starting line up was never settled and there were rarely enough substitutes to bring on for tired legs towards the end of games. The season started well against Norton Knatchbull in the Kent Shield, winning an exciting game 19-17. Unfortunately this would prove to be the only success of the season. A prompt exit in the next round of the Kent Shield to Simon Langton and six friendly defeats saw the end of a disappointing season. However, it must be said that a large number of individuals stuck to their task well and deserve a lot of credit. They will benefit from these experiences in future seasons.

The U15's had a busy season with commitments in the Kent Cup and Daily Mail Cup competitions. The players have developed well from previous years and are starting to show consistency in their

performances. This is clearly helped by having a settled team, with top players being available on a regular basis. A record of five wins and four losses is an improvement on previous seasons and a number of individuals can look forward to involvement in the 1st XV next season.

The 2nd XV benefited from having five games this year. Competitive games for future 1st XV players are normally thin on the ground so this year can count as valuable experience for a large number of players. We proved to be competitive in all of our games, registering two good victories along the way against Simon Langton (17-3) and St. Lawrence College (38-5).

Unavailability of key players throughout the season affected what should have been a good season for the 1st XV. The pre-season visit to the Rugby World Cup filled everybody with confidence as we were training well and showing a lot of potential. The season didn't go according to plan and it was clearly evident that we were missing that extra quality in one or two positions on the pitch. Our inability to convert points from excellent field position was frustrating, and ultimately our downfall. Ironically, our lack of success overall was counteracted with our best performance in the Daily Mail competition in recent years, where we finally lost to Gravesend Grammar in the fourth round. In ten games we won four against Dover Grammar (21-17), Norton Knatchbull (19-14), Simon Langton (10-3) and St. Lawrence College (12-7). Poor weather in the last two weeks of term cost the year 13's their final swansong, but they must be thanked for all of their efforts throughout their years at Manwood's. Darren Friend, Darien Bragg, Anthony Culshaw, Tom Cheek, David Jordan, Jo Westwood, Harry Collins (captain), Jack Miles and David Johnston will all be missed.

A special thank you to the staff who continue to give of their free time for the boys: Miss Carnt, Mr Wallace, Mr Vere, Mr Stevens, Mr Pearce and Mr Cox who will be greatly missed as he is emigrating to Australia in January.

15. Football

Our third season of competition at Manwood's demonstrated that football continues to grow in prominence and stature within the school and the addition of a second football pitch supports this view.

The new Year 7 team this year was under the control of Mr Merrell. It is always difficult taking on the Year 7 team, there are a high number of boys who want to be involved and it is difficult to know the level of ability that will be available to us. Fortunately this year the level of enthusiasm was matched by the level of talent and the Year 7 team had a successful season. A third place finish in a league dominated by Dover Grammar was a respectable outcome. Wins over St Edmund's, Walmer, Sandwich Tech and Castle were pleasing, the highlight coming in a closely fought match with Sandwich Tech who finished second in the league. The 2-1 win we gained showed the talent in the team. In the Kent Cup the Year 7's also performed well, making it to the fourth round by beating Ursuline and then in yet another battle with Sandwich Tech they won by the odd goal in 5. A very talented Norton Knatchbull team prevented any further progress. A promising first year bodes well for this teams continued development.

Expectations were high for the year 8 team lead by Mr Wallace this year as they narrowly missed out on the league title last year but they didn't quite meet up to these expectations in an up and down season. They did however finish strongly to finish in third position behind Archer's Court and Sandwich Tech. Highlights in the league came in 6-1 and 5-0 wins over Walmer and Astor respectively. The team did however have a very pleasing run in the Kent Cup, the first round of which produced arguably the game of the season. Having taken an early lead Manwood's were leading Pent Valley 5-2 with ten minutes remaining, an extraordinary fight back saw the game tied at 5-5 at full time, extra time could not separate the teams so the game went to penalties. 5 penalties each also couldn't separate the teams and so in sudden death penalties the responsibility fell upon Ross Ewan who calmly despatched the ball to win an incredible game. A 6-3 win against Swadelands in the next round saw us play Chatham Grammar in round four. A 2-4 loss was unfair on the team as they had the majority of play, possession and chances. Hopefully the team can continue to improve next year and push on in both the league and cup competitions.

