

April 2008

Dear Parents and Members of the School,

1. Staff Farewells / Arrivals

During the term there have been some staff changes:

Mrs Gemma Inglis resigned from her position as Computer Technician and has been replaced by Mr William Lee. Mrs Amanda Brooks resigned from her role as Classroom Cover Supervisor and Mrs Sue Taylor has been appointed to this position. Mrs Elissa Handford will be leaving at the end of this term having taught part-time this academic year in the Design Technology Department. We thank all three departing colleagues for their contribution to Manwood's and wish them all the best in their future careers.

We also offer our sincere thanks to the Revered Nigel Genders for his work as Schools' Minister in Sandwich over the last few years. His entertaining contributions to School Assembly, with multi-media presentations and an inexhaustive supply of amusing stories with an underlying message, will be sorely missed. Likewise the boarding community have enjoyed their Sunday services under his leadership and very much appreciated the interest he has taken in their welfare. We wish him all the best in his exciting and challenging new position of Diocesan Director of Education.

2. Curriculum Update

Thank you to all parents and students who completed our curriculum review questionnaire last term. Your responses have contributed to the school curriculum discussions that have been ongoing in school. This review has been in response to changes being made by the government to the whole secondary school curriculum including Key Stage 3, GCSE's and A Levels.

The new National Curriculum orders at Key Stage 3 have far less emphasis on content; much greater significance is given over to the teaching of specific skills. In view of this, we will compress our current Key Stage 3 into two years. This has already happened in English and Science. Year 9 will become an enrichment year, including developing critical thinking skills and also starting GCSE courses later within the year. The earlier start to GCSE will allow the timetable to collapse for Business Enterprise activities, PSHE topics and School visits during the busy second half of the summer term, without having a detrimental impact upon students learning. As part of the curriculum in Year 7 and Year 8 students will also have the opportunity for enquiry based learning. Here departments will collaborate on specific cross curricular topics in blocks of allocated time.

As mentioned above English and Science have already begun to introduce changes at Key Stage 3. From September 2008 all subjects will embrace the new Key Stage 3 curriculum in Year 7 and it will then roll on to Years 8 and 9 in subsequent years.

Mandarin Chinese has featured within the school for a number of years now. This has only been available to students in Years 7 to 9 at lunchtimes. From September Chinese is to be offered to students in Year 8 as an alternative second Modern Foreign language. Our current Year 7 has already been canvassed and sufficient interest has been shown. Hopefully, a number of these students will follow Mandarin through to GCSE.

Currently ICT is delivered as a discrete subject to all students in Key Stage 3. By 2010 all students will take a GCSE or equivalent in ICT. This will reflect our new second specialist status as a Maths and Computing College.

The International Baccalaureate is rapidly becoming a popular alternative option to traditional A Levels. We are looking to introduce this qualification to run alongside our existing A Level programme. Although there is much work still to be done here, we expect to offer this to students by 2010 at the latest.

We are also keeping a close watching brief on the 17 new Diploma lines which are set to be in place according to the government timetable by 2013. At the moment we are happy that the academic curriculum of GCSE's and A Levels serve our students very well, but there may be aspects of some of the Diplomas which we will want to offer.

3. Building Schools for the Future

This very important government initiative of capital investment in secondary schools is gaining momentum. Manwood's, along with all the other secondary schools in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area, will be a comparatively early recipient of significant funds to help "rebuild, refurbish and refresh" the existing school to help make it fit for purpose for the 21st century. Building in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area should begin in 2010 with the last school completed by 2015.

In preparation for this the school is beginning to evolve its vision of what the future will/should look like to deliver the teaching and learning appropriate for our students and for the local community we serve, particularly through our specialisms of Languages and now Maths and Computing. With our vision in place, we will then be in a position to sit down with the architects to see how they would realise it on the ground. This could start to happen in the next academic year if we are one of the first schools in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area to be identified for investment.

The capital investment available for each school is something between £10m and £20m and this, therefore, presents an exciting opportunity to make a difference.

We will keep everybody informed as to how things are progressing and also look for feedback as our ideas develop. BSF has been on the agenda of the School Council meetings this year and it has been very useful to have the student perspective.

4. Traffic Congestion on Manwood Road

This continues to be of concern. 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 been discussed with Kent Highways but a workable alternative solution is not on the immediate horizon. Can I therefore ask again for your awareness and cooperation in trying to minimise the traffic problems. May I also ask again for your consideration for local residents, avoiding the blocking of driveways or the use of driveways for turning around.

5. UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

This is a national competition aimed at Year 10 students. The top 400 competitors nationally are invited to compete in the Maths Olympiad and Manwood's students achieved this accolade in greater numbers this year than ever before. Olympiad places were won by:

Thomas Cooper – Year 10

Damon Sutton – Year 9

Connor Gower – Year 9

Briony Adams – Year 9

Andrew Carlotti – Year 8

Victoria Lyden – Year 10, just missed out on an Olympiad place, but was rewarded with a place in a competition for the next 1500 best competitors.

We wish them all the best in their next challenges.

6. World Book Day

This day was marked in school this year by a visit from Canterbury-based author, Jasper Cooper. Year 7 groups enjoyed discussions on the writing of Candora's Gift, which is Book 1 of the Kingdom of Gems trilogy.

There were many entries in the World Book Day Quiz, showing an excellent knowledge of junior fiction books available in the Library. The winners were:

Alex Clay – 7K

Elizabeth Stowell – 7K

Kayleigh Taylor – 12E

7. The Student Investor Competition

Year 12 Business Studies students, Jamie Bray, Laurence Smith, Aaron Squire and Matthew Williams, formed a formidable team in this national competition. In November 2007 they started out with an imaginary £100,000 to invest in the stock market. By the 29th February 2008 they had increased this to £131,952, a gain of 32% when the overall trend on the stock market had been a fall of 5%. This meant they had finished in 21st place out of 1816 competing teams in the South East of England, and 40th out of 5094 in the country overall.

They were as a result invited to the Regional Final held in London where they had to answer questions on a wide range of business and finance topics. Here they acquitted themselves very well, just failing to make the National Final. A great effort!

8. Young Enterprise Public Speaking Competition

In January Luke Durigan, Year 12, in the face of stiff competition, won the Dover Area Young Enterprise Public Speaking Competition. He spoke about the impact on Kent of the expected increase in housing over the next ten years. He was awarded a £50 cheque, a certificate and a trophy.

He then went on to represent Dover Area in the Kent Final where he again performed very well against very good competition.

9. Toyota Challenge 2007/08

Congratulations to Evie Sparkes, Alex Weaver, Naomi Tawiah, Esther Reed and Florence Sharman in 8K who have won through to the Regional Final of this national competition to design a solar-powered car and build a prototype! At Duxford in April they will have to race their vehicle and give a presentation to a panel of judges. We wish them luck.

10. DEFRA's Climate Change Champions

Amy James in Year 13 was a finalist in this national competition run by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. For her entry Amy produced a documentary film about climate change, interviewing local people and shooting on location in the area. In addition she had to submit the script for her film and the results of statistical surveys she had carried out. Amy was then invited to London as one of 27 national finalists where she was rigorously questioned by a panel of 5 judges from DEFRA.

We echo the words of Joan Ruddock, Minister for Climate Change: "Those finalists who reached the Dragons' Den should feel proud of their achievement. They are a real credit to their schools."

11. British Council Chinese Competition

A group of students who are studying Mandarin Chinese entered this competition held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Charlie Thompson, Nick Moore, Toni Alder, Olivia Feeney and Greg Smith performed a play which they had written themselves inspired by the forthcoming Beijing Olympics. It was a tremendous effort and went down very well at the V and A and also when performed later in School Assembly. Franco Cocca also competed in the Individual Speaking Section of the competition and gave another excellent example of the progress made by our students studying Mandarin.

12. Manwoodian Competition

The annual Manwoodian Magazine was distributed to all students at the beginning of term. Mr Acourt was justifiably very pleased with the final product, providing as it does a very comprehensive and interesting review of the life of the school in the academic year 2006-07. The magazine also offers students an outlet for their creativity and competitions are held in a number of categories. The winners this year were as follows:

Poetry	1 st Prize	Daniel Tripp	10B
	2 nd Prize	Daniel Grech	8D
Prose	1 st Prize	Lucie Samuel	8D
Art	1 st Prize	Orla Isaacson	13A
	2 nd Prize	Olivia Rhodes	13C
Photography	1 st Prize	Jacky Kwan	13F

13. Big Innovation Challenge at Kent University

Early in the Spring Term a team of Year 12 students – Ore Bajomo, Amy Thomas, Milton Brown, Kate Diomedede and Robert Sear – spent a long morning charged with designing a town centre. They then had to present their thoughts and designs to a panel of judges. The challenge was obviously a very topical one, with current issues of inner-city decline and preference for out-of-town shopping centres. The students enjoyed the opportunity to exercise their creative-thinking and problem-solving skills to good effect and had a very stimulating day.

