

Sir Roger Manwood's School



December 2019

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

This has, as always for the Autumn, been a long, hard term but we seem to have had more illness than normal amongst both staff and pupils. Thankfully, we have made it to the finishing line, but there are a lot of very tired teachers and pupils right now, all of whom are in need of a good rest!

The end of the Autumn Term is always a very busy one for the Music Department who have to deliver two concerts in the penultimate week and then the Carol Service this week. The quality of what they enable the pupils to produce never ceases to amaze me and the numbers involved in music-making seems to continue to grow. In addition, new this year was the chance to make a recording - the School Choir recorded the carol *Deck The Halls* for Pilgrim's Hospice who are now selling the CD to raise much needed funds. Do listen out for it on local radio stations too.

As per the email sent out earlier this week, I am delighted to inform you that we found out on Monday that we won the M&S energy competition and have received a prize of £5,000. This will go towards the project of converting our older light bulbs to more energy efficient LED ones. I would like to thank all the parents who have donated to such an important cause - without your contributions this would not have been possible. With our prize you have helped us raise just over £8,000 and we are very proud of such a huge achievement. The Eco Society team are now working with the school's premises team to plan how that money will be spent so that we turn this success into a real reduction in the school's carbon footprint.

Continuing the good news, I received 3 lovely communications recently that I would like to share with you.

The first was from the British Council congratulating us on their decision to grant the School the right to use the International School Award designation for another 3 years, which is the highest level of the award. The letter and certificate are attached to this newsletter. My thanks goes to all of the staff who have made this possible, but especially Mr Stedman, who, as our International Co-ordinator, oversees our combined efforts and puts them together for our submission to the British Council every 3 years.

The second was from the referee of an Under 16 football match: "I thought I would just drop a quick note to compliment your football team in their recent Kent FA Quarter Final tie versus

Aylesford School at Wrotham on Thursday 28th November. I refereed the game and the team and staff were a credit to the School. All decisions were respected with minimal dissent and a well fought game ended in a 3-3 draw and then Aylesford winning 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out. Your team were gracious in defeat and shook hands with everyone”.

And the third was from a proud parent after watching a recent hockey tournament:

“I just wanted to take a moment to officially congratulate the Manwood's Girls 1st XI Hockey team and Ms Bryen for their fantastic team efforts yesterday at the inaugural Mel Clewlow Cup held at St Edmond's.

I was lucky enough to be a spectator at the event. The girls played their hearts out, as a real team, with great success, resulting in a joint third overall placing in the Trophy competition along with Kent College. They were only beaten by runners up Sevenoaks School and eventual winners St Lawrence College.

What I really want to congratulate them on is the way their hard work and determination to play a high level of hockey and compete with the other schools at the tournament combined with their fantastic team spirit - it really all came together on the day for them! They are a lovely group of girls and represented the school so well in all respects on and off the pitch. Ms Bryen is a fantastic coach for the team with so much hockey experience to share and they clearly responded to her coaching on the day. It was a bitterly cold day and despite some hard games of hockey, injuries and obviously taking it in turns to sub I only saw smiles on the girls' faces and their fantastic results were very well deserved. I saw some skilful hockey play from all members of the squad on the pitch and some wonderful friendships off the pitch - definitely my nomination for Team of the Year at Sports Awards!

I was messaging Mel Clewlow [previous GB women's hockey team captain] throughout the tournament, and she was genuinely delighted and proud of her old school doing so well in the tournament. She was very sorry that she was unable to arrive earlier in the day to have a photo with the team and sent a message which I passed on to all the girls saying how proud she was of them all and that they all needed to remember that her Olympic dream began at Manwood's and that she expected great things from them all, whatever path they chose to take!

Well done Ms Bryen and the girls' 1st XI Hockey team”.



