

# Sir Roger Manwood's School



December 2018

Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The end of term has been as hectic as ever, perhaps more so due to our foreshortened term, with staff working incredibly hard to finish this term's planned work in less time. My thanks to them and our students for their focused efforts. Thanks also to you for your forbearance. I am pleased to say that the windows project is running smoothly so far, with those that are already in place making a noticeable difference to the warmth of the rooms.

The speech at October's Prize Giving was delivered by Mr James Shone, who held the audience spellbound as he recounted how he became blind after an operation to remove a brain tumour and how he has coped with such a significant change. His message was one of life having a habit of throwing curveballs, but that through resilience and steadfastness together with the support of friends and family it was possible to overcome them, at least to some extent. Since losing his sight, James has set up a charity called 'I Can & I Am' and visits schools to provide presentations and mentoring services. He has been in increasing demand as a keynote and after dinner speaker, having spoken at two HMC conferences, a wellbeing conference with Sir Anthony Selden and to the business community of Bristol on board the SS Great Britain.

Back in the summer, the school was 'asked' to be a host for England's PISA entrants (PISA being the international testing that ranks countries on their educational outcomes). A number of randomly chosen Y11 and Y12 students duly took the tests on Thursday 22 November, which took over 4 hours to do as the test consist of several individual tests. As a result of their participation the School was presented with the certificate below. Our thanks to these students for taking part and being representatives for the students of their age group in the country. We received the following email from the two members of staff that came in to School to run the tests: "Please extend our thanks to Sir Roger Manwood's School for accommodating a smooth delivery of this test. Please convey our sincere thanks to Mr Rivers and the IT technicians for all their superb preparation and organisation. Your students worked hard for the whole duration and were a real credit to you".



## **STAFF NEWS**

Mrs Wilkinson, our Computer Science teacher, has retired at the end of this term after having worked at Manwood's since September 2005, but a lifetime in education. We thank her for her service to the young people of this area and wish her well for her retirement. We will be welcoming back Mrs Charlesworth (the previous Head of Computer Science) for the rest of the academic year, which not only has meant that GCSE classes will have an experienced teacher but also means that the School can recruit for a September start, which is always more easily done than a January one.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Young, our Boarding Development and Marketing Manager and Duke of Edinburgh Centre Manager, who also coaches the girls' 1<sup>st</sup> VII netball team, as she was named the Kent netball coach of the year, having been nominated by members of the team.

## **STUDENT NEWS**

You may remember me mentioning in the July newsletter that two students, Matthew Boucher and Olivia South, had been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. They have now learnt which companies they have been linked to for the coming years. Matthew will be with DePuy Synthes UK I (which is part of the Johnson and Johnson family of companies) and Olivia with Reece Foundation. Congratulations to them both. These Scholarships are designed to indicate who the potential future leaders are in the engineering profession, and as such, provides a great deal of support and encouragement to the Scholars as they progress through Sixth Form and then university. An information sheet about the Arkwright Scholarship programme is attached to this newsletter.

Henry Hudson, Abbie Latymer and Amelia Pavitt attended Deal Music and Arts' second *Creative Jazz Orchestra* event held at Goodwin Academy on 17 and 18 November. I received a lovely letter from the organisers praising their musical contribution but also their impeccable behaviour throughout the weekend. To quote: "The students were a credit to both school and home".

I received a wonderful email from an American couple who had met a group of our Y10 Geography students on Mount Vesuvius in Italy. They said that the five or six boys they met are to quote: "terrific young men and I know they will make you proud. I can feel it in my bones. They were engaging, but not pushy. They were funny, but not clowns or wise guys. And they were also very bright and respectful. All rare things these days. And what was especially nice was that they invited us to be in their group picture when we arrived at the bottom of the mountain. Kindly let the boys know how we enjoyed meeting them". Well done to Max Osmond, Jacob Steed, James Grassby and Ruben Cannon for doing yourselves proud as well as the School.

Congratulations to Christie Friend who was awarded the Sharing Your Family (with her brother) by Kent County Council's Children and Young Person's Service at their Birth Children Appreciation event for Kent families who foster children. And a thank you

should go to Christie's parents too for putting themselves forward for this important work. I know that KCC would be delighted to hear from any other families who feel that they could do this too as there is such a need for fostering. Do contact them if you feel able, or just want to find out more information.