14. Charity Week

Towards the end of term students and staff have been involved in a whole variety of activities to raise money for this year's School Charity, Teenage Cancer Trust. Pearl Gibb in Year 12 set the ball rolling by drawing attention to the excellent work of this charity in a presentation to School Assembly, and urging everyone to get involved. Her message did not fall on deaf ears. A snapshot of some of the fund-raising activities is testament to this: lunch-time rock concerts; cake stalls; sponsoring individual students to come to school as the "Three Blind Mice", as cats, and one class dressing in pink for the day; the stocks and wet sponges; a cycle ride from Birchington to Deal; leg-waxing; bald head painting (staff!); 7-a-side staff football. An excellent effort.

15. Debating

The David Starkey Debating Competition has been running in school all year and the Intermediate and Senior Finals take place in the last week of term. The Junior Competition will then take over in the Summer Term.

Two senior teams – Ben Bostock and Eduardo Rosso, and Maurice Pomeroy and Joel Handley – were also entered in the Regional round of the national competition, Debating Matters, held at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Faversham. Although performing well, they came up against a very good team on this occasion.

A number of Year 9 and Year 10 students again went to the Cambridge Union on a Saturday to compete in a long day of debating with schools from the south and east of England. All three pairs competed well and enjoyed the challenge. Congratulations to: Alex Chadwick and Briony Adams, Lauren Maw and Connor Gower, Jean Pierre Armstrong and Sam Wood.

16. Experiences in Africa

Ms Paula Scott returned to school at the beginning of this term having had a 5 month sabbatical working for charities in Africa. She was based first in South Africa and later moved to Tanzania. In one placement she worked with young children and babies suffering from AIDS. In another she worked in a school with very basic facilities. She also witnessed the very deprived circumstances of people living in shanty towns. She brought all these experiences vividly to life in School Assembly when she spoke of her experiences and showed many of her photographs.

17. Deal Festival for the Arts Bursary

Sarah Williams in Year 13 has been awarded a Bursary by the Deal Festival for the Arts in recognition of her outstanding commitment to the creative arts. Her interests, as we know, range far and wide from singing and acting, to writing poetry and artwork. An excellent and well-earned achievement.

18. Music

The Easter Term has seen a number of musical events taking place, not least the production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* which was staged in the school hall in February and was considered to be one of the best shows we have put on. Under the directorship of Mr Holden and Mr Greenhalgh, the production involved over 100 pupils and played to over 1200 people in four performances.

The run up to the Easter weekend was busier than ever this year. All school ensembles and a number of soloists performed in the Spring Concert on March 13th. A packed programme brought huge variety and expertise from across the school. This was followed on March 14th by Founders Day in St Clement's Church which involved the Brass Group with the School Choir and Chamber Choir who were joined on this occasion by members of The Manwood Singers to perform Vaughan Williams' *Let all the World in every corner sing* to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. Then early on March 15th the orchestra and choir flew to Prague to give two well-received concerts to schools in this stunning Czech city. There were also opportunities for pupils and staff to see the city and experience various aspects of Czech culture.

Continuing the international theme, our small jazz group were on hand to entertain our German Exchange visitors at a reception to mark the 10th year of the partnership.

Manwood's hosted a Primary Schools Music Festival early in March which brought together over 250 Year 5 pupils from four primary schools accompanied by an orchestra comprising secondary pupils drawn from SRMS, Sandwich Technology School and Castle Community College.

A number of Manwood's students have been involved in the organisation and have performed at last Saturday's Cultureal Festival in Sandwich organised jointly with Sandwich Technology School under the aegis of Creative Partnerships Kent.

Congratulations to all pupils who entered via the school for the Associated Board Practical Exams this term. For the second session in a row we have achieved a 100% pass rate, with an increasing number of pupils achieving merit or distinction. Congratulations also go to Alex Chadwick (Year 9) and James Genders (Year 7) who between them won several prizes in the 2008 Thanet Competitive Music Festival in March. Ben Chan (Year 11) recently took part in the Kent International Piano Course and won 2nd prize in the Romantic Piano class receiving a high commendation from the guest adjudicator, international virtuoso Arturo Pizarro.