The Year 12 Formal Dinner was held at the Bell Hotel in Sandwich on Friday 22 November. The invited speaker was Mr Jeremy Tan, who, along with his two school friends, Ben Smalley and Chris Burnap, have set up their own logistics company Airbox Fulfilment (www.airboxfulfilment.com) after leaving university. Jeremy told the sixth formers about how the company lost clients and customers as a result of overextending themselves in the run up to Black Friday 2018 but also how that set back turned in to a positive as it forced them to analyse where the problems had arisen and what they had put in place to rectify them, and how that had led on to them turning over £1.5 million in the last year since that day. It was so heart-warming to see how 3 close school friends not only do business together, but also live together and even own a dog together!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

As reported in a newsletter last year, SRMS is now a Confucius Classroom, and as such receives funding direct from the government of China for a Chinese assistant to deliver Mandarin and Chinese cultural experiences in local primary schools. This term, our assistant for the year, Ms Zhao, started that outreach work at Sandwich Junior School, where her lessons were enthusiastically received by both pupils and staff. She has featured on the Junior School's Twitter feed several times now, and I was lucky enough to witness one of her lessons myself a couple of weeks ago. Next term, our programme will expand to include Parochial and St Mary's in Deal. Those funds also enabled us to organise a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, which was attended by Year 5 and Year 6 students from Sandwich Juniors.

As is now customary, the School jointly hosted an show of senior students' art 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 or on their website (www.sandwichfas.org.uk).

On Friday 6 December, our Maths department hosted their annual competition for local primary schools.

STUDENT NEWS

Claire Carlotti (Y12) was awarded a distinction and Bronze medal in the recent UKMT British Mathematics Olympiad Round 1 competition, which has qualified her for Round 2 on 30th January. Claire has also been asked to take part in the UK winter camp being held in Hungary over the Christmas holiday.

Alex Dack (Y8) represented the South East team in the National Triathlon Championship in Leicestershire on Friday 6 September 2019 and his twin sister, Millie Dack (Y8) ran in the Kent A Team in the cross country event held at Oxford on Friday 6 December.

At the recent East Invicta Swimming Gala (a high level gala with clubs from all over the area attending), Isobelle Dill-Russell (Y7) won Gold in the 100m breast stroke in the 11-12 age group category. She also achieved personal bests in the heats and the finals. Her times were so good that they gave her automatic entry to the Kent and South Easter Regional events. Isobelle is currently the fastest 50m swimmer in Wales and the 2nd fastest in Kent in her age group.

Issie Martin (Y12) and ex SRMS pupil Ashleigh Menniss are part of Canterbury Hockey Club's U18 Girls team and they qualified at the Indoor Hockey East Regionals last weekend for the England Hockey Super 6s Club National Finals which take place on January 18th and 19th. This has been an outstanding term for Issie as she was also awarded a place on the 2019-2021 cycle of England Hockey's Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) programme. This programme is a government funded scheme designed to directly measure an athletes' ability to plan, apply and evaluate their development in the appropriate aspects of hockey. It is delivered by England Hockey in partnership with Loughborough College. Players are expected to attend four national camps that provide a rich blend of on-pitch technical and tactical sessions, presentations, 1-2-1s and elements of portfolio work.

Camille Papougnot (Y9) appeared in the Mother Goose pantomime at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

Skye Witte (Y11) and Evie McGuirk (Y11) will be taking part in the World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando in April 2020 as part of the team from Vista Twisters Cheer Club in Dover.

Katie Roy (Y13) passed her Level 1 Women's Artistic Gymnastic Coach examination in early September which she had been working towards since April. She had excellent feedback around the high standard of her work.

Eve Pryde (Y10) collected her TeenTech Award at Buckingham Palace earlier this term, as reported she would be doing in earlier newsletters. As a result of that, she was then invited to make a presentation at the Global Innovation Conference in London. Eve received the following email from Maggie Philbin (the ex-presenter of Tomorrow's World who will be well known by those of a certain vintage!) who is the CEO of the TeenTech Awards...

"Dear Eve

Thank you so much for travelling to London and being so brilliant at GIF. I am sure you sensed how much the audience really enjoyed your presentations and the way you handled their questions. You were so inspiring and I was delighted to see how many people came up immediately to make sure you knew just how good you had been.

It's a very significant ability to be able to engage such a well-informed international audience, so many congratulations to you.

