

Sir Roger Manwood's School



October Half Term 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the 'end of half term' newsletter. As a trial, we are going to publish a newsletter at the end of every half term this term rather than at the end of every term. This will enable more frequent communication from school to home but also mean that the size of each newsletter should be more manageable (both in terms of its production but also in terms of time taken to read it!)

I would like to start by thanking parents and carers for responding to an email we sent out last term about volunteering to be a governor or forwarding the email to someone they know who might be interested. As a result, 7 new governors were appointed at September's Governing Body meeting. At the same meeting, Mr Richard Chew was voted in as Chair of the Governing Body. Mr Andrew Rush has remained on the Governing Body and I would like to put on record the School's thanks for this 2 years as Vice Chair and then 2 years as Chair.

Thank you to all of you who came along to the finish of the *Just 3 Mums Walking* sponsored walk on Sunday 6 October. Michelle (Max's mum) was astounded by the support from the extended Manwood's community. She asked me to pass on her thanks to those students, alumni, parents and carers who have made a donation and to remind them that it is still not too late to do so – the link can be found at the bottom of their website: <https://www.justthreemums.org.uk/>

This term has been as busy as ever and included our first overseas residential trip since March 2020 take place – a field trip to Switzerland for Geography A Level students. The coming half term sees the welcome return of the Year 11 History trip to Berlin.

Just before we broke up, over 90 of our new Year 7 students came along to Sandwich Cinema to watch Blue Beetle while their parents got to know each other in the downstairs lounge. Thank you to Friends of Manwood for organising it.

I appreciate that the next part of my message does not apply to the majority of parents but I do need to share with you one of the issues that we are currently facing in school. Like many schools, we are finding parental expectations since the pandemic in terms of response times and availability of staff to be unrealistic. You will notice that at the bottom of emails you receive from staff there is now a section that states that we aim to reply to emails within 5 working days of receipt. Emails from all of our parental body is important but we do need time to consider the most appropriate route forward and formalise a response. When there are **imminent** safety concerns we would obviously deal with these first as a priority. However, in addition to emails we are also noticing an increasing number of parents turning up at school without an appointment and expecting to be able to see a member of staff immediately. This is not something that people would do in a GP, dental surgery, opticians or hospital and yet for some reason the thought seems to be that school staff are less busy than such health care professionals. Can I urge the minority of parents to whom this applies not to do this – if you wish to meet a member of staff then, please, you **must** arrange an appointment in advance. Our reception staff will not admit anyone without this appointment or a prearranged invitation.

Lastly, across the UK more and more parents are taking their children out of school during term time for the purposes of a holiday, and indeed, although still a minority of parents at SRMS this is something that is happening now far more than it used to. Schools are under increasing pressure to reduce their unauthorised absence rates, and for this reason, from after this October half term, any term time

absence for the purposes of a holiday that meet the criteria for a Penalty Notice (an absence of 10 consecutive registration periods, which is effectively 5 days) will be referred to the KCC Attendance Service along with a request that such a Notice be issued. A Penalty Notice carries with it a fine of £120 per parent per child, which must be paid within 28 days of receipt of the Notice, which is reduced to £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice would be issued to both parents. Failure to pay the penalty in full by the end of the 28-day period will result in prosecution by the Local Authority. I know the vast majority of parents do realise how important attendance is, but as our school Attendance Policy and Leave Request Form state: "As was clarified by the Supreme Court's ruling on Isle of Wight Council v Plath 'regular' does not mean 'evenly spaced' or sufficiently often' but 'in accordance with attendance rules' i.e. **to attend, for the whole day, on every day the school is open to pupils.** This means that if a child is taken out of school in term time either without requesting a leave of absence or when a leave of absence is denied, the period of absence will be unauthorised and the child in question may be deemed to have failed to attend school regularly".

Mr Hunter

Headteacher

STAFF NEWS



Mrs Hurst gave birth to Alana Emily a couple of weeks ago. We are delighted to report that mum (and dad!) and Alana are all doing well.

STUDENT NEWS

Bella Brabazon (Y12), **Harley Darby** (Year 11 Leaver), **Phoebe Quin** (Year 13 Leaver), **Charlotte Cotterill** (Year 13 Leaver), **Eleanor Parker** (Y12), **Emily Hill** (Year 13 Leaver), **Rose Brade** (Year 11 Leaver), **Isabella Prewett** (Year 13 Leaver), **Leura Musselwhite-Dale** (Year 13 Leaver), **Emily Hindmarch** (Y12) have all been awarded a Commendation Award of their outstanding work from the Arts Society Sandwich.