The Year 9 team had a tough season under the leadership of Mr Grimshaw. They failed to win a game in the league but I feel this is an unfair reflection on the effort and commitment they demonstrated, many games were tight and in a number of games the team deserved more than they got. They did make it into the second round of the Kent Cup thanks to a dramatic 4-2 win over St Edmunds. The game was tied 2-2 at full time but two goals in the extra time period was enough to win the game. They were unfortunate to be drawn against a strong Canterbury High team in the next round, a late goal making the score 2-4 appear more one sided than it actually was.

The Year Ten team had a good season; they finished third in the league and were well lead by Mr Stones in his first season of involvement. The highlight of the season came in a 1-0 victory over Castle Community who were unbeaten in the league and on course to win the title. A solitary goal from Matt Thomas in combination with a defence well marshalled by Ross Bishop was enough to see them to victory in a tough physical match, a victory which in the end caused Castle to lose the league title to Walmer. A draw with Astor and wins over St Edmunds and Archers were the other results that earned the team 10 points. In the Kent Cup they progressed to the second round with a 3-1 win over Borden Grammar. The next game against Towers was an exciting and eventful match. A poor first half found the team 2-1 down at half time against strong opposition. However, the second half saw a spirited fight back and change of attitude led to a deserved equaliser. We were then the stronger team for a long period but were undone by a goal against the run of play, a final goal on the break as we pushed for an equaliser meant an undeserved 2-4 loss. The effort and commitment demonstrated however was commendable from the players that made a long away trip with an under-strength team.

The Year 11 team was managed by Mr Gayton and managed to record two wins and three losses in a mixed league campaign. A 4-0 win over St Edmunds and a 1-0 win over Astor secured the 6 points which ensured a fourth place finish for the team. The victory over Astor was pleasing in what was a keenly contested game that could have gone either way, an excellent finish from Ben Dunford combined with a superb team defensive display ensured the team gained a victory they thoroughly deserved. The Kent Cup saw two very differing fixtures for the team. The first round victory over Dane Court showed a very strong team work ethic and early goals were supported once again by a strong defensive display. The second round saw the Priory School visit us and provided a very different experience. The opposition had won the Kent Cup two years previously and their level of ability was high, demonstrating the strength of football that is played in the outer London regions of the South. Whilst a 5-0 defeat was difficult to take the experience of playing against players of county standard was beneficial for our team. A number of the opposition were also at high profile professional club academies. It is too our credit that had we taken a couple of the chances that we created on the break then the score line could have been much closer.

The 6th Form team led by Mr Smith had a mixed season losing three and winning one of their four fixtures. They were unfortunate to come up against a very strong Harvey Grammar side in the first round of the Kent Cup which prevented any kind of cup run. Their sole victory of the season was however very dramatic and exciting, a local derby against Sandwich Tech saw the team triumph 7-5, the highest scoring game of the season was well contested and showed that the team did have the ability to combine a battling performance with good finishing.

I would like to thank everyone for their involvement and support during the season. The fixtures could not take place without the support of all of the staff mentioned above as well as Mr Pearce, Mr Stedman, Mr Gonzalez and Mr Boyle. The players also deserve thanks for the effort and commitment shown throughout the season.

Thanks again to everyone involved and lets hope we can continue to improve and progress next year.

16. Girls' Hockey

The 1st XI have excelled themselves this season having achieved an unbeaten record for the second year running and also by reaching the quarter finals in the Kent County Tournament. To get through to the last eight in a very strong group of schools is a tough order and demanded that they played some excellent hockey. Very well done indeed.

After a disappointing season last year the 2nd XI have really upped their game and finished the term with a much more credible two wins, two draws and two losses.