19. School Photography Competition

A photography competition was organised in school on the theme of 'Culture' as part of the 'Cultureal' project which came to completion at the end of this term.

The following students received a pair of cinema tickets and twenty house points for winning their groups:

Year 7	Helena Heath (Knolles)	'Terrorised Doll'
Year 8	Phoebe Allebone-Salt (Dorman)	'The Dog and Dishwater'
Year 9	Henry Smith (Trappes)	'The Full English'
Senior School	Jacky Kwan (Trappes)	'Hong Kong'
Teacher	Victoria Beale	'Football in Belize'
Parent	Nicola Sparkes	'Swan Lake at Trafalgar Square'
Student Voice	Louise Hobson (Dorman)	'Red, White and Blue'

The following student won the competition overall and received 40 house points and a Polaroid camera:

Evelyn Sparkes (Knolles)	'Sister at Glasgow Airport'
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The photos are now on permanent display in the Library.

20. CCF

This term has been a busy one for the CCF. During the half term break 4 junior cadets attended a 4-day instructional course at Gosport; each cadet gained a good report from the regular Army instructors and a pass certificate. At the same time, 3 of our more senior cadets were selected for the challenging 7-day Senior Cadet Instructors Course which is usually exclusive to the Army Cadet Force as it involves leading cadets during night exercises, advanced infantry tactics and instruction. All of our cadets excelled, with Max Pulger-Frame being recommended for advanced promotion to Sergeant and Ben Lesworth being identified as having officer qualities. James Ferguson was also strongly recommended for instructional duties.

This term we heard the good news that Alastair Sitton was selected for a 6-week adventurous training course in the Canadian Rockies this summer. The course is aimed at the highest achieving cadets and Alastair is one of 12 cadets selected from the entire country. We look forward to hearing all about it when he returns.

We have also submitted 2 applications for Army Cadet Exchange to the Cayman Islands this summer, one of the many overseas detachments available to our cadets this year.

During the Easter break 28 cadets will be setting off for the Lake District to undertake adventure training. Activities will include Kayaking, climbing, first aid, walking, canoeing, abseiling from a bridge, bouldering and a visit to Honister Slate Mine.

The CCF regularly have 60-70 cadets parade each Wednesday evening after school and have a fast track course available for pupils of any year group who would like to join but did not do so at the beginning of the year.

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

21. **Cultureal**

Cultureal began as a collaborative bid by Sir Roger Manwood's School and Sandwich Technology School to Creative Partnerships Kent through which we were awarded **School of Culture** status in 2006. What resulted was a two-year project that was to explore *culture* and *community*, designed to celebrate the uniqueness of the town of Sandwich and bring together the two schools and the young and old of the town in the aim of preventing what the students had recognised as becoming segregated groups within our community.

Through a series of small-scale and intriguing events between 2006 and 2008, the students were able to raise awareness of **Cultureal** and more importantly meet and speak with the wider community of Sandwich to identify individual definitions of culture, collect stories and memories, and discover what the community really desired from a cultural celebration of their town. What culminated was the **Cultureal** festival on the 29th March this year.

Everything produced for the festival: the **Cultureal** website (www.cultureal.org.uk); a series of merchandise including **Cultureal** bags, sticks of rock, a limited edition newspaper and a fanzine featuring student artwork and photographs from the events; a huge moveable sculpture; and a series of documentary films was conceived, designed, commissioned and often produced by the students themselves. Through working in collaboration with students from Sandwich Technology School, teaching staff and professional artists, designers and festival organisers, over 50 students from Manwood's and nearly 100 students in total put on one of the most unique and large-scale events Sandwich has ever experienced.

Opened by the Mayor of Sandwich on the 29th March, the 8-hour-long festival included incredible live performances by musicians and student bands in the Guildhall Square; various performances across different locations by student poets and musicians; a series of commissioned films in shop windows, the strange rolling of a massive boulder through the streets of Sandwich; a hugely popular public tea dance; a live performance by Beverly Big Band and European finalist ballroom dancers; a poster-making workshop with professional artists; a 45 minute documentary film about the creation of and build-up to the festival by a professional filmmaker, and the already-mentioned wide variety of merchandise that was available on the day.

The **Cultureal** festival was enjoyed by hundreds of people across the town, with many people commenting on how impressed they were with the students from both schools and their commitment to an event that was to celebrate the town, its culture and the bringing together of the whole community. The aim now and for the future is to keep the aims and objectives of **Cultureal** alive, maintaining the links between the schools and the community so that further projects can continue to bring together the community to celebrate the culture, individuality and talents of all who live within it.