Alice Hargreave (Year 10) competed in the South East Regional Trampoline Championships on 1st October. There were 22 competing at Level 2 in her age range, so congratulations to Alice for coming first.



Sammy Hayes (Year 7) won the South East England Regional Floor and Vault Gymnastics Championship held at Guildford. This competition is for floor and vault only, with the winner being decided by the highest combined score. His win was especially impressive given the fact he was competing against boys 2 years older than himself.

SUBJECT NEWS

CAREERS



On 6 October, the Army spoke to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 about the various career pathways that are possible with them. The talk included information about apprenticeships and funded degrees.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Congratulations to all of the following students for successfully auditioning for a role in the school production taking place next half term... 'A Christmas Carol'. 'Break a leg' as they say in the theatre world!

1. Ebenezer Scrooge: **Finn Cockerell** Year 13
2. Charles Dickens: **Michael Richardson** Year 12
3. Bob Cratchit, his clerk: **George Bradshaw** Year 9
4. Fred, Scrooge's nephew: **Jamie Hodge** Year 12
5. A Pleasant Gentlewoman: **Hope Merriman** Year 11
6. Another Pleasant Gentlewoman: **Isabel Braun** Year 11
7. The Ghost of Jacob Marley: **Sam Pleasance** Year 10
8. The Spirit of Christmas Past: **Caitlin Regan** Year 8
9. School Boy Scrooge: **Joseph Fisher** Year 9
10. School Boy 1: **Riley Woods** Year 8
11. School Boy 2: **Thomas Price** Year 9
12. School Boy 3: **Joel Watson** Year 8
13. Fan, his sister: **Jess Smissens** Year 8
14. Mr. Fezziwig, young Scrooge's employer: **Patrick Clark** Year 12
15. Dick Wilkins, young man Scrooge's friend: **Joseph Fisher** Year 9
16. Mrs. Fezziwig: **Saron Elmenhorst** Year 12
17. Ebenezer, as a young man: **Charlie Holroyd** Year 13
18. Belle, his fiancée: **Jasmine Roberts** Year 11
19. The Spirit of Christmas Present: **Gracie Jackson** Year 13
20. Mrs. Cratchit: **Maddie Ford & Molly Wickenden** Year 13

21. Peter Cratchit: **Alfie Holden** Year 10
22. Belinda Cratchit: **Tegan Edridge** Year 10
23. Martha Cratchit: **Mimi Pye** Year 10
24. Tiny Tim Cratchit: **Year 7**
25. Nephew Fred's wife: **Dorotea Krsmanovic** Year 11
26. Her married sister: **Amelia Blackman** Year 12
27. Her brother-in-law: **Henry Carbeck** Year 8
28. Her unmarried sister: **Elizabeth Ashley-Down** Year 8
29. Topper: **Danika Whiting** Year 12
30. The Spirit of Christmas Future: **Jonathan Morling-Grove & Stanley Lawson MacGregor** Year 11
31. A Businessman: **Ophelia Stanley** Year 9
32. Another Businessman: **Vavara Sidrova** Year 10
33. A Third Businessman: **Amelie Rescorla** Year 10
34. Old Joe, a rag and bone man: **Millie Oliver** Year 9
35. Mrs. Gamp, a charwoman: **Annabelle Boucher** Year 10
36. Mrs. Dilber, a laundress: **Olivia Johnson** Year 10
37. Undertaker: **Robyn Thompson** Year 8
38. A small boy in the street: **Bertie Lawson-McGregor** Year 8
39. Poulterer: **Quinn Lewis** Year 8
40. 'Want': **Lucy Stafford** Year 9
41. 'Ignorance': **Wafi Islam** Year 8
42. Miss Fezziwig A: **Aislinn Harrington** Year 10
43. Miss Fezziwig B: **Iris Jeffries** Year 9
44. Cook: **Ella Searle** Year 8
45. Milkman: **Lucy Stafford** Year 9
46. Admirer: **Robyn Thomson** Year 8

In addition to the cast above, members of Year 7 will be playing street musicians, carollers, vendors, passers-by, schoolboys, Christmas celebrants and party-goers.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



The A Level Product Design students visited the Turner Contemporary in sunny Margate on Friday 29 September as part of their Y12 project work. They also visited the local area to see the rejuvenation that has occurred since the opening of the gallery. On their return they popped into @plantletshop where they met the owner who donated the plants for this year's planters project.