The Junior sides have shown great promise with the U15, U13 and U12 teams winning all but one of their matches, (which was a draw), and demonstrating that there is much more to come as they progress towards the senior squads.

17. District Cross-Country Championships

The Junior Team finished in second place in this race, which was held at Walmer School in November. We had 3 girls placed in the top 10 out of 47 runners with Alex Clay (Year 7) and Dominika Szucsova (Year 9) in 1st and 2nd place respectively. Alex Clay and Amy Hill-Turner (Year 12) will go on to compete in the County Finals in January and we wish them both the very best of luck.

18. Individual Sporting Achievements

Dolores Brown (Year 10) has represented the Kent Schools' Golf Association in matches against other county teams this term.

Hayley Compson (Year 8) is competing at show jumping events at a high level. She regularly competes against locally based international riders and is usually placed and often wins her classes.

Tamsin Beaumont (Year 12) is winter training with the England Cricket Academy having competed for the England U21's in the European Championships held in Holland during the summer.

Charlotte Pape (Year 8) and Mary Wilson (Year 8) were part of the Nonington U13 Girls Cricket Team that won the English Cricket Board Lady Club National Finals held at Loughborough University. Along with Emma Marsh (Year 8) they also play for the Kent U13's.

Tom Russell (Year 11) was a member of a 4 boat from Dover Rowing Club that successfully rowed across the Channel in September in a time of 4 hours 5 minutes. The previous September he had been part of a team that successfully swam a relay across the Channel. Tom is planning a solo Channel swim for 2009.

19. Design Technology

Year 8 pupils are currently designing two working solar powered model cars to enter the Toyota Challenge. We hope to enter a team in the regional Final next April. Year 10 GCSE pupils have once again undertaken an enterprise module as part of their coursework. They have designed and made a range of gifts for the Christmas Fayre. Current sales and orders indicate that they will raise £250 for the Farm Africa Charity. The money is used to buy seeds, tools, goats, etc which make such a difference to African families. Year 13 pupils have chosen a number of community / industry based themes for their major projects; including flood defence systems, harvesting devices for the local fruit growers and custom car accessories.

20. Kent Youth Council

Elections for this body were recently held across Kent and Manwood's acted as one of the polling stations. Maurice Pomeroy in the Lower Sixth was up for election as a candidate to represent the East Kent area and it is pleasing to report that he was successfully returned. Maurice has been a stalwart member of the School Council and will no doubt contribute well to the Kent-wide Council.

21. Creative Partnerships: Cultural Project

35 students from across the school (years 8 – 13) have been working with students from Sandwich Technology School, professional artists, musicians, dancers, photographers and filmmakers in sessions geared towards the planning, advertising and promoting of a major festival in Sandwich in March 2008.

These workshops have aimed to bring together the different areas and age groups in our community and to raise awareness of the 'culture' that does and could exist around us. As part of this, the students have been working together with the community in the making of giant interactive sculptures, films and photography that are to be displayed in and around the town of Sandwich in the build up to the festival.

Last week saw the launch of Cultureal's photography competition asking all students, teachers and parents to get involved. The competition is asking us to consider what we think culture is, and to document this through the medium of photography. The result will be a public exhibition in Sandwich of all the entries submitted, major prizes for winning entries and inclusion in the Cultureal catalogue 2008, as well as house points for the House competition.

On top of this, more workshops will begin after Christmas involving more students from across both schools, areas of the community and professional artists, incorporating more performances, photography and filmmaking in the build up to the big day on the 29th March 2008.

22. Debating

In School the David Starkey Debating Competition is in full swing with debates being held at both Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels. Mr Dyson is chief organiser, well-supported by a team of staff who form the panel of judges at each debate.

2 teams of sixth formers also competed in a national debating competition, Debating Matters. In the South East Qualifying Round they were drawn away at Queen Elizabeth's GS, Faversham. Joel Handley and Maurice Pomeroy debated against the motion that "The media are responsible for lowering the level of public debate" and Eduardo Rosso and Ben Bostock debated against the motion that "Household recycling is a waste of time". Both teams stood up very well to the rigorous questioning of the judging panel but on this occasion were not granted victory.