A special note of thanks and recognition must be made for all of the students and staff who involved themselves in and supported the running of **Cultureal** over the last year, especially Ms Vicky Beale, Mr Scott Grimshaw and the 8 student members of the core team, most of whom have been leading on the **Cultureal** festival since its birth through an accidental spelling mistake back in 2006. These students are Molly Little, Amy Lewis-Galer, Poppy Mather, Moje Edeki, Kerry Thompson, Alison Archer, Ashley Kent and Chloe Greenfield. Without their creative ideas and dedication to the project, the **Cultureal** festival could not have been the huge success that it was.

22. **The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

This term has been very busy in preparation for the wide range of expeditions which will occur in the summer term. The expedition training is essential to success in the practice and qualifying expeditions.

The following expeditions will occur in the summer term:

Expedition	Dates	Region
Bronze Practice 1	Thursday 15 th – Friday 16 th May	North Downs
Bronze Practice 2	Thursday 22 nd – Friday 23 rd May	North Downs
Bronze Qualifier 1	Wednesday 18 th 5.30pm – Friday 20 th June	Alkham
Bronze Qualifier 2	Wednesday 25 th 5.30pm – Friday 27 th June	Alkham
Silver Practice 1 (Year 11)	Wednesday 25 th – Friday 27 th June	Elham Valley
Silver Practice 2 (Year 10)	Wednesday 16 th 7am to Friday 18 th July	High Weald of Kent
Gold Practice	Saturday 5 th July to Friday 11 th July	Lake District

25 students on the Bronze award successfully completed a 10 week first aid course for their service section.

23. The International Dimension

This term has seen many opportunities for students to travel abroad and further their language skills and cultural awareness, whilst also having a great deal of fun.

At half-term the sixth form ski trip to Austria took place and was a great success. Now as we approach the Easter holidays the lower school ski trip is preparing to depart.

Shortly after half-term we welcomed our German exchange partners from Sundern, North Rhine Westphalia. This visit marked the tenth anniversary of our successful partnership and a celebratory tea was held in school, with some brief speeches and gifts exchanged.

The day after the Spring Concert in school the School Orchestra and Choirs set off for Prague where they performed two concerts in local schools.

Sixth form students studying German A Level had a long weekend in Berlin and came back full of enthusiasm and ideas for preparatory work integral to their exams in the summer.

Year 10 students are spending the last week of term in Paris with the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, Versailles, a river cruise on the Seine and Disneyland Paris, the highlights of a very busy itinerary.

Also in the last week of term a group of students and staff leave for the Gambia where they will be working in a school set up by the GAMble Charity and living in the local community.

All of the above opportunities are made possible by the hard work and commitment of many staff, the support of many parents and the excellent behaviour and enthusiasm of our students. Well done to everybody who has been involved.

24. House Report

Another busy term has seen the House Competition progress this year and the points totals are very close. The benefits of gaining merits for academic work and effort have been highlighted this term. With 300 house points available to the winning house each term there is a strong possibility that the merit competition could be the difference between winning and losing the overall competition.

A busy close to the term has seen a number of house sports events. The boys have taken part in hockey and football this term with Dorman the overall winners of the football, whilst Tudor came away as the overall winners of the hockey competition. The girls have also completed competitions in netball and cross country this term. It is pleasing to see a large number of pupils getting involved in these competitions, particularly as a number of them have taken place during their free time, well done to everyone who has competed for their houses this term.

Away from the sporting forum, the David Starkey debating competition continues to move forward, at the time of writing Knolles are winning this competition but there is still a long way to go. We also had the photography competition which ran in conjunction with the Cultural project this term. This shows the benefits that can be gained by combining the house competition with other creative initiatives in the school and it was very successful. Excellent contributions by Helena Heath (Knolles), Phoebe Allebone-Salt (Dorman), Henry Smith (Trappes), Jackie Kwan (Dorman) and Louise Hobson (Dorman) should be congratulated. The overall winner was Evelyn Sparkes of Knolles house who won 40 house points. Well done to all those who took part and for the efforts of the teachers involved.