You will now receive a TeenTech Gold Ambassador Certificate for your work.

Thank you again for your terrific energy. I know it's a bit nerve-racking but honestly so many people remarked on how confident you were - so well done, we were very proud of you.

Kind regards,

Maggie

Maggie Philbin OBE

CEO TeenTech "

At the British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition heats held last week, two of our pupils were selected to compete in the Final on Wednesday 5 February - Kean Dillon (Y9) in the Beginner Category and Lizzie Allen (Y10) in the intermediate category.

2 of our students – Bethany Davies (Y9) and Thea Dean (Y8) - were short-listed for prizes in the Sandwich Arts Week poetry competition. They read their poems at the final of the competition held at the King's Arms in Sandwich on Friday 13 September and Bethany was declared the winner, and Thea the runner up, in the Under 18 category. They then read them again at the official opening of the Arts Week in St Peter's Church in the centre of Sandwich on Saturday 14 September.

Bethany's poem:

I COME FROM

*I come from a family built inside a church,
The peaceful countryside and a forest of birch.*

*I come from Cornwall, Ghana and Newquay,
Hours spent surfing and swimming in the sea.
I come from concerts, sermons and hymns,
Singing in choirs and practising minims.
I come from Chbosky, Riggs and Rowling,
Snowy birthdays and wind howling.
I come from a class brought together by a loss,
United by balloons and a love of the cross.
I come from brass, woos and strings,
Preparing for Grade 4 and the opportunities it will bring.
I come from albums: Vessel and Brand New Eyes,
Hoping and waiting for tickets to buy.
I come from Scotland and visiting cousins,
Collecting stones, shells and buttons.
I come from guinea pigs, African snails and cockapoos,
Hiding behind bookcases and darting in rooms.
I come from long walks and holding onto hats,
Clinging to scarves that flap like bats.
I come from bike rides and sharing ice creams,
I come from my family;
They mean everything to me.*

Thea's poem:

THE LOST VOICE

*It happened last Tuesday.
It's never happened before.
I noticed as soon as I stepped through the door.*

*Mrs McAdam looked me square in the eye,
And said to me "Oh my, oh my!
You've got a nerve!"*

*As you can tell,
Being late for class was not a thing,*

*That was new this morning,
But I had no witty riposte to McAdam's harsh warning.*

*I opened my mouth and tried to speak,
But nothing came out not even a peep!
No words, no sounds, no clever cheek,
It was as if my voice had gone to sleep!*

*Typical! Great! That's just what I needed!
And, just because my voice wouldn't work,
It earned me another trip to Mrs Kirke!
She frowned at me this time and gave me a glare.*

*"Honestly, girl! Why so rude? I hate to moan!"
I don't want to have to tell you again,
So please be good for Mr Merone!"*

*I ran out with a hurry and burst into the room.
I plopped myself down in a rickety chair,
And began to play with my hair.
For now, it was geography with Mr Merone.*

DING!!!!

*At last! The bell tolled the end of the day,
I sprinted and galloped home, all the way.
Under the sofa, beneath my bed,
Behind the curtains and outside the shed.
Nowhere. Nothing found or seen,
But there was one place I hadn't been.*

*I raced up the stairs and looked under the towels,
By the shampoo, inside the bathtub.
Then... when I was about to give up... I saw it...
Stuck in the plug.*

There it was.

I had found my voice!

It must have slipped out with the mouthwash!

ALUMNI NEWS

Two longstanding, retired, and fondly remembered members of staff passed away in September – Howell Griffiths and Ray Harlow. Their obituaries (taken from the OMA Newsletter) are reproduced below:

Howell Bowen Griffiths, Headmaster from 1978 to 1991, died at home on 13th September aged 88. He is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Elizabeth and sons Michael and Jonathan. There was a very well attended Service of Celebration at The Parish Church of St Clement, Sandwich, on 18 October, which was followed by a reception in the Sandwich Guildhall.