A team of Year 9 debaters will again be going to Cambridge in the New Year to debate at the famous Cambridge Union against other schools in a national competition – we wish them well.

23. Sixth Form Dinner

This annual event proved very popular again this year, so much so that not everybody who wanted to was able to attend. The Bell Hotel restricted numbers to 120. Mr Alaister Large (Old Manwoodian 1996-2003) was the Guest Speaker and spoke of his experiences in the Police Force. He was a direct entrant from school and is now pursuing a degree at Canterbury Christchurch University alongside his policing duties.

24. First Lego League – University of Kent

SRMS were successful for the third year running in winning a major award at the Kent Regional Final of the Lego League. The team carried out an audit of energy use in the school, looked at alternative energy sources and at ways to reduce energy wastage. They presented their findings in a Year 8 assembly and to the judging panel at the University of Kent.

In addition they build and programmed a robot to carry out various tasks on the energy theme. They won the judges Special Award and the Robot Challenge, beating 16 other teams in this part of the competition.

Team: Graham Harris 9K
Andrew Carlotti 8D
Alex Dixon 8TR
Michael Carnall 8D
Oliver Daniels 8D

25. Clovelly Piano Competition

Ben Chan (Year 11) won his category in the above competition. He was awarded a CD copy of his performance in the Final, a winner's shield, a voucher to pay for his Grade 8 Piano Examination and a three hour recording session.

Kristie Lee (Year 8) was also commended for her performance receiving a CD copy.

26. Science Club – British Association for the Advancement of Science

It is pleasing to see this club continue to attract young students wanting to be involved in extra-curricular science activities and carry out projects and experiments beyond the normal curriculum.

As a result of their work in the Club a number of students were awarded BAAS Bronze Awards this term: Abigail Williams (Year 8), Lydia Sinnott-Smith (Year 8), Florence Atherden (Year 8) and Graham Harris (Year 9).

27. History / Politics Trip to the USA

Mr Boyle again organised and led this very popular sixth form trip at half-term. Students are based in Washington and New York and the timetable of sites to visit is meticulously planned to gain maximum advantage in the time available. The response of the students was excellent and everyone gained a tremendous amount from the experience.

28. Charity Committee

This is one of the important student committees working in school throughout the year.

In October the sixth form members worked with Mr Setchell to ensure the success of our Harvest Assembly. At the end of the day a number of students then visited elderly people in the locality to deliver a parcel and say hello. This is always much appreciated.

At the end of term the Xmas Lunch for the elderly citizens of Sandwich was again held in School. The students entertain our guests during the lunch and it always proves to be a very special occasion.

A non-uniform day was also held in the term to help raise funds for the GAMble Charity – a group of staff and students will again be going to the Gambia at Easter to work for the charity.

29. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is proving more popular than ever in school under the leadership of Mr Lawrence.

One expedition has taken place this term, a Silver qualifying expedition in the Ashdown Forest. The students successfully navigated their chosen routes without making any detours and were fortunate with the weather in late September. In addition to the expedition, students have been working on the service, skill and physical recreation sections of the award.

The Annual Presentation Evening took place on November 20th at Dover College. 33 students received their Bronze Award and 13 students their Silver Award. Other students have completed the award and should aim to have their books signed off as soon as possible to verify their status.

60 students have enrolled on the Bronze Award in Year 9, a further 20 on the Silver Award and 8 students have taken up the challenge of the Gold Award having already completed the Bronze and Silver Award. Training sessions for the expeditions during May and June 2008 have already begun for some groups and for the rest will start in January. A First Aid Course will take place from January to March on Tuesdays between 3.30 and 5.00 pm at the School.