As we come to the last term you will see that the competition is very close and your efforts next term will be vital in deciding the outcome of the competition. There will be lots to get involved in and plenty of opportunities for you to make contributions so lots of effort will be needed. At the time of writing the competition stands as follows:

- 1st – Knolles – 1165 House Points
- 2nd – Tudor – 1094 House Points
- 3rd – Trappes – 1082 House Points
- 4th – Dorman – 1039 House Points

25. Refurbished Science Labs and Design Technology Workshop

The work is now completed on these modernisation projects and the transformation achieved has been well worth waiting for.

The teaching and learning environment in the 4 refurbished Science Labs is now excellent, with a much more sensible use of the space available and pristine new furniture and equipment.

There is a similar story in the Design Technology workshop and the Department is looking forward in particular to the students using the new high-tech equipment in support of their project work which they feel will make a real difference.

26. Science Club

Miss Beale took 13 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 who attend Science Club to the Natural History Museum where they got up close to the dinosaurs and visited a number of exciting exhibits.

The students also took part in a “How Science Works” workshop where they worked with museum scientists to extract fossils from clay, identify the fossils and date the clay. The workshop was aimed at GCSE students and the scientists were very impressed with the way our students approached the task. The visit was highly successful and enjoyed by all!

27. School’s Gifted and Talented Scheme for Sport Reaps Dividends

The Sports Department has for some time now been identifying students identified as high level performers and providing them with additional opportunities.

Such an opportunity arose with a national initiative, the young Ambassadors Scheme, where young talented sportsmen and women are appointed to promote the Olympics and Paralympics and encourage young people to get involved in sport.

After a rigorous interview process Grace Wong (Year 10) and Lydia Fuller (Year 10) were chosen to represent the Dover District as Young Ambassadors. As a result they were invited to Chelsea FC where they met a number of Olympians including Kelly Holmes. They also visited the David Beckham Academy.

Grace is British Champion in her age group at Taekwon-do. She has recently gained her Black Belt 1st Dan. She will be representing England at the European Championship next month and World Cup in October. Lydia also continues to fence with great success at a national level.

In their role as ambassadors, Grace and Lydia have helped to run sports clubs and have also done presentations in assemblies to students, both at Manwood's and at local primary schools.

28. Individual Sporting Achievements

- Tamsin Beaumont 12A and Charlotte Pape 8TR have been selected for the Kent Girls Cricket Tour to South Africa which will take place over the Easter holidays. They are due to play five games of cricket against local teams in Stellenbosch and Cape Town. They will also support a charity which helps a Township school and a visit to the Township is on the itinerary.
- Amy Hill-Turner 12F was selected to run for Kent Schools in a Senior Girls Inter-County cross-country match against Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Dorset, Oxfordshire and Essex held in February.
- Alex Newson 9K was selected to run for Kent Schools boys' team in his age group at the same Inter-Counties match. As a result of his performance he went on to represent Kent Schools at the English Schools National Cross Country Championship held at Liverpool in March. Alex competed in the Junior Boys race and finished in 27th position. An excellent result.
- Kerry Vinson 9TU and Dominika Szucsova 9TR competed in the Kent Schools Swimming Championships with great success. Kerry won the 100m Breaststroke and Dominika was 2nd in the 100m Butterfly. Both were then selected to represent Kent Schools in an Inter-County match.
- Hannah Moon 12B is continuing to excel in her chosen sport of rowing. She won the U16 single sculling event at the National Schools Championship last year. She was also selected for the U18 GB squad in the Quads event in the Coupe de la Jeunesse held in Italy. She also completed in an International Regatta in Belgium for the GB U18 Quad and won this event. Recently Hannah attended a National Talent Orientation Camp for 100 Olympic hopefuls selected from five different sports and with luck we may therefore see her participating in the London Olympics in 2012.

29. Girls' Netball Report

In terms of our senior netball teams this has proved to be our most successful season for many years. Every match was closely contested and some very satisfying victories were achieved. The 2nd VII in particular performed much better winning 4 of their 7 matches.

Lower down the school we continued the success by winning the Dover District Leagues in every age group. A special mention must go to the very talented U14 team who didn't drop a game all season, and also won their District Tournament. Congratulations to Sophie Carter, Ella Savage and the rest of the team for their strong performances this year. The future is looking bright for netball at Manwood's!

30. Boys' Hockey

The hockey season has had as many ups as downs this year. For once, the weather allowed us to complete all but one fixture over the course of the term, with all teams having their share of success.