Congratulations to Miles Lansdell (Year 8) and Aimee Ede (Year 11) who were both shortlisted for the U18 category of the Sandwich Arts Week Poetry competition. Special congratulations to Aimee as she won! This was her poem:

### ***Standing Still***

*Standing still was a new concept to me,*

*Used to running around with such joy and glee,*

*Not used to the bars that stood around me,*

*Not wanting the cages that trapped me within.*

*The wind that howls like a wolf's shout,*

*The barriers above me which loom and call out,*

*Those red brick walls that I was built-in,*

*A fiery flame that burns from within.*

*Every now and then I can escape from these walls,*

*Not having to live and abide by their rules,*

*But now that I'm out, I only have until*

*I can feel at peace with standing still.*

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS**

As part of a project focused on the transition between primary school and secondary school, each of the Year 6 teachers from Eastry Juniors, Sandwich Juniors, St Joseph's in Aylesham, Wingham Primary and Preston Primary spent time observing Mathematics and English lessons here. In the summer term, our teachers will go out to these schools to observe Mathematics and English work that is being done just prior to the pupils arriving here in September.

On Friday 7 December over 100 local senior citizens were treated to a delicious 3 course meal and entertainment, with each table being hosted by several members of the Sixth

Form Charity Committee. Thanks go to Miss Lupton and the members of the Sixth Form Charity Committee who organised the event, and of course to our magnificent catering team, who produced this dinner in-between providing a normal school lunch service and the evening meal for boarders!

As is now customary, the School also jointly hosted an art show of senior students' work along with the Arts Society Sandwich, as part of Sandwich Arts Week. The Arts Society of Sandwich is part of a national network of societies whose aim is to promote, support and enjoy a wide range of art subjects. In Sandwich, illustrated lectures by distinguished speakers are held on the first working Monday of each month in the Guildhall. Doors open for refreshments at 7.30pm, with the lecture starting at 8pm. Membership is a very reasonable £45 a year (or £15 for those under 30), and includes access to all of these Monday lectures as well as free copies of the national Arts Society magazine; if you would like to attend a one off lecture rather than become a member then visitors are most welcome - they are charged £5. The group also organises visits to places of interest (for an extra charge) and the opportunity for volunteering. More information can be found by emailing [info@tass.org.uk](mailto:info@tass.org.uk) or on their website ([www.sandwichfas.org.uk](http://www.sandwichfas.org.uk)). Their lecture programme for the year is attached to this newsletter so you can see the wide range of topics covered in the lectures, and how expert the speakers are.

Manwood's hosted the local scouts' Porchlight event on 12-13th October which involved a large number of local young people, ranging from 6 years old to 18 years old, sleeping out overnight from 8pm on Friday 12th to 8am on Saturday 13th October in order to raise awareness and money for the homeless. Unfortunately, the weather was very inclement and so rather than sleeping on the playground, as had been the intention, the group slept out under the canopy around the sports hall. Still a very brave thing to do given the driving rain and high winds that they had to endure. The article about the event that the East Kent Mercury ran is attached.

On Tuesday 4 December, our Maths department hosted their annual competition for local primary schools. You can read all about it in the separate article on it elsewhere in this newsletter.

## **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THIS TERM**

As well as the many lunch time and after school clubs and societies that run each week, and the extensive and wide ranging after school sports fixtures, other trips and activities that have taken place this term include:

Training on the art of networking for our students

Careers evening specifically aimed at women in the workplace

Art Show that formed part of Sandwich Art Week

Silver Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition

Friends of Manwoods AGM and one ordinary meeting

Year 12 welcome evening

Year 10 welcome evening

Year 11 geography field trip to the London Olympic Park in Stratford

Robot Wars semi-final at Greenwich University

Y8 Technology students trip to Monkton Nature Reserve for project research

Fire Marshall training for staff

State boarding school's sports festival at Gordon's School, Frimley, Surrey

Macmillan Cancer Research coffee morning

Photographs of individual Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 students

Harvest assemblies

Year 12 technology trip to Turner Contemporary in Margate

Year 7 parents' evening for core subjects

Year 7 pedestrian safety presentation

Non-uniform day for our partner Indian school, the Rosarium Academy

Porchlight event for local cubs and scouts held at Manwood's

Year 12 and Year 13 Philosophy conference

Year 10 Geography field trip to Sandwich Bay

Year 11 Drama GCSE practical examination

Speech Day

Year 13 English trip to University of Kent

Senior Maths Challenge for Year 12 and Year 13 students

Year 11 parents' evening

Year 12 Art trip to the Wallace Collection and to do some life drawing

Year 9 Mandarin trip to Chinatown and SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies)

Remembrance Assembly

Fire safety talk to years 8, 10 and 11

Mock interviews for medics, vets and Oxbridge applicants

Two excellent concerts given by Year 7 students for their parents and family

Non-uniform day for Children In Need

East Kent Duke of Edinburgh Award managers' meeting hosted at Manwood's

Rugby trip to Twickenham to watch England versus Japan

40 students took the PISA international test

The Sixth Form Annual Formal Dinner at the Bell Hotel

Fundraising week for Rosarium Academy – a Bake Off challenge, Kahoot quiz, Teacher Take Me Out, Quiz Night and Mr Neame and Ms Baker having to dress up as 118118 characters

Year 12 Biology trip to University of Kent laboratories for a research project

Duke of Edinburgh Award Information Evening for Year 9 parents

Year 7 trip to Lille Christmas Market

Year 10 and Year 12 teams in a University Challenge competition at Harvey Grammar

Mathematics competition for local primary schools organised and hosted by Manwood's Maths department

Senior Citizen's Christmas lunch

Lectures from visiting experts to Y12 students in their Enrichment lesson – one on Northern Ireland, and one on the history of human rights in the Soviet Union/Russia

Senior and Junior Christmas concerts

A full Christmas dinner for over 450 members of the school community thanks to the outstanding efforts of our catering team. They did a magnificent job managing to produce such high quality food and turning it round in such little time between sittings.