One of Howell's passions in life was rugby. This probably started with his being a playing member of the Llandovery College Boys School Junior Rugby team and throughout his life the proximity of a Rugby team was almost a necessity for any work placement. He also played School Cricket. University education was initially at the University College of Swansea (meanwhile playing with Swansea Town RFC 1950/51) and then Christ's College, Cambridge from where he graduated with an M.A. 2.1 Law Tripos. Whilst at Cambridge he gained his Rugby Blue as a wing-threequarter and played against the All Blacks in 1953, Varsity matches and the Steele Bodgers alongside Cliff Morgan. He also gained Christ Church College Colours for Athletics, swimming and Rugby. Education and work being interrupted by National Service in the RAF saw him playing for the RAF St Athan Station. Howell initially worked as a Personnel Officer for ICI Ltd and then personnel work for a department store in Liverpool for a couple of years. Moving into formal education, Howell joined Uppingham School (Independent Boarding) as an Assistant Master, House Tutor, House Master, Head of Economics Dept. and, of course, Master i/c Rugby, escorting the 1st XV on French tours during the 1960s. Here he taught Law, Economics, English and French. This was followed by 2 years as an Assistant Education Officer, Buildings and Equipment, for Somerset County Council after which he gained his first Headship at the Backwell Comprehensive School in Bristol before coming to Manwood's in 1978 where he stayed until his retirement. This was at a time when the admission of female students was envisaged coupled with the KCC making noises about the possibility of changing the status of Kent's Grammar schools. Thankfully, in due course the

School became co-ed and the KCC's change of status came to nothing. In 1981 he became a Magistrate on the local Bench. Howell's other notable activities included being County Representative RAF XV, Glamorgan County XV, Staffordshire County XV, and with Club Rugby, Swansea 1st XV, Llanelly 1st XV and Rosslyn Park 1st XV. During the 1960s he was a member of the Coaching Advisory Panel to the RFU i.e. coaching the coaches. Howell also had the rank of Captain in the Uppingham School CCF.

Ray Harlow, former Physics teacher from 1957 to 1996, died peacefully at QEQM Hospital on 23 September after a short illness. Ray had been the CCF Contingent Commander and Bandmaster, and OMA Committee member, for many years. He is survived by wife Dilys and sons, Simon and James. There was another very well attended Service of Thanksgiving at The Parish Church of St Clement, Sandwich, this time on Friday 25 October.

Ray joined Manwoods in 1957 with the intention of staying for one year as a Boarding House Tutor in The Grange and in the School as a Maths and lower school Science teacher whilst also assisting with Games and the 1st XI Cricket team. In his earlier years Ray had attended The Judd School in Tonbridge 1946-53 where, on top of his academic achievements, he played 1st XI Cricket for four years as wicket keeper/batsman before becoming Captain in 1953. He also played in the 1st XV Rugby team from 1951-3 at fullback and kicker, attaining 87 points through conversions and penalties in his final season. This achievement is documented in the Judd School records. On leaving The Judd, he attended Queen Mary College, London, to study for a BSc Hons degree in Maths and Subsidiary Physics and having completed this degree Ray then spent a further year at the London Institute of Education for his PGCE qualification. During that year he was offered the job at Manwoods by the then headmaster Ephraim Oakes. After 3 years the Head of Physics post became vacant and Ray was promoted to take on this responsibility of running the department. During the late 1960's and early 70's Ray did 10 years of Assistant Examining in A Level Physics with the University of London Schools Examining Board and later took on the running of the School's internal and external examinations from 1983 to 96. He retired from formal teaching in 1996. As at The Judd, Ray was very active in Sports. He ran the Manwoods 1st XI Cricket for 14 years from 1958. He assisted with junior Rugby and Hockey teams and took on the coaching of the 1st XV from 1967 to 71. Ray's personal sports saw him play with the Sandwich Town Cricket Club keeping wicket and batsman. He also played tennis with Walmer Lawn Tennis Club up until 1970 when he was part of the team that won Kent 1st Division.

He was also a member of the Barbican Players in Sandwich in the early 60's when author Anthony Buckeridge was producing plays for them.