GEOGRAPHY

Some of our sixth form Geographers were lucky enough to go on an exciting trip to Switzerland's Saas Valley with Mr Anderson and Dr Wilson. They enjoyed three days of beautiful weather which allowed them to get up high to see the landscapes they've been studying and carry out fieldwork in this spectacular landscape. On the final rainy day, they headed to the United Nations offices in Geneva where they, listened into a conference on the human rights of refugees in conflict zones.



SCIENCE

Three of our Year 13 Biologists were lucky enough to attend a work experience week at the School of Biosciences, University of Kent. The week involved guided research to produce, purify and characterise proteins of biological and clinical significance, providing them with key practical and technical skills in the biological sciences. They worked on E.Coli bacteria which was genetically engineered to express a protein called Talin. This protein was tagged so it would fluoresce in the bacteria!



MATHEMATICS

59 A level Mathematics students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge earlier this half term. Certificates were awarded to our students as follows: 3 Gold (for a score > 80), 8 Silver (for a score > 64) and 28 Bronze (for a score > 49). All remaining students were awarded Participation certificates. Qualification for the next round, the Senior Kangaroo was 80 or above, so Ben Dirat (Year 13) Nicholas Georgiou and Ben Pointon (both Year 12) all qualified for that as well as achieving a Gold Certificate. We wish them well for that next round, which will be on Wednesday 15th November. Ben Pointon has also been approached by the UKMT for their mentoring scheme following his success in their Intermediate Challenge last year and attendance at their Summer School. Well done to all 59, but especial congratulations to Nicholas, Ben and Ben.

PE

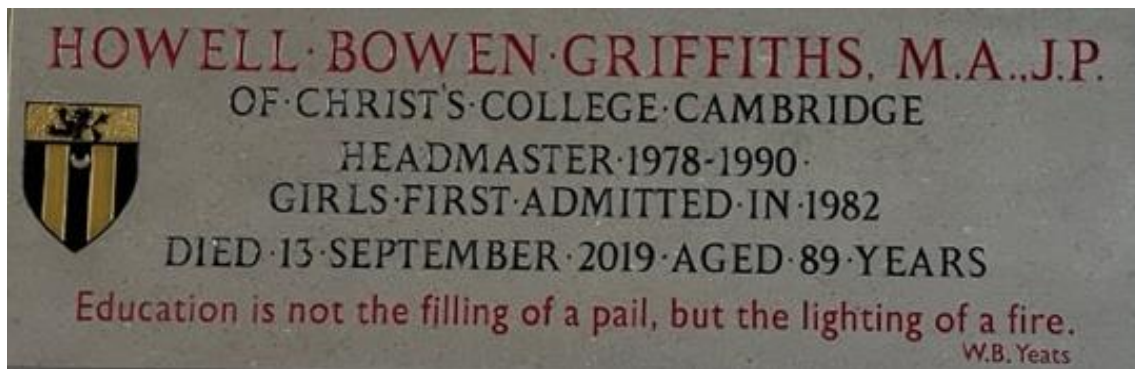
A list of clubs running this team can be found towards the back of this newsletter.

ALUMNI NEWS

Tammy Beaumont won the women's headline honour at the 2023 cinch PCA Awards, being named as cinch PCA Women's Player of the Year. The England opening batter rounded off a fantastic run-scoring summer by winning her second cinch PCA Women's Player of the Year award, after first receiving the trophy in 2016. Tammy proved once again she is a world-leading opening batter, scoring a brilliant double hundred in the Metro Bank Women's Ashes Test match and becoming the first woman to hit a century in The Hundred. She finished as the second leading run scorer in the 100-ball format with 290. She was quoted in the press: "I'm very grateful that my peers have voted for me and I think that's what makes the PCA Awards so special because it's voted for by your teammates and opposition. I tend not to look at my statistics, yes the double hundred was nice but we didn't win that game, so I should have got more in the second innings but I'm very proud of that achievement. I actually found that doing commentary in The Hundred for Sky Sports was quite a nice escape from the playing schedule; I'm a cricket badger so I love doing commentary but I'm not retiring any time soon – playing is still number one for me".