Christmas themed non-uniform day for funds to enable the School to carry out its 4 outreach events for local senior citizens

Friends of Manwood's Chocolate tombola

Boarders' Christmas Supper and party

History and Politics trip to Berlin for Year 11 students

All this as well as 3 Open Mornings, two Open Evenings, and 114 sports fixtures!

No wonder the staff and students are so tired - I wish you all a restful holiday and I look forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday 9 January 2019, which will be **WEEK 2** in their timetable.

## Departmental News

### Library

The Autumn term began with our new Year 7s all choosing a free book as part of the Book buzz scheme to encourage reading. ([www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)) The books have all arrived now so do ask your child which book they chose! We are holding a competition over the Christmas holidays to design a new front cover for their book.

In October, we held a Book Fair in the Library to give all students the opportunity to see a fantastic range of new books. This proved very popular and the sales meant that we could choose over £500 worth of books for the Library. Thank you very much to everyone who supported this.

Our Junior Reading Group is up and running again this term and is open to any Year 7 or 8 book lover! We meet once a week Monday lunchtimes in the Library. We enjoyed our first book Girl, Missing by Sophie McKenzie, had a lot to discuss about Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth and we have just started our next book We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen.



And finally, a quick reminder about Library opening times: -

Monday –Thursday 8.30 am – 4.30pm

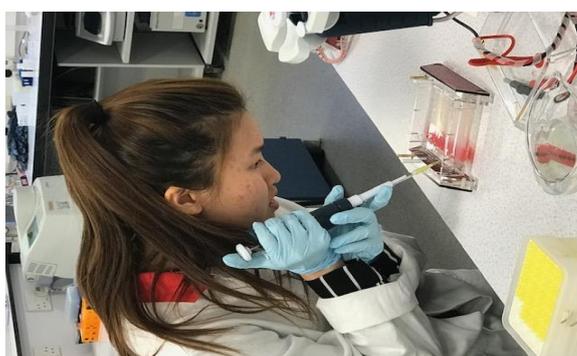
Friday 8.30 am – 3.30pm.

At the end of the school day the Library is open for Private Study until 4.30pm when students can do their homework or read.

### Biology

Fifteen Year 12 students are taking part in a research project attempting to find and identify bacteria from the soil around the school that produce antibiotic or antimicrobial

compounds. The project was started in school, where the students serially diluted soil samples and then added an overlay of known bacteria. Zones of clearing were an indication that microbes were producing antibiotics. The students then spent three half days at The University of Kent, isolating and growing the bacteria from Manwood's soil, followed by amplifying the bacterial DNA by a method called PCR. Finally, the students separated the DNA using Gel electrophoresis and they have sent off their samples for identification. A huge thank you to Rosalyn Marsterton from The University for hosting us and to the mini bus drivers for taking us!



## Mathematics

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, the Mathematics Department hosted its annual Primary Mathematics Challenge. This is always a highlight of the year. Twenty-two teams, from thirteen different schools, took part and it was a joy to watch the children thinking, reasoning and enjoying solving mathematical problems. The noise level and visible enthusiasm as they discussed their solutions confirmed that great fun was had by all. The winners this year were a team from Preston Primary School. Second place went to a team from Eastry Primary School and a team from The Downs Primary School came third. The

Mathematics Department is grateful to the sixth form pupils who helped to run the event and did all the marking of the solutions.



The School Hall with the rainbow colours of the visiting Year 6 pupils



Hard at work on the tasks

### **UKMT Maths Challenges**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October Lucy Palmer, Atinuke Awokoya, Elinor Williams and Claire Carlotti took part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls (MOG). This is a 2.5-hour paper with full written solutions. The girls produced some impressive Maths with Claire amongst the top 25% of pupils who gained a distinction for their performance.

On 6th November 83 A-level Mathematics students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. The top 10% received a gold certificate – 4 pupils, The next 20% silver – 14 pupils and the next 30% bronze – 32 pupils. This is an impressive performance.

The highest scorers were Claire Carlotti who qualified for the British Olympiad Round, closely followed by James Newton, Odin Wheeler and Tom Heppell who qualified for the follow on European Senior Kangaroo competition.