30. CCF

The CCF has had another successful term. In October, 38 cadets took part in an overnight training exercise near Dover cooking for themselves and sleeping in the open in a dense wooded area. Many senior cadets qualified on the Advanced Infantry Skills package with the junior cadets in a separate camp acting as their enemy.

This term 30 Year 8 pupils joined the CCF and parade nights regularly have 60-80 cadets taking part in basic training (Drill, Weapons, Camouflage, Shooting); intermediate training (Signals, First Aid, Royal Engineers) and advanced training (Infantry Tactics, Fieldcraft) which is led by our regular Army Cadet training team and sixth form cadets.

Many pupils who decided not to join in Year 8 have since joined as Year 9, 10 and sixth form cadets and attend a catch up training package before joining their friends on the CCF syllabus.

The CCF would welcome any parents who are interested in helping the cadets in whatever capacity, simply contact Mr Brooks for more information.

31. The Great Rome Bike Ride

Mr Williams reports that his ride to Rome for charity went very well. After 16 gruelling days in the saddle the official statistics were: cycled 1155 miles and climbed over 61,000 feet including the Grant St Bernard Pass in the Alps (2473 metres) and the Passo Della Cisa in the Appenines (1041 metres); temperatures ranged from 6 degrees in the High Alps to 43 degrees on the last day into Rome.

Mr Williams thanks everyone in school who sponsored his ride. He raised over £4,500 which was divided between two charities: Christian Aid and Save Canterbury Cathedral.

32. Major Alexis Roberts (Old Manwoodian 1986 – 93)

The school was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Alexis when on active service with the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Alexis was married to another Old Manwoodian, Susie Harris-Deans and they had two daughters, Alice and Freya.

Following the news in early October, tributes flowed into school from both staff and students, past and present.

The school was very well represented at the funeral service held at Canterbury Cathedral and the school's own Remembrance Service in November was a particularly poignant occasion.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, daughters, parents and brothers.

33. Friends of Manwood's

The Friends have, as usual, been working very hard on behalf of school, organising enjoyable events and fund-raising at the same time. Their support in providing refreshments at Open Mornings, Parents Evenings and School Concerts has also been much appreciated.

One of the highlights of this term is always the Fashion Show and this year was no exception. The hard work put in training the Lower Sixth models reaped dividends, and the evening was very much enjoyed by the large audience.

34. School Web-Site

www.srms.kent.sch.uk

Under the management of Mr Acourt more and more useful information for both parents and students is going up on to the Web-Site. We hope, therefore, that families will make an effort to familiarise themselves with its contents.

For example, starting in January there will be two new sections added:

Gifted and Talented

Year Nine

35. School Closure (bad weather) Procedures

a) If the school is forced to close in the course of the school day:-

This decision is taken as soon as possible, erring on the side of caution – a safe journey home is the paramount consideration. If severe weather is forecast, parents are asked to make arrangements for their child(ren) either to enter the home or to stay with a neighbour.

b) Once the school has closed:-

Radio announcements appear on BBC Radio Kent and Invicta Radio, usually after the hourly news and at the half hour.

Information will also be posted on the school web-site under the section “News”.

The school office may well not be staffed because of the weather. Every effort will be made to come to a decision about the next day by 5 p.m. The school will again err on the side of caution, in the interests of safety.

c) When the school is open:-

Pupils are expected to attend, if they can reach school safely by mid-morning. They are not expected to take serious risks in order to get to school. Parents are asked to let the school know at their earliest convenience after 8.30 a.m. (either by telephone or by email to head@srms.kent.sch.uk) if their child(ren) cannot get to school. If travel is by bus or car, the local bus station or the A.A. will advise on the situation. If travel is by rail, South Eastern Trains will advise on any disruption to the timetable.

As in the case of illness, parents are asked to supply a note once return to school is possible, giving the reason for absence and the exact date(s) of absence.

I am very conscious of the increasing length of these termly newsletters, but it is a testimony to the richness and variety of life at Manwood’s. Even so I must also make an apology for those many worthy activities not given a mention, for this is not an exhaustive account.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Morgan
Headteacher