A plaque commemorating Howell Griffiths, Headmaster at SRMS from 1978 to 1990, was unveiled in St Clement's Church in a private family ceremony in September. This is due to one of those strange traditions that makes Manwood's such a special place - when a Headteacher dies who worked at SRMS up until their retirement, permission is requested from the church authorities for a plaque to be installed in their memory in St Clement's Church. Howell was the Head who oversaw the entry of girls into the School in 1982 - something which had been under active discussion with KCC since the early 1970s.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES RUNNING THIS TERM

Break/Lunch	Club	Year
Monday	Art Club (begins after Oct half term)	7-9
	CAMEO	7
	Earth & Sky Group	7-13
	French board games (Week A)	7-9
	French Support - GCSE	10+11
	French Support Club (Week B)	10-13
	History Club	7
	PE Support	10-13
	Reading Group	7
	Recorder Consort	see DPS
	Senior Strings (by invitation)	Grade 4+
	Support Room Club	by invite
Tuesday	Careers Club (drop in club)	7-13
	Drama Club (Week A)	7
	Drama Club (Week B)	8
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Eco Society (Week B)	7-13
	French Support Club (Week A)	10-13
	Handball - boys	10+11
	Junior Charity Committee (Week B)	7-11
	Manwoods Strings (orchestral string instruments - no audition)	7-13
	Maths Clinic	7-9
	Senior Charity Committee (Week B)	12+13
	Senior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	10-13
	Table Tennis	7-9
Wednesday	CAMEO	8
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Elastic Band (wind instruments - no audition)	7-13
	GCSE German Study Club	10+11
	Handball – girls	7-9
	Robot and Programming Club	7-8
	Table Tennis	10+11
Thursday	Brass Group	see DPS
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Handball - girls	10+11
	Maths Clinic	7-9
	Rock Choir	7-9
	Spanish workshop (priority to GCSE)	7-13
	Table Tennis	7-9
Friday	French board games (Week B)	7-9
	Handball - boys	7-9
	Junior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	7-9
	Manwoodian Editorial Team	7-13
	Percussion (by invitation)	see DPS
	Table Tennis	10+11

After school	Club	Year
Monday	Art Coursework support sessions Football Academy (Boys) Golf Hockey - girls (Week A) Hockey - girls (Week B) Homework Club	10-13 All 7-13 7-9 10-13 7-13
Tuesday	A Level Chemistry Workshop GCSE Physics Workshop Homework Club KS3 Science Workshop Maths Clinic Orchestra (wind and string instruments) Sports fixtures	12+13 10+11 7-13 7-9 10-13 Grade 4+
Wednesday	A Level Biology Workshop A Level Physics Workshop Drama Production (A Level group) Football Academy (Girls) GCSE Biology Workshop Homework Club Jazz Band (by invitation) Maths Puzzles and Fun (Y7 Week A+B, Y8 Week B only) Sports fixtures	12+13 12+13 12 All 10+11 7-13 see DPS 7+8
Thursday	CCF (age 13+) Chamber Choir (by audition) Chess GCSE Chemistry workshop Homework Club Sports fixtures	8-13 see DPS 8 10+11 7-13
Friday	School of Rock (by invitation) Sports fixtures	see DPS

SPORTS CLUBS RUNNING THIS TERM

	Lunch 1.30-2.05pm				After School 3.25-4.25pm			
	Activity	Year/Age	Venue	Staff	Activity	Year/Age	Venue	Staff
Monday	Badminton	Year 7, 8, 9 Girls	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Golf (Paid Activity) Basketball	All Years Years 7-9	Field Sports Hall	Terry Russell 6 th Form Students + GG
Tuesday	Badminton	Year 7, 8, 9 Boys	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Fitness	All Years	Gym	GG
Wednesday	Badminton	Year 10 & 11 Girls	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Kent Football Academy (Paid Activity) Table Tennis	Year 7-10 Boys & Girls All Years	Farrer Field Gym	Kent Football Academy Coaches JS
Thursday	Badminton	Year 10 & 11 Boys	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Upper School & 6 th Form Basketball	Years 10, 11, 12 & 13	Sports Hall	JS
Friday	Badminton	6 th Form	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff				