Within a year of arrival at School Ray became an Assistant Training Officer for the CCF, then Captain 2 i/c and Quartermaster, and then in 1972 took command of the Corps which he finally relinquished in 2001 but continued as Quartermaster, .22 Shooting coach and supervisor of the CCF Band in its preparation for various parades in Sandwich and School. He was also Chairman of the Kent CCFs from 1986- 99. As a CCF Lieutenant-Colonel, Ray was recognised for his life of hard work and achievements by receiving The Lord Lieutenant's Award for the County of Kent in 2006 and a Certificate from the Mayor of Sandwich for his contribution to the Town and Cinque Port of Sandwich in 2007.

Even after active participation for decades in numerous School activities Ray continued to maintain contact and took a close interest in its activities and successes.

Tony Vosper, who attended SRMS in the 1980s, came back to visit in mid-November. He wrote us this lovely email afterwards:

"Just a quick note to say thank you to everyone at the school that made our visit to the school on Thursday so enjoyable. A big thank you to Alfie for showing us around and to his mum for indulging our stories from the 80s - it's a long way from Toronto to Sandwich but it only took a moment for the memories to come flooding back. My son enjoyed the visit so much he asked if he could go to Manwood's!! What better compliment could you ask for.

Ted Missions (Leaver in 2018) undertook a mammoth challenge by cycling from Kent to China. Ted is coming in to speak to the staff in the first week back after the holidays to show his photographs and tell us about his adventures. A snapshot of what he got up to was included in an East Kent Mercury article, which I have attached to 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:

Art Show as part of Sandwich Art Week

Whole School photograph

Friends of Manwoods AGM

Year 12 Welcome Evening

Year 10 Welcome Evening

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

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

Careers day at Sandhurst for those interested in pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (where the group were lucky enough to be chosen to be introduced to Princess Anne)



Macmillan Cancer Research coffee morning

Y10 Geography field trip to Naples

Year 7 pedestrian safety presentation

Y8 Technology students trip to Monkton Nature Reserve for project research

Duke of Edinburgh Award Information Evening for Year 9 parents

Year 7 parents' evening for core subjects

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

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

Harvest assemblies

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

Year 12 and Year 13 Philosophy and Religious Studies conference

Year 10 Geography field trip to Sandwich Bay

Year 13 English trip to University of Kent

Year 11 and Year 12 German trip to Goethe Institute

Year 11 Drama GCSE practical examination

Presentation about careers in the Royal Navy

Speech Day (see article on our guest speaker, Old Manwoodian, Zoe Laughlin attached to this newsletter)

Mock interviews for Oxbridge applicants

Poetry recital competition

Talk to those students in Year 12 thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge

Drugs presentation to Years 8, 10 and 11

Remembrance Assembly

Mock interviews for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Nursing applicants

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

Two Year 7 half year concerts

Parents' evening for Year 12

Non-uniform day for Children In Need

Fire safety presentations to Years 8, 10 and 11

A Modern Foreign Language meeting for local schools

Senior Maths Challenge for Year 12 and Year 13 students

Sixth Form Open Evening

Year 12 Annual Formal Dinner at the Bell Hotel

Parents' evening for Year 11

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

Fundraising week for Rosarium Academy

Non-uniform day for funds towards the Eco Society's bid for £5000 from Marks and Spencer via Crowdfunder to enable the school to replace every lightbulb in B Block with LED bulbs

Parents' evening for Year 13

Year 13 A Level Business trip to Stratford

Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner

British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition Heats

Sixth Form History trip to London conference

Senior and Junior end of term concerts

Mock General Election

Boarders' Christmas Supper and party

Friends of Manwood Chocolate tombola

Year 8 disco to raise funds for the School Charity

A full Christmas dinner for over 450 members of the school community thanks to the outstanding efforts of our catering team

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

All this as well as 3 Open Mornings, the weekly CCF training, weekly clubs, societies and activities, and over 100 sports fixtures no wonder we are all so tired!

I wish all members of the Manwood Community, pupils, staff, governors, parents, carers and extended families, a restful holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6 January 2020, which will be **WEEK 2** in the timetable.

Best wishes

Mr Hunter

Headteacher