The U12's have some excellent players, led primarily by the skills of Stuart Ewen and the top goalkeeping of Will Thurgate. The final record for the season was played 9, won 5, lost 4. Most games proved very close, being decided by a goal either way but there were notable victories against St Edmund's Canterbury (7-0) and Chatham House (4-0) which ensured an impressive goal difference.

The U13's continue to show great potential, producing some excellent displays. Results don't reflect this potential fully but if individuals in the team continue to play club hockey, the future is very bright indeed. Chris Henry and Sam Reeves are two who deserve special mention for their efforts. In their 8 games, there were victories against St Lawrence College, St Edmund's Canterbury and Borden Grammar.

The Kent Cup side, the U14's, had a season of very close encounters which continually threatened to go either way. A final record of won 4, lost 5 included victories against Borden, St Lawrence and twice against Harvey Grammar.

The U15's have had a frustrating season. The side was packed with good hockey players but their general inability to play as a team often proved costly. The all day Peter Firminger Tournament produced an average result, finishing 10th in the county. In the league they finished mid table and the overall record of won 3, lost 4 reflects this mediocrity.

The 2nd team got better as the season went on and played in a series of close games that could have gone either way. One win and one draw in their 5 games didn't really reflect the quality in the side and a number of players can look forward to being involved in the first team squad next season.

The commitment and ability of the 1st team combined to produce the best season for a number of years. The squad settled very quickly into the same 15 players who grew to know their role within the side. The season began with key players missing due to exams but early draws against St Edmund's Canterbury and Duke of York's demonstrated there was a structure to work with. A 15-0 demolition of Sittingbourne in the Kent Cup plate seemed to be the catalyst that was needed to catapult the side forward. Indeed, after this point the side only lost once more – in the final of the plate to Kings Canterbury. This result was difficult to take as for the fourth time in the season we surrendered a 2 goal advantage, losing the match 3-2. In the league, we started slowly and finished on a hot streak, winning all three of our final games, including a superb 6-4 victory over favourites Simon Langton. This just showed that the league was there for the taking if we'd only started the season well.

Nevertheless, a final record of won 6, drawn 2, lost 4 was a fine achievement for this side who scored 51 goals in their 12 games. The final game of the season was against the Old Manwoodians and it was a chance to say goodbye to the Year 13 players who will be missed next season. Chris Goulden, Alex Jarrett, Alex Chapman, James Bostock, Captain Harry Collins and Alex Greaves have served the school fantastically and have shown the dedication and commitment that others should aspire to.

Mr Pearce, Mr Wallace, Mr Tomlinson and Mr Kilbee have all given their time freely, but special mention must be made of Mr Stevens who is retiring from school fixtures after reaching his 1000th school fixture. It was a fitting end that the U15's should win 4-2 in that 1000th fixture to give Mr Stevens the perfect send off.

31. Under 12's Rugby

After a successful first term the U12s Rugby team entered the East Kent Schools Premier League; having beaten Kings Canterbury in a friendly the previous week, the first league fixture ended in their only defeat this term against Simon Langton, comfortable wins over Queens Elizabeths (35-0), Dover Grammar (58-7) and Harvey Grammar (33-0) followed.

Forward of the season went to Will Thurgate, who now plays No.8. Back of the season to centre Ben Ebden and Most Improved Player to Prop Mark Sugden.

32. Basketball

The boys took part in the Dover District Basketball league again this year. The standard of this league is improving year on year and it is pleasing to see that the standard of basketball at Manwood's is matching this trend.

At U13 level players from Years 7 and 8 compete together. Predominantly this year our team consisted of Year 8 players whose effort and commitment was commendable, impressive individual performances from Chris Henry were more than ably supported by the efforts of his team mates. A season of mixed results meant that the team finished in mid-table, a position we will hope to improve upon next year.

The U15 team had a more successful season in terms of results and finished second behind a very strong Harvey Grammar team. This is an achievement to be happy with and all competitors should be pleased with their efforts. The stand out game of the season occurred at Archers Court, with the score level at full time the match went to over time. Here both teams exchanged scores before Tom Janaway scored the winning basket with two seconds to spare in over time. An excellent match played with a superb spirit and attitude highlighted the positive benefits and exciting competition that can be experienced through the extra-curricular activities that pupils take part in.

Congratulations to all those who took part in an enjoyable term of basketball and thanks to those teachers who contributed time and effort to ensure that the fixtures took place.

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 Easter.

Yours sincerely

C R L Morgan
Headteacher